

At Last

New gym breaks ground

With school officials and students turning over the first shovels of dirt, construction on Central's new gym officially began September 16.

Wearing new uniforms, the Central band performed with the cheerleaders and Eaglettes before the ceremony began.

During the ceremony, Mr. Ray Means, co-chairman of the PTSA, officiated as the master of ceremonies.

Representing the Omaha School Board were board member Mrs. Ruth Thomas, Dr. Owen Knutzen, superintendent of Omaha Public Schools, and Dr. Don Benning, former athletic director at Central. All spoke of the history and reputation of Central.

"The gym will make way to new chapters of Central High's history," said Dr. Benning, addressing the groundbreaking audience.

"This gym will expand the

physical education program at Central High, enabling more students to participate in specialized programs. This will give students more opportunities to further develop themselves physically as well as mentally," said Gayle Spencer, representing the students.

Senior Ambrose Jackson, also speaking for the students, said, "We know how to do, and I might add, do very well with very little. You, the Central Eagles, make this school great, and this new gym more deserved."

Ambrose Jackson concluded his speech by saying, "I cannot express the gratitude and appreciation of the juniors and sophomores for this new gym; however, I can say this ceremony is a step in the right direction. Regardless of whether it is a large step or small step, it's one way to keep Central, Central."

Five become semifinalists

On September 14 in a national news release, the National Merit Scholarship Corporation announced the names of the National Merit Semifinalists. Paul Gadzikowski, Patricia Gibson, Martha Murdock, Dawn Stover, and David Talbot are the semifinalists from Central.

Nebraska had a total of 120 semifinalists. The number named is proportional to that state's percentage of the nation's total graduating senior class. Central had the fourth highest number of semifinalists in Nebraska.

Nebraska's semifinalists will now compete with 15,000 stu-

dents from across the nation for finalist standings and 3,900 scholarships. Approximately 90 per cent of the semifinalists become finalists.

The semifinalists must go through several steps to qualify as finalists. First, they must confirm their PSAT/NMSQT scores with equivalent scores on the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT). Second, they must maintain high academic standing in high school.

After these steps are completed, National Merit reviews the semifinalists and announces the finalists in February. In April, the National Merit Scholarship winners are announced.

central high

register

Vol. 92

OMAHA, NEBRASKA, SEPTEMBER 28, 1977

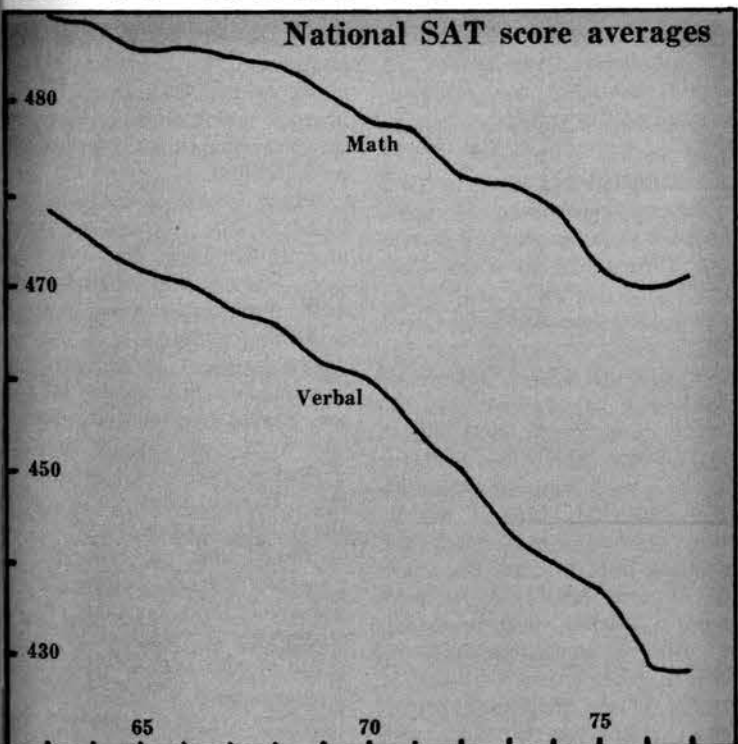
No. 2



photo by Alan Potash

Breaking ground for the new gym are Ruth Thomas, Board of Education member; Gayle Spencer, Student Assembly president (behind Mrs. Thomas); Gail Koch, Future Central Committee member; Ray Means, co-chairman of PTSA; and Owen Knutzen, superintendent of OPS. The groundbreaking ceremony concludes two years of planning. The scheduled completion date is next fall.

SAT scores rise in OPS but decline nationally



Since 1963 the average verbal score has declined 49 points (from 478 in 1963 to 429 in 1977). The average math score has declined 32 points (from 502 to 470).

SAT scores of Omaha Public School students contradict the national trend.

SAT scores, while declining nationally, have increased in OPS, concluded an OPS report released last April. OPS scores increased when nationally scores showed the sharpest decline in fourteen years (see charts).

Approximately one million high school juniors and seniors take the SAT every year. With other factors, many colleges use the SAT to judge applicants.

"Our scores are definitely higher than the national average," said Dr. Paul Malcom, a research assistant for OPS and

the report's author. But to confirm the trend, the 1977 average math and verbal scores must increase over the 1976 average scores, he said. OPS computes the average scores in October.

The reasons for higher OPS scores relate in part to the causes of the national score decline.

"Searching for causes of the SAT score decline is essentially an exercise in conjecture," said "On Further Examination," a College Board report released in August. "The evidence is circumstantial, leaving it hard to distinguish cause from consequence."

The report divided the score decline into two parts.

Before 1970 one change caused much of the score decline: more students took the SAT. "The score averages measure a broader cross section of American youth from the group they measured 20 to 15 or even 10 years ago," said the report. A twenty-one member panel spent two years preparing the report.

As opportunities expanded, more minorities, poor, and women began to go to college. Lower scorers than most of the

"We have swung away from the innovative curriculums. That's what accounts for our higher scores."

— Dr. Fullerton

previous college students, these groups accounted for one half to two thirds of the score decline, said the report.

After 1970 the number taking the SAT stabilized. Scores of all groups began to decline. "Relaxed teaching standards, television, changes in the family's role, and unprecedented turbulence

See editorial on page 2

in the nation's affairs"—these changes caused most of the score decline.

Frank Armbruster, author and political analyst for the Hudson Institute, blames the score decline mainly on the "innovative

teaching practices of the 1960's."

"Many (innovators) attacked everything from homework and rote learning to curriculums that included the standard academic disciplines," he wrote in the August 28 "New York Times Magazine."

