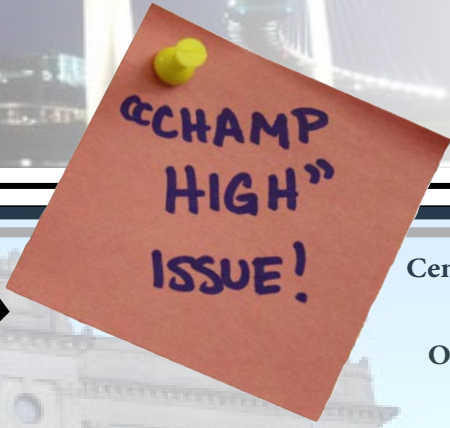


# The Register

A High School Newspaper Practicing Professional Journalism  
2nd Place Best Paper at University of Nebraska, Omaha's 2012 Media Conference



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## Students attend special lecture

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

Dozens of science students went to a climate change lecture given by expert Dr. David Harwood on April 17th at the Joslyn Museum to learn about the change of the ecosystem throughout the years and what might happen in the future.

Harwood is a research director and traveled to Antarctica in a new geological drilling program called the ANDRILL program, trying to recover stratigraphic records from the Antarctic region. Others including students followed the program in their research to document this ongoing effort.

Science teacher Matt Hamill set the whole lecture up. Before the lecture began, he suggested watching *Secrets Beneath the Ice: Is Antarctic Ice Hiding Clues to Our Planets Future*, the movie of Harwood's journey in Antarctica, in his classes and then having them write just a few questions down that they had so he could email some to Harwood. He also suggested this to the other classes to do as well.

"I thought it was a great opportunity for students to meet an expert in the field, what I really enjoyed. Which is why I made him come, he's an expert and there's still a lot of controversy on it making it so-so for Americans on the subject," said Hamill.

Many science classes went including Hamill's physics classes, Jane Colling's physics classes, Matt Aguilar's physics classes, and a few Aaron Strain's freshmen biology classes. But after that Hamill still had 40 open seats for the lecture so he sent out letters for anybody that wanted to attend.

The lecture was held at the Joslyn Art Museum free of charge thanks to Nancy Round, faculty of Joslyn. The lecture was also two hours long for the students during school.

Hamill met Harwood from a worksHop for teachers on climate change at the zoo about two and a half years ago. What Harwood did was present about Antarctica in general and his project.

At the lecture on April 17th, Harwood talked about many things from his trip to Antarctica to the actual struggle of climate change in the past and future decades.

Students found out that this isn't the first time carbon dioxide levels have been this high or it hasn't been as warm. The data has been only two or three years old. But with the *Inconvenient Truth*, a documentary on climate change, in 2006, we could see millions of years with Harwood's research, which could also predict the future in billions of years. They could also see how much sea ice and Antarctica's ice could melt.

The research of his lecture showed that the rate of change is so different which makes it a challenge. The earth has had five million years to go into change and now in 100 years, it could make an even more change. Nobody can say the outcome, they can only make predictions.

But the climate change is even worse for plants and animals, not for one of them, but for an entire ecosystem. One thing is linked to another in the ecosystem.

"Global Warming is real and I have very little doubt of that. People are playing a significant role in driving it. Some people think it's real or unreal but do humans play a role? The models don't match if you don't put humans in it. The science is very overwhelming," said Hamill.

# Passing the Baton

*Teachers and Administration of Omaha Public Schools, as well as citizens and businesses of Omaha have praised the choice of Nancy Sebring as new Superintendent of OPS.*



PHOTO BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

The new Superintendent, Nancy Sebring, prepares for the 2012-2013 school year as an important part of Omaha Public Schools.

BY EMILY BECK



Following the announcement of the retirement of Dr. John Mackiel, superintendent of Omaha Public Schools for 15 years, the hunt for a worthy replacement earnestly began.