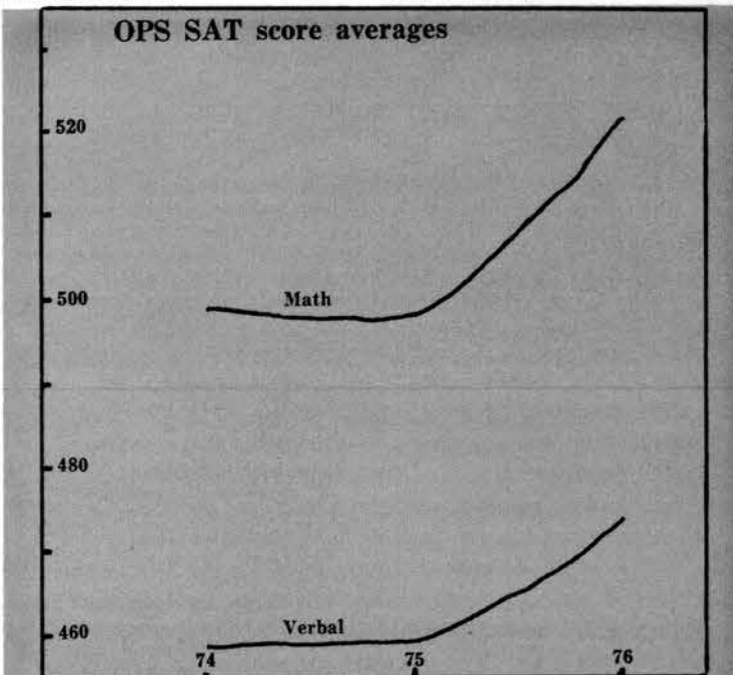
"Low academic content electives and grade school arithmetic take up dwindling time once spent on difficult disciplines."

The College Board report also concluded that students are taking fewer basic courses, particularly in English. "Less thoughtful reading is being demanded and done, and careful writing has gone out of style," said the report.

Therefore, OPS scores are higher because "we never have gone away from the basics," said Dr. Malcom and Dr. Craig Fullerton, assistant superintendent for instructional services.

"We tend to be more conservative in the Midwest," said Dr. Fullerton. "We have swung away from the innovative curriculums. That's what accounts for our higher scores."

Another reason for the higher SAT scores is that a more selective group of students take the SAT, said Dr. Malcom. "If OPS followed the national trend, then the scores of our top students would decline too. But they haven't."



The average verbal score in OPS has increased from 458 in 1974 to 474 in 1976. The average math score has increased from 498 to 522. OPS has kept scores since 1974.

Caution: SAT's shatter self-confidence

The recent news on declining Scholastic Aptitude Test scores should be received with caution. For this news provides great potential for misuse and misinterpretation.

The SAT has one use: to predict a student's performance in the first year of college. And even the test's authors admit that such a prediction is vague and imprecise. The College Board, despite its warnings, reports that misuses are "common"—declining scores mean declining academic ability; the higher the number of Merit Scholars, the higher the quality of a school etc.

editorial

But the College Board makes almost the same mistake it warns against: "There has been an apparent marked diminution in young people's learning motivation, at least as it appears to be related . . . to their performance on college entrance examinations," said a College Board report released in August. An independent panel spent two years preparing the report.

"During the past ten years the curve of the SAT scores has followed very closely the entire nation's spirits and self-esteem and sense of purpose."

Such generalizing is inconsistent with the caution the Board speaks of in the beginning of its report.

More aspects of the SAT controversy are inconsistent.

Blacks and other minorities score lower than whites. Students from poor families score lower than students from rich and middle class families. Women score lower than men in math.

But what does the score decline mean?

The SAT does not measure a student's ability to write or follow detailed directions. (We suspect that many with high SAT scores could not, with instruction manuals, repair a car or write an essay explaining how a car functions.)

"There is a danger in relying on any standardized test to tell the state of education," said Dr. Paul Malcom, a research assistant for Omaha Public Schools and author of an OPS report on SAT scores. "There are so many things the SAT can't measure." Only a few examples are a student's ability to lead, dance, paint, or play music. And no standardized test can measure the most important part of success in school—motivation.

Dr. Malcom, analyzing the meaning of the score decline, said simply, "Students are not doing as well on one specific test as they used to." Students have become less able at taking the SAT, not less literate, intelligent, talented, or motivated.

The explanation for the score decline is even promising. Until 1970, scores declined mostly because more students went to college. In 1964 over one third of the high school graduating class went to college. In 1970 over half the class went to college.

Some of the College Board's report we agree with—the need to stress basic skills, the need for more study on the entire SAT issue, the need for "cool-headedness." But considering the accomplishments of many students at Central and across the nation, much of the noise over declining scores we cannot accept.

Integration plan takes successful ride

In the fall of 1976, integration in Omaha meant hardships, inconveniences, and worries to many Omaha citizens. One year later, a majority of these Omahans look on this unwelcomed endeavor as a continual growing experience. A successful system will undoubtedly serve as a groundbreaker for many other cities throughout the United States. Everyone involved with this project deserves a "round of applause."

editorial

The fear people expressed at the outcome of the integration project was justifiable. Since various cities throughout the United States had encountered terrible problems, it was only reasonable for parents to become alarmed at the new situation. "Safety factors involved with busing and good educational opportunities appeared to be the major concerns of most parents," said Dr. Norbert Schuerman, executive director of general administration for Omaha Public Schools.

Dr. Schuerman commented, "Omaha's first year integration program compared to other cities, has been successful in many different ways. The project in Omaha had relatively minor problems compared to other cities with forced busing."

Irving Young, research coordinator of Omaha Public Schools, said, "The number of children leaving the Omaha School District to avoid the integration plan will be decreased by 90 per cent this year. I don't know of any large city school dis-

trict where this has happened. In most cities the second year brings a continued heavy loss of students."

Mr. Young added, "Last year the district had a 2600 student decline due to busing, and this year there is only an indicated 250 student decline. The success of last year's busing program and the acceptance of it by residents is responsible for the small enrollment decline."

New programs and facilities in the Omaha Public Schools helped the integration plan move in a positive direction. Various grade level centers with experimental learning techniques, the Tech magnet program, and the learning and resource centers are some of the new attractions in the Omaha Public School District.

"The integration plan has not affected Central to any great extent because of Central's already evenly integrated school. Approximately 225 ninth graders were eliminated when the forced busing program went into effect. We also lost some students when specific districts were assigned," said Dr. G. E. Moller, Central principal.

Dr. Moller added, "The integration plan has affected Central in that our enrollment has decreased. The lower enrollment has released some of the undefinable pressures of an overcrowded school."

Spending the school day with people of different ethnic and racial backgrounds is a rare type of education a person cannot learn from a book. Learning from other people is an invaluable educational experience.

The Central High Register is published semi-monthly except for vacation and examination periods by the Journalism Classes, Central High School, 124 North 20th Street, Omaha, Nebraska, 68102.

Second class postage paid at Omaha, Nebraska. Mail subscriptions \$2.00 per year.