After considering several applicants (among them ReNae Kehrberg, OPS's assistant superintendent for curriculum and learning, and Dan Nerad, superintendent of the Madison Metropolitan School District in Wisconsin), it was announced on April 2 by the Board of Education that Dr. Nancy Sebring, the current superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools, would be the woman for the job.

She has spent the last six years leading DMPS (which serves roughly 32,000 students, about 18,000 less than OPS), making significant advances in student achievement and increasing graduation rates despite extreme budget cuts.

Named a "heavily recruited superintendent" by Des Moines School Board Vice President Dick Murphy in a story by the Des Moines Register, Sebring has been scouted by big names like OPS and the Boulder, Colo. school district; her own district attempted to entice her to stay with contract bonuses, but those efforts fell through. She was ready to move on to new challenges (the reason she gave for leaving DMPS).

Those challenges will surely meet her as soon as she arrives in Omaha, but Sebring will be ready. With her years of extensive experience in curriculum instruction and development, the superintendent knows how to deal with issues that come with "being the largest district in the state, and having issues related to urban education."

Sitting down to a phone conversation with Sebring, I was very nervous, unsure of what to anticipate. From what I had gathered from our emails (as well as what I had read about her), she was a kind, personable and enthusiastic woman—and I seemed to be right.

She was very eloquent and informative and, to my surprise, felt inclined to ask me about myself firsthand. We spent a good several minutes discussing my interests (mainly journalism), of which she generally cared about (as a youth she even considered a career in it). You could say that I

was sold right away.

And it seems that she's also been sold on Omaha and OPS, both of which she had many excellent things to say—from her own experience as well as what others have told her. "People are really proud of the district and the work that they do," she said.

Regarding her departure, Sebring said that "it's very bittersweet. I have really loved working in Des Moines, and it's a great district." While she has spent time living in Colorado, Iowa is her home—she grew up on a farm in Central Island—and she said that it will be a little hard to leave. But she won't be very far away.

### Her Experience

All those involved in Omaha should be reassured that Sebring is ready to tackle OPS. Her vast resume includes Language Arts course teacher in Nevada, Iowa, Human Resource Development Specialist in Humboldt, Iowa, Middle School Principal in LaSalle, Colo., Assistant High School Principal and Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Development in Fort Collins, Colo., Douglas County (Colo.) Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools.

Throughout the last few decades Sebring has moved up from position to position—and at last she's made it to Omaha.

### What Sets Her Apart

Needless to say, Sebring is a very involved individual. She is also incredibly friendly and personable: an ideal spokesperson as well as a leader and an innovator. Her impressive background in teaching and administering is not at all unusual for someone in her position—but her experience with curriculum instruction is.

"Superintendents did not necessarily come up through the curriculum and instruction ranks...typically they were teachers and coaches and principals. They didn't spend a lot of time in a department on their route into the superintendency."

"Since No Child Left Behind in 2001, the skill set of what a superintendent needs to be able to do has really shifted to instructional leadership...and knowing how to address academic problems in schools," Sebring said. "Historically superintendents, I think, were more managers."

Continued to 'SEBRING' on Page 2

## Central students add to 'Champ High' by taking state in DECA

BY GISELLE TRAN



This year, Omaha Central High School has the boy's and girl's basketball state championships under its belt, along with a state champion wrestler, Ronald Wells. But when Principal Dr. Keith Bigsby says that Central takes "great pride" in "our outstanding academic program...and co-curricular activities," he truly means it. Central continues its winning streak as two students, Brita Sjogren and Giselle Tran, were state champions in their divisions at the State DECA Conference. These two students, along with six other qualifiers, will go on to the International Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The State DECA Conference was held from March 15 to March 17. Students competed in a wide variety of marketing divisions that required them to be academically prepared, community oriented, and professionally responsible. Depending on

their competitive event, students will present a business plan or idea, write a research paper on a topic that varies from year to year, and/or take a marketing exam and compete in a role play. In DECA, a role play is an activity where students present ideas and plans to a judge.

In order to qualify for the International Conference, students had to place in the top three of their division. However, students are allowed to compete in two competitive events at State, and if a student qualifies in two events, he or she must choose only one event at which to compete at Internationals. Therefore, students who did not place top three in their division had the chance to qualify for the International Conference.

This year, Central had eight students qualify for the International Career Development Conference from April 28 to May 1 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The eight Central qualifiers were Jacinta Christiansen in Professional Selling, Anna Di Ruocco in Marketing Management, Keygan Foster in Automotive Services, Henry Gentle in Hospitality and Lodging Management, Emma Harwood in Sports and Entertainment, Brita Sjogren in Principles of Business Management and Administration, Giselle Tran in Human Resources Management, and Paul Wasnieski

in Principles of Finance. More than 15,000 students will aspire higher at the International DECA Conference for leadership, competition, and networking.

DECA also values its many business partners and mentors. Harry Gaylor, a marketing teacher at Central, was one of the recipients for the DECA Outstanding Service Awards. Gaylor was awarded the Award of Merit for his many years of teaching marketing at Central High. State champions Brita Sjogren and Giselle Tran both had their own DECA experience. Sjogren said, "I joined DECA because several of my siblings before me...enjoyed it. I wanted to have the same experience." Sjogren is also on the girl's varsity soccer team. Unfortunately, a soccer match conflicts with the International DECA Conference. Sjogren said, "I'm sad I didn't get to go...but I'm looking forward to next year."

Tran joined DECA her sophomore year, last year qualifying for the International Conference in Orlando, Fla. Tran talked about her DECA experience, saying, "I love DECA, and I'm psyched for Internationals in Salt Lake this year. DECA teaches students the importance of interpersonal skills. Being judged is scary at first, but I started to have fun just going in and talking to someone I had never met."







**CUT! Costume Exhibit comes to Durham Museum**

Durham brings impressive and beautiful period costumes to Omaha.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8



**Blockbuster packs a big message**

Senior appreciates efforts and message presented in the new movie "Bully."

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 5



**HUNGER GAMES ATTRACTS MASSIVE AUDIENCE OF ALL AGES**



First of the series comes to theatre. ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 5

Friday, May 11, 2012

Omaha Central High School

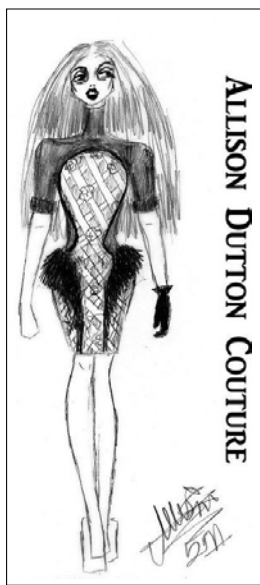
Vol. 125 Issue 5

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## Senior excels in couture, preparing for future



PHOTOS COURTESY OF ALLISON DUTTON AND PRECIOUS GASPARD/REGISTER

BY PRECIOUS GASPARD



With dreams that may seem unrealistic to some, they are surely coming true for senior Allison Dutton. Her dreams that at one time seemed unreachable are becoming real as her future plans come together.

Dutton began her adventures of fashion design and art at the early age of five. She occasionally took art classes at the Joslyn Museum to supplement her growth. "I learned a lot of tips to keep in mind while I was drawing, even though I knew how to do it before," said Dutton, "but it kind of reinforced it for me."

Although she has always had a thing for art, she especially blossomed in third grade.

Dutton started out drawing Bratz dolls and cartoon characters; her favorite part was drawing out their outfits-- which she tended to spend the most time on.

Around the fourth grade she designed her first dress, inspired by one of the sketches hanging in the background of an episode of "Dancing With the Stars" that she watched with her mother.