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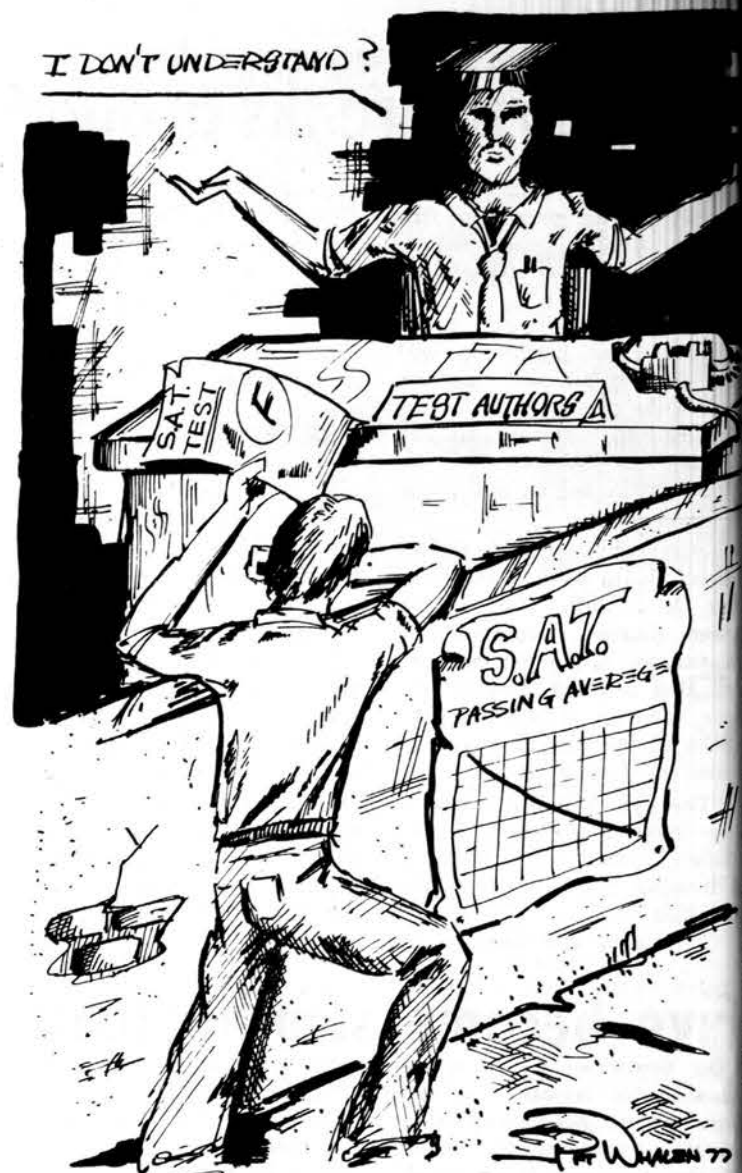
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1976-77 Medalist rating
Columbia Scholastic Press
Association
Columbia University
N.Y., N.Y.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND?



letters

Ruling unfair

The recently announced restriction on the use of Central's library before school poses a serious question on the sincerity of the educational goals of the administration. Students are encouraged to take the initiative in going beyond the standard material covered in class, yet are increasingly being denied the opportunity to exercise this right. Because of the inconsistencies in oft-quoted educational goals and the reality of restrictive regulations, I would strongly urge reconsideration of the ruling.

Pat Gibson

Johnny underprivileged

Johnny can't read or write because Johnny can't get into the library! In view of Central's past academic superiority, and the importance placed thereof, it seems odd to me that the Central High School library will no longer be open at the students' convenience. Although I realize there has been a problem in the past with maintaining discipline and quiet in the library, surely there is a better solution than to close the doors to all but those with a pass from a teacher. It is necessary to think of those students who benefit from an open library in which to do homework or research, and not to those who abuse this privilege. Enforce some rules, suspend the privilege from those who abuse it, if necessary, but let's not penalize the students of Central who appreciate the policy of an open library.

Holly Herman

Editor's note: after being shown copies of both letters before publication, Mrs. Skinner replied:

Complaints unjustified

Criticism of the library policies is welcome. However, I would hope it could be constructive criticism, not criticism based on misinformation.

I agree wholeheartedly that the library should be open for homework and research. That is the very reason we have limited admittance to a pass before school. However, if you do not have a pass, and clearly have library work to do, you can talk to me about it, and I will arrange for you to use the library. Our main concern is to stop the crowded, noisy library conditions that existed last year. No one was able to study or get help from the librarian under those conditions, and the complaints were many and justified.

As to hours of service provided by the library: we open at 7:45 a.m. and close at 3:50 p.m. We are also open to students (without a pass) during their lunch hour.

The problem of obtaining a pass should not exist. If you are unable to find a teacher, you can write you a pass and am available from 7:30 a.m. til 3:50 p.m. If you need to get into the library, see me.

"Restriction on the use of Central's library before school poses a serious question on the sincerity of the educational goals of the administration" is a lovely, high sounding phrase. However, I must question the sincerity of the young ladies writing these letters. To my knowledge, neither one has used the library as a source of information or place to study since I have been here. Neither one is known to me and, to my knowledge, neither one has approached me for help. Perhaps we should hear from some of the regular library users . . .

Mrs. Skinner

Pratt returns from hospital

Virginia Lee Pratt, head of Central's Math Department, is now recuperating at home after recent hospitalization. Miss Pratt underwent surgery on Monday, September 12. She expects to be out of school for three to four weeks. The Register staff wishes Miss Pratt a speedy recovery, and hopes to see her returning soon.

—of Central importance—

Homecoming's here

"We have seven male and seven female homecoming candidates because of ties for both positions. Last year we had only six male and six female candidates," said Ms. JoAnn Dusatko, Central gym teacher.

Ms. Dusatko supervised the nomination and election of homecoming king and queen candidates. Candidates for the 1977-78 Central Homecoming are: Kevin Friesen, Tony Felici, Dan Goodwin, Mark Flaxbeard, Michael Johnson, Terri Johnson, and Joe Scarpello for King; Tami Aden, T. J. Thompson, Kathy Stimson, Jackie Harrington, Shari Sorensen, Ann Rigatuso, and Jo Ann Sutton for Queen.

The homecoming football game will be played Friday, Sept. 30 at 7:30 p.m. at Berquist stadium against the Bryan High Bears.

The 1977-78 homecoming dance will be held Saturday, Oct. 1 at the Ramada Inn Airport at 2002 East Locust in the general ballroom starting at 9:00 p.m. Odyssey will be playing for homecomers. Tickets are \$7 per couple and \$5 per single.

Eaglettes win Freddy

Central's Eaglettes received Freddie the Frog for outstanding spirit, this summer at a pom-pom clinic held in Crete, Nebraska.

Tami Aden, Jane Denton, Margaret Dotson, Rosie Foster, Janet Gibbons, Cyndi Highland, Cheryl Jones, Mary Marland, Kelly McBride, Kristin Newhouse, and Vicki Quaites attended the pom-pom clinic July 31-August 4.

"The team most enthusiastic and helpful during the instruction of the pom-pom routines is awarded Freddie the Frog by

the instructors of the camp. This is the second time in a row Central has won the spirit award from the Crete clinic," said Captain Kelly McBride.

Explaining the daily routine, Co-captain Tami Aden said, "Each day our squad split into two groups, then each group learned three different pom-pom routines."

"Every night we competed against the other squads at camp; we also competed in the final competition held August 4," commented Kelly.

Commenting on the competition, Tami said, "This year we only had three returning Eaglettes attend the clinic, and the clinic was also our first formal performance. Because of the inexperience of the squad, competition was comparably harder."

"The clinic was helpful for everyone. I hope future squads will continue to attend the clinic and win Freddy," added Tami Aden.

A Cappella Activities

A Cappella officers for the upcoming year have been elected. The new officers are Becki Couch, president; Jonathan Krogh, vice president; Tami Aden, secretary; Chuck Reed, treasurer; Jean Rivard, senior representative; and Peggy Zerse and Ralph Lloyd, junior representatives.

The choir is planning several fund raising activities. The choir plans to participate in an out-of-state music festival. Additional fund raisers include "A Night with A Cappella," selling Christmas candy, singing valentines, and a variety of other activities.

Counselor teaches too

James Kennedy, Central counselor for 3 years, now also

teaches American Government due to the decline in enrollment this year.

The number of counselors a school has depends on the number of students. Each counselor has approximately three hundred students; so when the enrollment dropped, Mr. Kennedy should have been laid off, since he was the last counselor hired.

With the help of Dr. G. E. Moller, Central principal, an agreement was made at the castle to keep Mr. Kennedy on the staff as a part-time teacher and part-time counselor. "If we laid off Mr. Kennedy, then the other counselors would have been overloaded more than we would have liked," said Dr. Moller. The solution was to keep Mr. Kennedy on the staff as a counselor and teacher, only giving him a half of his regular students.

Mr. Kennedy teaches 4th, 6th, and 7th hour. He counsels in the mornings and in the afternoons. Students with last names beginning with U-Z have Mr. Kennedy as a counselor, and S-T, his other students, now go to Mrs. Zerse.

Boys' Nation Alternate

Before being chosen as alternate to Boys' Nation, Barry Epstein, a Central senior, made several accomplishments at Boys' State. He was elected to both County and State Chairman of the Federalist Party caucuses, and was chosen as Chief Justice of Cornhusker Boys' State. Barry was also appointed the editor-in-chief of the newspaper, *The Able Cable*, at the conference.

Barry was also elected "outstanding citizen" of Gettysburg. Jim Zipursky, another Central senior, was also elected as the "outstanding citizen" of his town, Bunker Hill, while attending the conference.

Fire Inspections help to keep schools safe

"Fire inspectors from the Omaha Fire Department visit Central at least once a year on unannounced dates," stated Chief Vernon VanScoy, battalion chief of the OFD.

"The main thing an inspector looks for," Chief VanScoy explained, "is a means of egress. This means that all hallways, stairwells, and doorways should be clear of obstructions. We want to get the kids out first. Then we can worry about the fire."

The inspectors also look for, Chief VanScoy continued, such things as exit lights, flammable materials, and fire and smoke alarms. They pay special attention to areas such as shops, labs, and boiler rooms.

If the inspectors require a change the school usually has from one week to a few months to make the adjustment, depending on the extent of the repair. Some minor changes, such as clearing doorways, are made during the inspection.

Central has seen many changes in the past years due to fire inspectors' decisions, according to A. A. LaGreca, Cen-

tral assistant principal. "Doors across from the stairwells, leading into study halls 215 and 235 were removed and sealed over," Mr. LaGreca said. "This was done to transform the stairwells into fire and smoke free escape routes. Fire doors were also installed for this purpose."

In addition, fire and smoke detectors, costing \$288,000, were installed last year. The new detectors eliminated the need for the pull-type alarms used previously. Pull-type alarms, however, are still used in the science rooms.

"The new alarms," Mr. LaGreca explained, "are ex-

tremely sensitive. To cite an example, this summer a tractor was brought in for work on the courtyard. As it was being driven over the "C", the exhaust triggered the alarm."

Speaking on the integrity of the fire inspectors, Mr. LaGreca stated, "Every inspector that I know of is sincere and honest. They are very dedicated to their jobs."

Chief VanScoy concluded, "I couldn't call any school in the Omaha Public Schools a fire trap. All schools are safe. If any aren't up to standards now, progress is being made to upgrade their safety."

CHS French teacher takes "Know Your World Tour"

"Know Your World Tour," inspired Margaret Nichols, French teacher at Central into finding out just how fun and exciting a world tour could be.

Miss Nichols started the France tour, organized by "The Omaha World Herald" on August 5, with an idea of re-living experiences she had previously enjoyed in France.

During the two vacationing weeks Miss Nichols visited several vacation cities. "I knew my way around quite well, although I refrained from letting myself be turned into a tour guide by the other sixteen tourists," said Miss Nichols.

"Our group stayed in Paris two days, and during that time my past experiences led me to Notre Dame Stadium where magnificent organ concerts are given. Our touring ventured southward where I visited the

palace of Princess Grace in Monaco, which left a startling effect on everyone," expressed Miss Nichols.

In North Bordeaux I had the privilege of re-visiting the Chateau Country and the castles.

"An exciting ferry boat sail to England climaxed the touring part of the France tour," she said.

Miss Nichols stated that in preparation for return to the states she was informed of a computer control operator strike which delayed her trip back to the states indefinitely. "In fact our group had to sit in the plane for eight and one half hours. For fear of losing part of the group everyone was requested to stay on the plane."

Miss Nichols' only regret was the tour went too fast with so much more to see.

OEA, NSEA advertise

"The purpose of the advertising campaign is to make teachers feel better about their job," said Carol Keefover, chairperson of the Commission of Community and Public Relations with the Nebraska State Education Association.

Pat Shafer, Assistant Executive Director of the Omaha Education Association, said so many negative things are being said about education and teachers. "The teachers wanted the public to know they were proud to be teachers."

The Omaha Education Association, a professional organization that represents all teachers and administrators in the Omaha Public Schools, is spending \$8,000 for the advertising campaign. Together with the NSEA, the total expenditure is around \$30,000.

"This is not school money, however, it is from dues collected from our members," said Ms. Shafer.

The NSEA purchased television time on early and late evening news statewide. The OEA purchased radio time and

news ads in regional issues of "Time," "Newsweek," "U.S. News," and "Sports Illustrated."

"The money used for this advertising campaign does not include any of our regular projects, as this is an extraordinary effort," said Ms. Shafer.

The current advertising campaign has been in the planning stage for six or seven years, according to Ms. Keefover. "It finally got off the ground this year," she said.

According to Ms. Shafer, people helping with the advertising campaign feel very good about the ads.

"The NSEA is making a rather moderate attempt to measure the outcome of the ads," she said.

Ms. Keefover, chairperson of the NSEA for three years, said a follow-up campaign is underway.

"The advertising agency handling this campaign is going to come up with some new songs and gimmicks for us. We're anxious for another campaign," she said.

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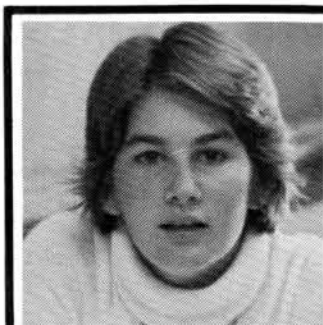
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by Kiki Seitzer

Fall full of frolic and fun

I'll say fall and you say whatever "pops" into your head (sounds like a word association game used by psychiatrists). Maybe season, Big Red National Champions 1970-71, leaves, Homecoming, spring, Halloween, harvest, clumsiness, fashions, etc. would have been your answer to that probing question.

If you read the *Iliad* and were a Homer buff you would have said Troy (Fall of). Thanksgiving, Halloween, and Homecoming all occur during fall. Thanksgiving at Grandma's with her special turkey plus pumpkin pie could always increase my appetite and waistline.

Holidays help spirits

The Oklahoma-Nebraska game could put a damper on the holiday depending on the outcome. Halloween meant having a couple costumes, making it less suspicious if I went to the same house with the Milky Way bars twice. By tenth grade, people were beginning to give me Halloween-was-made-for-kids-not-tricky-tenth-graders looks.