"It was so simple but yet so beautiful, and I just wanted to be able to do something like that," said Dutton. The design of her dress was inspired by islands and palm trees. "I didn't get to construct the dress but I did design it and I was so proud of it."

Dutton had the full support of her mother throughout whatever it was she desired to take on. "I attribute most of my success so far to my mother's undying support. Even when my goals seem unrealistic to others, she would always tell them that they were wrong and didn't know where I'm going in life. And I love her for it," she said.

Dutton, equipped with a passion for art, realized she wanted to be a fashion designer later in life after going through many phases. Dutton had the plans of being a freelance artist at first, due to the fact that "there aren't many big artists, most of them are in the past and there aren't many in today." She wanted to "revolutionize that."

Later realizing the artsy field she felt drawn to was not quite

right for her, she took on a strong feel for having the hopes of doing animation for famous companies such as Disney's Pixar.

"That was a huge dream for a while. I would practice animation during classes and whenever I was at home bored," said Dutton. When that started not to feel right, Dutton got into writing and immediately felt drawn to it, wanting to be an author or to write plays and movies.

Throughout these different changes Dutton finally realized that fashion design was tailor-made for her. She had finally made up her mind concerning what she truly wanted to do.

Last year Dutton was a featured designer for the fall Omaha Fashion Week. Her collection was inspired simply by her imagination; Dutton got positive reviews all around on her work. Most of those reviews came from other small designers in the Metro Area and the Omaha World Herald.

To further pursue her dream, Dutton will be attending fashion school Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandizing (FIDM) in San Francisco.

She will leave Omaha in August to begin her first semester of college. The school has many programs to offer and Dutton "feel(s) like this school is perfect for creative continuities," picking up on an "excited vibe."

FIDM was Dutton's first choice over her other option, Academy of Arts, feeling that FIDM had much more to offer.

She felt that Academy of Art "was more concerned on what [she] could do for them rather than what they could do for [her]."

Dutton paid a visit to her future school this past spring break; she was utterly amazed and impressed by how colorful and vibrant the place seemed, which was due partly to the architectural design and structure of the building.

Her plans do not stop after college, but will continue after.

She plans on starting it out slow because she knows that it is not realistic for one to become a major fashion designer so soon.

"I won't be this really big fashion designer right after college, I'll have to put in work to get there," said Dutton.

She plans on working her way up to her dream design job: doing costume design for FIDM. After being in her seasoned position she has high hopes of using her accumulated money to buy her own textiles and accessories to start her very own, personalized fashion line.

## Junior feels that no matter the muse, music is still music, and is an art form that should be respected

Rap, hip-hop and R&B aren't music. Screamo isn't music. Indie isn't music. Pop isn't music. Country isn't music. Classical rock? Not music. Oh, and definitely not dubstep.

These opinionated-statements dressed-up as facts ring in my head from peers, family members and friends. I have found if someone prefers listening to one specific genre of music, they generally are in high opposition to another.

A prime example would have been seventh grade Mekenzie who listened to strictly alternative artists on labels like Fueled by Ramen or Interscope Records. With a little gap between her front teeth and fiery red hair, Hayley Williams (of Paramore) was my alternative-genre hero. I proclaimed (all to proudly) that rap was 'crap', my point proven through the spelling of the words. My seventh grade self was nothing worth bragging about, with my music mind narrowed and decisive.

When the word 'music' enters in my ears I automatically think of some classical Mozart or the fortes and pianos of Bach, maybe even the electric guitar riffs flowing from the guitar of Jim Morrison. Anything classical is not just music, it is THE defini-

tion of music, or at least that's what my mind uproots.

Plenty of my friends and I have sat around listening to whatever oddly named playlist is on my iPod with varying degrees of music genre from Bon Iver to Dom Kennedy, when one song ends up sparking my friends opinion, "(Insert music genre) is not music, where as (insert their favorite genre) is."

Music is "the art or science of combining vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion."

Rap, hip-hop, R&B, dubstep, screamo, indie, acoustic, foreign music - it all does the exact same thing. Artists in each category use lyrics (though the sound bite might be different) paired with heavy and light beats, and I appreciate each.

I truly, whole-heartedly believe that in order to say you "appreciate" or "love" music, you cannot be a narrow-minded, "I'm right" type of thinker. I've listened to every genre that I know is currently in existence, and I wholly believe you need to have at least listened and attempted to appreciate a

few genres before labeling your preference as "the only form of music."

Granted, I'd prefer listening to a rift of "Material Girl" from Abel Tesfaye before sitting down and listening to 'Ben Threw' from Of Mice & Men, but yet I still like both.

I just have a preference. And I if people were a little less tunneled down in their music beliefs, you just might find yourselves enjoying choruses or breakdowns of the completely opposite genre in which you engulf yourself.

I don't in anyway mean to qualify or down score any genre of music, because each and every song (with the exception of 'Lipgloss'... cough) is a compilation and expression of feelings with a beat as the backbone. I mean, as long as songs have that, than who's to say it's

not music? No one. (No matter how many times you've sworn that you hate country music, because let's face it, most of us have.)



**THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT**

A Column by MEKENZIE KERR







# Opinion

## DOES ARIZONA TEA, SKITTLES, AND A HOODIE MAKE YOU A THREAT?

Controversial death of Trayvon Martin of Fla. looked over, covered.



OPINION, PAGE 9

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**GLOBAL WARMING: MYTH OR REALITY?**

The Register explores the topic of global warming, and calls for widespread acceptance of a problem that will one day be ours.

**OPINION, PAGE 8**

## Sophomore finds passion in judging speech competition



\*Creepy Stare\*  
A Column by PRECIOUS GASPARD

The steps to judging were simple. First the coaches signed their school in. Next you are given a schedule. After that there is a "brief" meeting that takes about half of the time of what the first round was supposed to be discussing any changes made.

Shortly after that, competitors are off to find the room they are in and judges go to get there ballets which is a packet that gives you all the details you would need to judge a specific category. From there I look completely lost walking empty halls looking for a room with competitors. Judging is not the easiest thing to do; being totally objective and supportive is what it's mainly about. I found it very hard and tiring in the beginning.

I would give my Friday Night up to judge a speech competition with a group of Central's very own speech competitors. It might sound crazy to give up a Friday night, but the experiences are worth it. It might sound crazy to give up a Friday night, but the experiences are worth it.

I get free food, because there is a judge's lounge, for judges only of course, with an endless amount of food and drinks that I would sometimes sneak and bring to the students that are in the speech competition. I also get the chance to be most feared when it comes to Judging, too many slip ups and scores go down the drain from there.

Surely having to portray yourself as a college student in front of a large group of people is difficult because it leads to an endless amount of lies and stories, like that time I was an intern for Vogue or how I'm majoring in Communications going to UNO full time.

Yeah they're lies but, who's counting? Pretty soon they would have forgotten about the girl that kept bringing plates full of food for the only OPS school that attend speech tournament back and forth through the lounge.

I must admit while I'm in there sneaking around with large plates full's and pockets full of snacks to bring to your friends, my conscience gets to me and I'm walking away with my head down avoiding the scary looking teachers that usually stare a lot. I would ask myself what I would say if I was ever approached for giving out food or just simply having too much being taken out of the room. I simply answered, "excuse me, but I have an eating disorder where I enjoy watching others eat while eating and my friend have no food so I can't do so." I'm not sure if they would have believed me or not, I honestly just wanted to go home and go to bed.

There's not much I could say about hating judging because I most certainly wouldn't go if I didn't like it, but I didn't always feel this way about judging. The butterflies was the worst part, I was so nervous I forgot I was in charge and decided when competitors could go. Don't worry after a while I got the hang of it and now it's like toasting toast in a toaster.