Fall always brings with it one of the biggest dilemmas during the school year. Whom am I going with to the Homecoming dance? Ample time is needed to prepare for the dance because I have to get a dress that no one else will wear or maybe wouldn't want to wear. It must be shopped for at least two weeks in advance.

Lastly, my ego is at stake if I am asked the day of the dance. By the way, don't try to look for fall fashions in fall. You must do that in late spring or early summer. One consolation is that winter and spring fashions can be found readily during fall.

Raking leaves

An excuse file concerning non-raking of leaves was always needed when fall came around. Some of these excuses include: "Sorry Mom, I can't rake today because my fingernail is broken; I don't need to rake today. The wind is blowing the leaves into the Jones' yard; The halftime entertainment is fantastic, Dad, so I can't rake now; and finally, I definitely can't rake until you find my favorite work gloves."

Green thumbs love fall because with fall comes harvesting. Whether you have a ten by ten foot garden or 1000 acres, the thrill of bringing in the crop is always there. In the pioneer days, the harvest kept the pioneers fed during the harsh winter. Of course, now we have our Hinky Dinky's, Baker's, etc.

Many things make fall one of the most enjoyable seasons in the year, and I have just touched on a few. Finally, if your answer was clumsiness on the first question maybe you should go see a psychiatrist, and have a nice trip. See ya next fall.

Mighty miniature proves good buy

Riddle: What is economical, easy to care for, inexpensive, lightweight, and rather hard to come by?

Answer: A vehicle that combines motorcycle and bicycle parts to form the marvelous, magnificent, mighty, midget motorcycle known as a moped.

What's a moped, you ask?

Used in Europe for decades, the moped is just starting to bloom as America's new plaything. According to Don Ramer of Ramer Motors, the sudden spread of mopeds in America is due to the lifting of federal laws that banned the moped from import.

"The European moped didn't have turn signals and the lights that were on it didn't work if the engine failed," explained Mr. Ramer. "The government finally changed some of their laws around in 1975 so that mopeds were legal in the United States. A lot of their decision had to do with the energy crisis."

The moped "fad" in America began in New York City, where businessmen discovered that the moped was a great way to beat heavy traffic. Parking costs were halved because a moped could be parked in a motor-

cycle stall rather than the high-priced car space. Thus the moped began putting its way into the outstretched arms of the American public.

DEMAND VS. SUPPLY

Unfortunately, purchasing one of these little sensations can be quite difficult. Mr. Ramer says that Nebraska's present motor vehicle laws don't allow for the moped as a "moterscooter."

"Right now there is no separate moped classification in the state of Nebraska," he said. "A moped is now considered a motorcycle which means you have to be of age and have to have a license to ride one." A Nebraska license costs twelve dollars.

The biggest problem though is meeting the public's demand. Ramer Motors has a lengthy waiting list for the most inexpensive moped available in the Omaha area, Honda's Express. This model is priced around \$325, depending on the dealer. Present prices go as high as \$550 dollars.

THE MOPED ITSELF

Gas mileage is perhaps the most unique characteristic of the moped. Honda claims that the Express "can get over a hundred miles per gallon." The

first American-made moped is Columbia's Commuter which claims up to one hundred and fifty miles per gallon. Other foreign models are advertised as 175 m.p.g. gems.

"The gas mileage depends on the way a moped is driven," Mr. Ramer explained. "A moped would get much better gas mileage in Lincoln than in Omaha because Lincoln is a flat city."

How easy is a moped to ride?

Honda claims its Express is so easy to ride that "if you know how to ride a bicycle, you can ride it like a pro."

The Express typifies the moped - a small bicycle-type frame modified to accommodate a 49cc engine. Even with such a small motor, the Express can reach a top speed of thirty miles per hour due to a ninety-four pound frame. Hand brakes, an automatic clutch, and a powerful headlight are also moped standards.

Though the moped is not recommended for use on main thoroughfares, it is considered a great sidestreet vehicle or great for use in the country.

So try one tomorrow. After all, wouldn't you really rather ride a moped?



photo by Kevin Anderson

Johndrea Whitmore performing in '75 Road Show.

Reality never a dream

Most little girls dream of becoming a beauty queen but to Miss Black Nebraska and former Central graduate, Johndrea Whitmore, being a beauty queen was not a childhood fantasy. According to Johndrea, "Entering a pageant had never occurred to me until I heard about it one day and decided to give it a try. I guess you might call it one of those things."

At the Miss Black America contest, held in Santa Monica, California, Johndrea was third runner-up. This was the first time a contestant from Nebraska finished in the top ten. Johndrea received a \$1500 cash prize. "In the final moments, when we were awaiting the judges' decision, I had a tense good feeling because I knew I would be placing in the top five," said Johndrea.

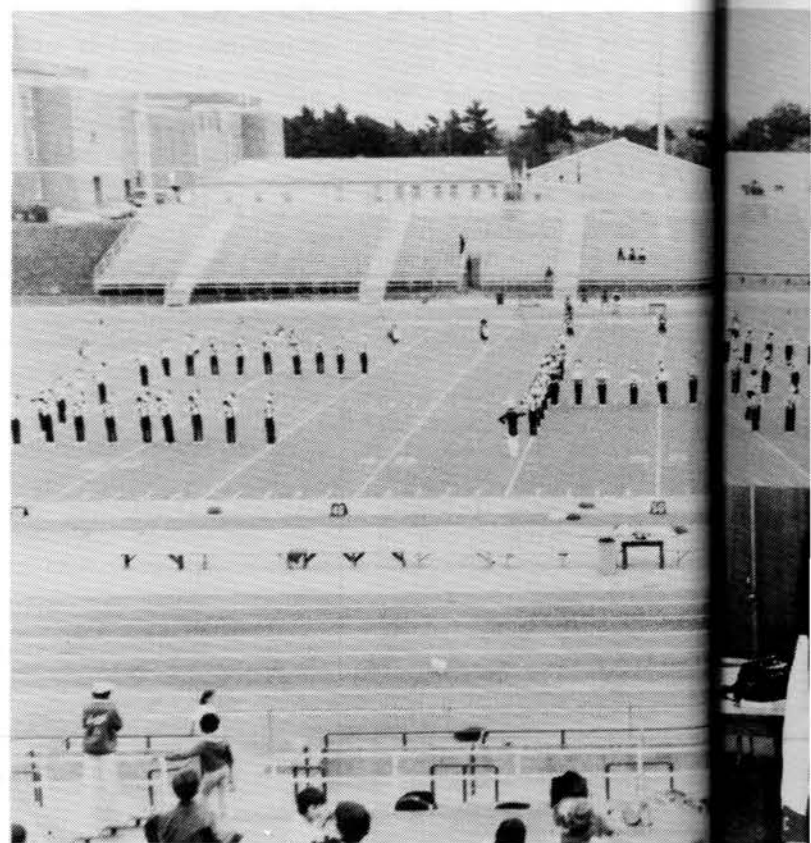
All contestants were judged in three categories for the pageant. Swimsuit, talent, and evening gown competitions were the three categories. Each contestant was also asked a question. Johndrea was asked,

"If you were given a microphone and platform, what would you say?" Johndrea replied, "I would like to see all nationalities unite as one in peace, love, and harmony."