After a while the nervousness goes away and I'm able to focus on what are the speakers are saying and what I need to critique based upon a sheet that tells me what I need to look for. Never the less, Judging these competitions has more to offer than all the free food in the world. Judging helped me realize what I had a passion for and I also over came my fear of being in total silence.

Judging makes me feel like I have full control and responsible for something big. That feeling is the best feeling for someone that hopes to be very successful in life.

# WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Enrollment cap, International Baccalaureate World School, Boys and Girls State Basketball, achievement in individual academics ... It's obvious Central continues to be the "Champ High" of public schooling in Nebraska, and each student jumps for their contribution.

In 8th grade while signing up for schools, Central just seemed so majestic and champion, with its great architecture and hill that makes it look so much more grand.

The truth is that Central has had more than just the architecture and hill to make it seem to triumph over the years.

And upon further noticing, there are many reasons we are considered 'Champ High.'

It is the place of legends in the making, the place where all four corners of the world seem to be represented by the staff, faculty and student body, all of which provide the positive aspect of diversity.

Diversity at central seems to be one of the principles of an Eagle, we regard it with respect, dignity and overall importance.

There is no reason for oppression at Central, something that is visible in the amount of clubs we have, from All Nations Club for Native Americans to Latino Leaders for Latino students to the more common throughout more high schools the Gay Straight Alliance.

Central goes beyond just the typical Race, Religion and sexual orientation mixed salad, there also exists a somewhat disperse field when it comes to socio-economic status.

"It seems like everyone who attends Central does so because they really want to be there, not just because it is there neighborhood school." said Senior(12) Catalina Ramirez.

Central students are from very different lifestyles some come from the ritzy private school Brownell- Talbot, the trailed streets of North Omaha and even from smaller cities surrounding Omaha, like Bellevue.

Junior, Chianda Young who, lives in between Omaha and Bellevue said "Central's neighborhoods and where you live doesn't matter. everyone in the student body gets a chance."

Some might say the schools to the south and west of Omaha take the cake when it comes to opportunities, however, it is clear that Central students have opportunities just like students from any of the other area high schools. We challenge that perception and say that Central has more opportunities, with scholarships exclusive to Central like the Joel Koudym scholarship and the Jake J. Schreibman scholarship.

Senior Taylor Givens said, "I don't think I would have had the same experience at any other high school, I am thankful I attend and have attended Central for the past four years of my high school education," she said. "I truly feel that my opportunities here are

just the same, if not greater than at other area high schools; how many can say that they have met three Holocaust survivors, a Holocaust liberator and one of the members of Little Rock 9?"

Central High school is a school based on greatness from the Athletics to the academic, it has seen stars in both from Junior Marika Savolos, who earned outstanding perfect scores on both the Act and PSAT college entrance exams, to the team efforts



shown by both the Girls and Boys Basketball teams that made it to state and won the state titles.

These are only two examples of how Central cares about both education and athletics and it seems to make our neighboring schools green with envy, so much so that it makes Central the target of rude comments.

However, it's easy to see with one of the highest enrollments in the state done not by force but by choice, that many want to join in on the continuing legacy. This is a principle Central was founded on. Names like Fonda and Buffet have roamed these hall ways and Ivy league students have called Central home with great appreciation.

Central's heyday is far from over. Especially what with the enrollment cap, we are looking forward to a new, innovative group of young people that will not only impress us as classmates, impress the school and district, but eventually impress the world. After all, greatness attracts greatness, right?

Everyday Central continues to grow; educating, nurturing and positive influencing important members of the future, just as it has in the past over 150 years.

Signed, the Central Register staff forever Eagles and forever progressive.

EDITORIAL  
The OPINION of the Register Staff



PHOTO BY JAYDE VALENTINE/O-BOOK  
GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/THE REGISTER

# Junior Editor believes journalism is way of life, truly helps improve skills



Learning cursive was one of the most life-changing fourth grade situations that ever stared me down and sized me up. Next came learning

how to add and do other assortments of math tricks with fractions. The sweat began pouring down my forehead when the thought of fresh math concepts came up my sixth grade year.