Johndrea felt the pageant was a good opportunity to show her singing talent. She sang "Inseparable" by Natalie Cole. Johndrea said, "When I was at Central, I performed in Road Show for three years."

The daily routine at the pageant involved eight hours of rehearsal with social events in the evening. The contestants attended a dinner at Beverly Hills, a cookout, a splash party, a banquet held in honor of Alex Haley, author of "Roots," and many other eventful activities.

"I met a lot of influential people at the pageant. Some of them were Billie Dee Williams, Lou Gossett, Pearl Bailey, Levar Burdon and Diane Carroll. It was very interesting to meet so many exciting people in such a short span of time."



Approximately \$21,000 was tapped from the C.H.S. Marching Band Association to fund the purchase of 130 convertible band uniforms. Fourteen years since the last purchase of new uniforms. At half-time, C.H.S. band formation shows off the new forms. Inset: Sue Schoettger models the new

'Star's

by C. Bond

If the second movie season of the first Hollywood office showing But how could science fiction let school's Bond's latest

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photo by Tony Smith

Swedish student finds friendliness

This fall Central opened its doors to many students from the Omaha area. Central also opened its doors to a student from Sweden.

Bjorn Hedlund, an exchange student from Filipstad, Sweden, is attending Central as a junior this year. During his stay he is living with senior Noel Anderson.

"I chose to come to the United States because I wanted to learn about its people. The Swedish culture is greatly influenced by the culture of the U. S.," Bjorn stated.

"Swedish teenagers don't date. People meet either at dances, which are held 2-3 times per week, or at parties. "Parties," Bjorn continued, "usually begin at 7 p.m. and continue until 1-4 a.m."

"In Sweden it is not necessary to own an automobile, as it is in the U.S. The average Swedish family has only one car," Bjorn said. "The cars are usually small. This is due to the fact that gasoline costs \$1.50 per gallon."

Bicycles are a popular form of transportation in Sweden also. Approximately 75 percent of the Swedes own them. "Most people own two or three speeds because of their carrying capacity," added Bjorn.

"The main difference between Swedish and American people," Bjorn concluded, "is that Americans are much more friendly toward strangers than are Swedes."



Teachers make unscheduled stop

During this summer, Central teachers Virgene McBride and Verona Jerabek took a ten day charter tour to Germany and Austria. The trip appeared to be an innocent adventure but evolved at the end of their trip, into a more dramatic scene which neither anticipated.

On the return trip back to the United States, the jet of Miss Jerabek and Miss McBride made a "routine" fuel stop at Shannon, Ireland -which began the slightly frightening experience of the two Central teachers. The "routine" fuel delay expanded into a three hour wait at Shannon, Ireland, for reasons unknown. After finally getting airborne, Miss McBride, Miss Jerabek and their fellow passengers were informed by the plane's captain that they had lost use of one of the engines.

After the initial shock, they were also told that to land

safely back in Shannon, Ireland, the jet would have to drain all of its fuel over the Atlantic Ocean to avoid an explosion if a crash resulted.

Before the DC-8 reached the Atlantic, stewardesses were bustling about clearing the exits and breaking out the watertight flashlights. During the running around, the stewardesses found the time to tell the passengers that during the remaining part of the trip they were not to move, touch, or do anything.

After forty-five minutes of fuel draining, the plane finally returned to Shannon to land safely-despite the array of rescue equipment on the air strip.

Pending the twenty hour stay in Shannon, Ireland, a New Yorker rebelled to gain access to a different jet for the trip back to the U.S. The fellow

from New York seized the Terminal's public address system to alert his fellow passengers. He gained a small group of followers. The Shannon Police intervened, however, to stop the mild up-rising. The New Yorkers were sent back home via a different jet.

Miss Jerabek commented on the mild form of "terrorism" displayed by the New Yorkers: "They used some of the tactics that terrorists use, but I wouldn't say they were terrorists in the way we use the term today."

"They were just scared," Miss Jerabek said that they were not violent, but she "didn't approve" of their actions.

Miss McBride said she was happy to see the lights of New York again; Miss Jerabek said she was happier to see Omaha again. Miss Jerabek added that she would take the trip again if she had the chance.

Central welcomes new faculty members

photos by Howard Marcus

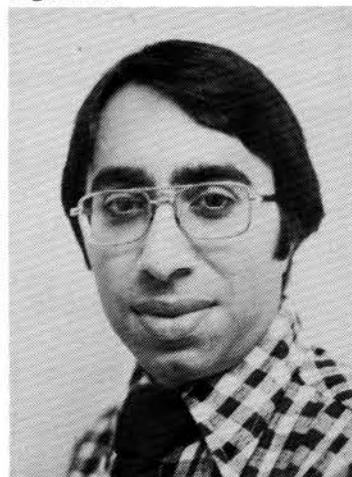


Caroline Davidson

Background: Attended University of Nebraska at Omaha for two years and graduated from University of Nebraska at Lincoln.

Courses now teaching: Art at Central and Martin Luther King's ninth grade center. Also teaches stagecraft at Central.

Impression of Central: "I was really impressed with the way the administration handles the student body. Everything seems to flow so smoothly and is so organized."



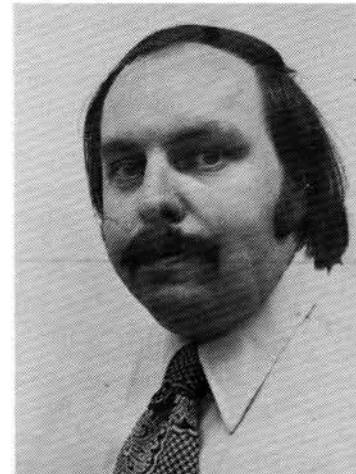
Mark Kacere

Background: Substitute taught for one semester after graduat-

ing from the University of Iowa at Iowa City. He earned his teaching certificate from Mt. Mercy College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Courses now teaching: Typing, Business Principles, and Distributive Education.

Impression of Central: "I was really happy with the way the staff and the student body are so friendly and helpful to a newcomer."



Jerry Doctor

Background: After graduating from the University of Nebraska, he taught for one semester in Clearwater, Nebraska. He then taught at Benson High School, here in Omaha, for nine years.

Courses now teaching: Chemistry.

Impression of Central: "The students seem very cooperative as well as friendly."

Ken Boettcher

Background: Attended Peru State College and graduated from University of Nebraska at Omaha.

Courses now teaching: World Studies and American Government



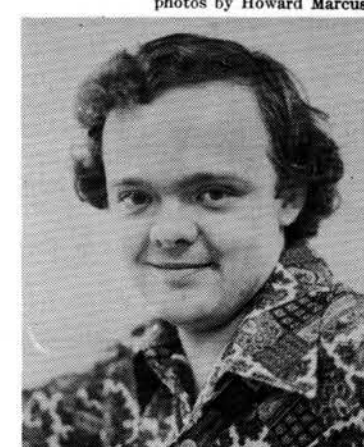
Impression of Central: "The students here seem highly motivated."



Phyllis Brown

Background: Taught in Red Oak, Iowa and at Monroe Junior High, after graduating from Kearney State College. She has been teaching for seven years.

Courses now teaching: French.
Impression of Central: "I really enjoy it here very much. The students seem to study very well, and are well behaved."