To think that I ever considered those activities as daunting or intimidating is nothing but a big fat joke to my eleventh grade-self. As I have advanced from grade to grade, I've come to find that what is "scary" changes from year to year, just like stress levels. Finding cursive or toying around with fractions stressful? Nowadays that'd be a leisure activity.

I have a hard time relating to people who don't understand stress at any level. Whenever I pass by a conversation or sit with people who are taking a "mental health day" or are "stressed"

over a quiz, open note or not, in an "easy" class, I get particularly cheesed off. Sure, each difficulty and hurdle is different sized to each individual, but really?

Come on, you think you're stressed? Take everything away and try newspaper, editor in fact. Now tell me you think you know what stress is, and I'll reorganize your very definition of that simple noun.

Sure stress is homework from AP classes, honors classes, sports, whatever you're involved in over the course of your school year. But stress for the editor-in-chief of the Central Register involves staying after school extra hours, coming in on breaks, having the same writing assignments as your staff plus designing lay-out and doing everything everyone else neglected. I've sacrificed a few Friday nights before, one night spent in the journalism room until 10:30 pm.

I never quite knew the definitions of obligation and stress so well, let alone realizing how well the two meshed.

From my freshmen year on the staff to becoming editor-in-chief of the legendary

Central High School Register has been an honor and a privilege, engaging myself in different cultures and people that I normally wouldn't be akin to on my daily school schedule. I've mastered journalism writing, AP style and more importantly: my fear of talking to complete strangers, and for that it is worth the gray hairs.

I vividly remember starting off as a mere journalism seedling, walking into what was soon to be my second home, room 029, and being assigned a story and lay-out page. I was terrified, felt more stressed out than I ever had before and wondered, "What in tarnation did I get myself into?"

But story after story and experiences to follow, newspaper became a passion. Scared? Not so much. Slowly mastering the ropes of being a journalism guru? Definitely.

Through my past three years on newspaper I've been able to narrow down the ever-

changing, extra stressful decision on my major to, surprise, surprise: journalism. Every unnerving experience with this "leap of faith" I took evolved into a future-shaping, life-changing jump.

But even more than that, newspaper pushed my limits on my comfort zone. Sure, I get stressed and that has resulted in a few tears and late nights, but the reward of maturing in who I am has been worth it.

I guess you could say that journalism preening and picking at me as not only a journalist but also a person has made me a champ in one way or another.

While I'm not dribbling a ball on a court or scoring medals - I am - in fact mastering my future and perfecting my skills as a champ to produce a better, harder-hitting newspaper issue each day. And aren't hard work and dedication two primal traits in being a champ? I'd say so.



THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT  
A Column by MEKENZIE KERR

## Reflection leaves columnist prepared for upcoming years



**MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY**  
A Column by JENNIFER ROONEY

On the first day of school, you can usually tell who the freshmen are—maybe from their “immaturity” or from their shy and timid personalities in the atmosphere.

They walk through the halls wondering how they will find everything in such little time, and if they will know anybody from middle school in their upcoming classes.

I think everybody remembers their first day of freshman year just like it was yesterday, because it was a time of first impressions and the beginning of a new end.

High school is just another part of life that everyone wants to rush out of, yet wants to go back to when it’s over.

Each year students are excited to get out and experience relief by the thought of summer air coming their way—but then they realize that the year went by in a flash.

Sooner or later, you are already a senior and off to college and you don’t even realize how quickly time flies.

Being at the end of my junior year, I’ve started to realize that soon I will be leaving my home and going off to college somewhere else.

I never have really taken it all in until now, because I have many friends that are seniors this year and I know things are going to change.

You never know what each moment means to you until the people who gave you those moments go away.

High school is your whole life at times and your classmates and peers are your family, even if it is a little hard to comprehend. Sometimes it’s easier for students to leave their parents rather than leaving their friends.