Kevin Throne

Background: Graduated from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa.

Courses now teaching: French and German.

Impression of Central: "It's fabulous here. I really enjoy Central."



Rita Foster

Background: Graduated from Nebraska Wesleyan with a BS in Business Administration.

Courses now teaching: Typing, Business Principles, and Business Communications.

Impression of Central: "I thought, as a teacher, I would have to practically force students to study, but instead they seem really willing to work."



after the anthem

by Jim Zipursky

Are athletics important in high school?

Some people feel that too much money is spent on athletic programs on the high school level. Most of these people believe that the money could be spent on other, more important programs related to academics. Central Athletic Director Doug Morrow is not one of these people.

Mr. Morrow believes strongly in Central's athletic program. "Academics will always be number one at Central. However, athletics are a very important part of our program. Athletics comprise sixty per cent of all extracurricular activities at Central," Mr. Morrow explained.

Why is a good athletic program so important?

Dan Goodwin, a two year letterman on Central's varsity football team, explains that, "I have friends who would not remain in school if it weren't for the sports. Not only that, but it gives an athlete a goal that he must work hard to achieve. Also, it gives us a chance to represent our school in competition against other schools."

"Athletics are important because they give the athlete a chance to be enthused about a program at school. They also allow the student to be involved in something besides his school work. We have a large enough athletic program at Central to allow any interested student to make the effort to become actively involved," commented Mr. Morrow.

Is there too much emphasis placed on athletics?

Central mathematics teacher Steve Halula believes that, "It is too bad that so much emphasis is placed on a school's sports program to gain attention for the school. For instance, when people think of Central, they talk about what a good basketball team the school usually has. They don't realize that we have one of the top academic programs in the state."

As previously stated, Mr. Morrow feels that academics will always be the top priority at Central. But he is quick to say that a balanced blend between academics and athletics is necessary to have a successful program. "You don't have to have winning teams to have a successful program. At Central, all of our programs, both academic and athletic, are successful because we have good support and participation from the student body," he added.

Yes, athletics are important and an integral part of any high school. It doesn't really make a difference if you are the star of the football team or just a spectator at a game, interest and enthusiasm are the most important things. So, for Central's athletic programs to be successful, they need your support as well as participation.

Young Eagles' unity pays off

Coach John Haskell's emphasis on unity may be the reason for the success of his 1977 sophomore football squad.

The young Eagles disposed of Papillion 18-6 and tied a tough South squad 22-22. "I think it's important that the kids get to know each other. They went to different junior highs around the city; therefore if they want to be winners, they must work as one unit," said Mr. Haskell.

Central used a stiff defense led by Rick Johnson, Jeff Ronne, and Tim Washington to shut off the Papio running game. Halfbacks Jerry Paul and Pat Hill provided the offensive punch. Hill scored twice on runs of 8 and 50 yards, while Paul broke the game open in the first quarter on a 25 yard burst to the end zone.

In the South game the Eagles were hurt by the Packer passing attack, but the Central offense was able to maintain a tie. Pat Hill scored three times,

on two runs over 50 yards and a 3 yarder. Part of Hills' success was due to fine blocking by guard Pete Danielson, fullback Janssen Williams, and end Dwayne Dale, who broke his arm during the game.

Coach Haskell feels his team still has a considerable amount of improving to do. "For a sophomore gaining ability through competition is more important than winning. By the time they're juniors or seniors they'll be ready for varsity competition," said Mr. Haskell.

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Eagles huddle up before season's opener with North High.

photo by Howard Mar

Central Swimmers place well in races but can't win meets

"Swimming is not a very glamorous sport. It is unlike all other sports in the sense that while you are competing, you are incased in your own world, the water. The water fills your ears until you can't hear, and burns your eyes until you can't see. This is probably the main reason for the decline in girls swimming at Central," said Dirk McNeely, girls swim coach.

The team has compiled a 0-2 record in dual meets thus far this season. Their record is quite misleading, however. Central has only eight swimmers and two divers on the team. "While other teams are able to enter three girls in each of the eleven different events, we are only able to enter three girls in eight different events, so we give away three events before the meet starts," stated Mr. McNeely.

Lack of facilities is another problem the girls must cope with. Coach McNeely commented that schools such as Westside, that have their own pool, are able to schedule two practices a day, while Central has trouble scheduling one practice a day. The girls presently practice at Norris Junior High.

This year's team is led by co-captains Ann Rigatuso and Gayle Spencer. Other swimmers on the team are Kit Barrett, Sharon Black, Denise Haller, Sally Pollack, Joni Waterman, and Chris Felici. Cindi Coldwell and Judith Nielsen are the team's only divers, while Vivienne Collins does a fine job as the team's student manager.

Mr. McNeely concluded, "I am very proud of my girls. In a recent invitational relay meet, we won a second and third place medal. All of the girls are hard workers; I can see them improving every day."

The girls' next competition is a dual meet on Tuesday, October 4, at 4:00 p.m., against Thomas Jefferson High. The meet will be held at Norris Junior High. It is a home meet.

The students of
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DIMENSION
'78
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poetry and artwork
to room 218.)

Varsity ties Packers

Central's varsity football team has excited its fans in each of the team's last two outings.

On September 23, Central came on the field after halftime trailing annual rival South High, 12-0. Fumbles and penalties proved costly as the Eagles were not able to generate much offense in the first half.

The mistakes continued into the third quarter, as South recovered a fumbled punt deep in Central territory. The Packers were moving towards a third score when halfback Dan Goodwin intercepted a pass at the Central five yard line and returned it 95 yards for a touchdown, to make the score 12-6.

The Eagles razzle-dazzled their way to another touchdown late in the fourth quarter. Quarterback Nate Butler faded back to pass, but instead of passing, Butler handed off to halfback Perry Washington coming around end on a "Statue of Liberty" play. Washington eluded two defenders, and scored from 48 yards out.

The attempt at a two point conversion failed, which left the score tied at twelve all. Central got the ball back near the end of the game, but a last second scoring effort fell a few yards short. The game ended in a 12-12 tie.

Seniors lead summer team

The Budweisers, an American Legion baseball team comprised of Central High athletes, finished two games away from a winning season with a 15-17 final record.

"American Legion rules forbid Central High from sponsoring the team, so the Budweiser brewery sponsors us every year," Paul Pennington explained. Mr. Pennington coaches the varsity baseball team as well as the Budweisers.

Graduated senior Tom McLaughlin was the leading hitter on a team that finished second

Just one week earlier, Central had scored a fourth quarter touchdown and conversion to beat Northwest, 8-7. The Eagles marched 80 yards for a score on a drive that was capped by Goodwin's eight yard run for a touchdown, and Kirk Curry's sweep around left end for the two-point conversion that eventually gave the win to Central.

In the season's opener, Central easily disposed of North High, 34-0. Fullback James Davis, Curry, Goodwin, and Perry Washington all scored touchdowns as the Eagles gained over 200 yards rushing.

Papillion is the only team that has been able to defeat the Eagles thus far this season. The Monarchs beat Central 16-10. The only thing that kept Central from being shut out was a pass by Butler to Goodwin pass, good for a 59 yard touchdown.

Defensively, the team has been led by seniors Terry Johnson, Tony Felici, Mark Flannery, and Stan Perry. Johnson has four pass interceptions so far this season.

Watch the team this Friday as they take on the Bryan Bears. This is Central's homecoming game, and the team would appreciate your support. The word from Las Vegas is that Central will win, 24-21.

in the season opening Muscular Dystrophy Tournament. Two other graduated seniors, Tim Hedrick and Mark Gillaspie, helped during the summer.

"Of the eighteen players of the summer team, eight will return to play for the varsity this year," Mr. Pennington went on to say. Pitchers Grady Hansen and Dave Herman, catcher Phil Godberson, infielders Dave Akiens and Mark Wilson, and outfielders Tom Bockes and Don Meyer all return which brightens Central's outlook for this year's season.

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J. V. football

The J.V. football team is 0-2 after its first two games of the season. Papillion and South both blanked the Eagles by the score of 16-0.

"The drop in enrollment at Central has hurt the J.V. team badly," said coach Gary Thompson. With only sixteen juniors and five sophomores, the Central roster is nine men below the average size for a J.V. team.

One bright spot for the Junior Eagles is a stingy defense led by linebackers Brett Emsick and Rick Cantu, middle guard Phil Godbersen, and defensive back Jerry Marfesi. In the Papio game, sophomore cornerback Jeff Dombrowski picked up a Monarch fumble and raced 8 yards for a touchdown. Unfortunately the score was nullified by a clipping penalty.

A sputtering Central offense was unable to generate very much movement in either game, with the exception of end James Allen who caught six passes for 50 yards in the South game.

Girls' volleyball

A well-balanced Central girls' volleyball team has split its first two Central games of the season. With a pair of victories over Northryan, 15-6, 16-14, and a couple losses to Papillion 15-6, 15-7, the girls' volleyball team now holds a 1-1 record.

"We don't have any real standouts; I can count on almost any of my girls to start, defeat they play well together," said coach Tom Dolfay. Coach Dolfay is optimistic about a season kept Central goal. "I think the team was looking pretty good, but we haven't played up to our potential yet. Hopefully we can improve as the season goes on until we reach our peak," said Coach Dolfay.

Team captains are seniors Peggy Coonce and Nina Huey.

Girls' golf

The girls' golf team has compiled an impressive 2-2 record in dual meets thus far this season. Coach Joanne Dusatko said, "I am impressed with the girls' steady improvement."

Central lost dual meets to Northwest High and Marian High. Mrs. Dusatko was quick to point out, however, "Both of those schools have strong golf programs. Marian was the state champion last year."

The team is led by seniors Rose Foster and Terese Jones, and junior Vicki Riley. Other team members are juniors Jenny Tracey and Teri Mancuso, and sophomores Missy Slavik and Kathy Bohi.

The golfers' next competition is a dual meet against A.L. The meet will be held at Dodge Park, in Council Bluffs on Thursday, September 29, at 4:00 p.m.

Boys' gymnastics

"We did better than I expected, but not as well as I hoped," said John Kocourek. Mr. Kocourek, boys' gymnastic coach, was speaking of his team's second place performance in their first meet.

Central finished 11 points behind Bryan High in a triangular meet held at Central, on September 15. Ralston High finished third in the meet. It was the first time that Ralston has competed in boys' gymnastics, and their fine performance should be commended.

Sophomore Mike Greenberg and junior Terry Gargano were Central's top all-around performers. "We had a lot of bad breaks that kept us from doing better," Greenberg said. Greenberg finished third in the all-around competition.

"We have a very young team this year (only one senior), and we will get better with every meet. By the end of the season, we will be able to beat Bryan," Mr. Kocourek concluded.



photo by Tony Smith

Central cheerleaders build support for the team.

Cheerleaders win honors for superior performance

Central's varsity cheerleading squad won top awards this summer at two cheerleading contests held in Blair, Nebraska, and Lansing, Michigan.

On the first trip Cindy Coldwell, Peggy Coonce, Harriet Emly, Terese Jones, Cathy Stimson, JoAnn Sutton, and Sally Urbanac, seven of the varsity cheerleaders, attended the Blair Cheerleading Camp at Dana College August 7-10, 1977.

"Every morning we would get up at 5:00 to learn new cheers, chants, pep rally skits, and Pom-pom routines, then at the end of the day we competed against other squads," explained varsity cheerleader Peggy Coonce.

According to the cheerleaders, among the competitors at the Blair camp were girls from Audubon, Iowa, Kearney and Fullerton, Nebraska, and Omaha (Northwest's junior varsity squad).

"Every night we competed against the other squads by doing two cheers and two chants. The judges were the

director and staff of the United States Cheerleading Association," said senior cheerleader JoAnn Sutton.

During the nightly competition the girls won five second place and three first place ribbons. A pom-pom routine to Jesus Christ Superstar and a pep rally skit won two of the first place ribbons.

Commenting on the camp's competition, Peggy Coonce said, "The hardest part of competing at Blair was not the competition itself but preparing to compete. Before we left for camp we practiced in the morning and at night, then we practiced at camp also."

At the end of the camp Central's squad won a third place team award and a first and fourth place individual awards. Terese Jones won the first place individual award; Peggy Coonce won the fourth place individual award.

"Surprise and shock were my first reactions to winning the first place award," commented cheerleader Terese Jones.

Due to the success in Blair,

Nebraska, the girls by invitation went to the Grand National Cheerleading Contest held in East Lansing, Michigan, August 18-20.

"At Lansing 130 squads and 157 individuals competed in the national contest," said JoAnn.

According to the cheerleaders, the competition for the national contest came from Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, and Nebraska, with the largest portion of competitors from the northern states.

"Competition was very hard at nationals. We were not prepared mentally to see girls do mounts of five people or back flips off the mounts," Terese said.

JoAnn said, "The routines were either physical with flips and mounts or they were graceful with dance steps. We rarely saw a pom-pom routine between the physical and graceful boundaries."

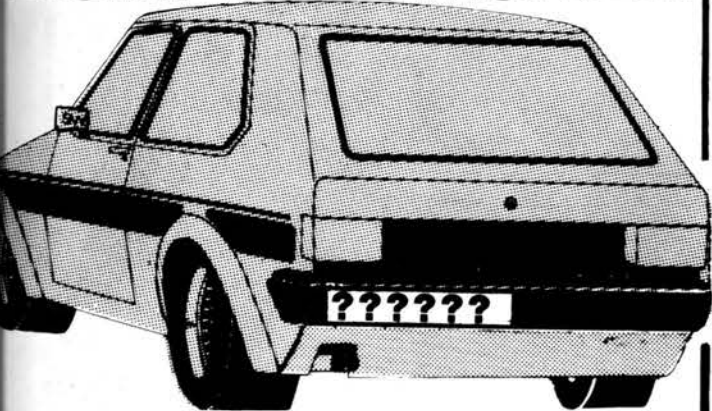
Terese Jones and Peggy Coonce competed in the individual competition because they won individual awards at Blair.

"In the individual competition we nervously performed before 200 people, judges and spectators," said Peggy.

"The styles of the northern cheerleaders were very different compared to the girls of the midwest. Because of the difference, I think it was hard for our squad to compete with for northern girls," explained JoAnn.

"We got a lot of new ideas and we learned a lot at both of the contests," added Terese.

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