No matter if you have a lot or not so many friends, they make your life and you will always miss them. It’s probably even worse if you’re the senior and you’re the one going away.

I remember my first day of freshman year like it was yesterday. I made sure the clothes I was wearing were perfect and that I wasn’t too overdressed, but also not too underdressed.

To some people, first impressions are everything. They create your personal thoughts on an individual.

They could definitely affect your high school life because some kids these days just go way too far in stereotyping or in judging someone.

Living your high school life is also about learning many things, and how to deal with each one. Like for example, stereotypical people, I’ve learned not to care what people think . . . seriously, you be you.

Even though I’m not a senior and I haven’t really experienced “senioritis,” I’ve witnessed it and it makes me really think “Okay, high school, you’re getting us ready for college...okay, look at us not wanting to do a single thing at all.”

When I stepped into high school, I never knew what was ahead of me. At first I tried to get used to it, then accomplish homework and projects. But since the years have gone by, I have to admit: I care more, but procrastinate even more.

Memories from high school make someone’s life, and he or she will always remember them. They are the “back when I was your age” or “back in the day” stories that either bore us or give us ideas that we should not have.

I surely will remember each memory like it was yesterday when I depart. Like my freshman homecoming. Now I just laugh because of how overexcited I was about really nothing.

I had my hair done and I thought I had the “perfect dress.” I don’t think so. I went with a big group of friends where none of us had dates or even the thought of getting a date. Now I think of a completely different occasion, Prom.

I also remember telling my best friend about everybody at the school because she unluckily went to a different one.

But in the beginning of last year she finally came and we could now accomplish everything together.

Everyone does go through the same thing in high school even if nobody realizes it because in a way it is different, but we, humans, are 99% the same in fact.

Mostly every high school student goes through a little bit of drama, anger, stress, love, becoming lost and dangerous moments. But, like my friend always says, “no regrets.”

Sometimes I think of High school as the road ahead. One turn could get you where exactly you want to go but another could get you lost and you have no idea how to get out.

People can always point out the change in you throughout high school. It’s when you mature and try in figure out who you exactly would like to be.

High school teaches lessons where you will be tested on throughout life and nothing is easy these days.

We learn. We fail. We cry. We party. We love.

And this is why I am a champ because I’m ready to become a senior and live my life after that.

# GLOBAL WARMING

*Some acknowledge the science behind it and others view it as merely myth. But the truth is that this is something young people should take seriously, since we will someday inherit the Earth.*



It seems like an age old debate, even though it just became widely talked about less than a decade ago, and I am over it. I have been over it for a while.

Recently, I was retaking a test in a science office and trying hard to focus. However, my concentration was broken by two teachers slapping each other with cliché, outdated arguments that everyone has heard before.

“The icecaps are melting!”

“Its all a myth!”

“But research shows...!”

“Climate naturally fluxuates!”

Ever since the concept of global warming was introduced, and gained fame due to Al Gore’s An Inconvenient Truth, global warming has been heavily debated. And we all have heard everything there is to hear about each side’s argument. So why are people still debating?

Honestly, arguing over global warming is a waste of breath. I’m not sure whether or not it is real or going to get worse. No one does. Arguing against Global Warming is pointless. Crazy environmentalists are not going to stop pestering you, if that is what you are trying to do by your arguments. Arguing for Global Warming is as equally pointless. Some people are going to continue to drive cars and raise CO<sub>2</sub> levels. Some people are going to throw trash out their window. Some people, usually in shackles, have to pick it up on the side of the highway. That’s just the way it is.

However, many use Global Warming in the same way as some use religion, which is not always a bad thing. Global Warming and many religions have striking parallels. I once had someone explain to

me why they felt one should believe in God. They told me that if you live your life not believing, die, and meet God in the afterlife, then you will probably wish you would have been a believer. On the other hand, if you believe, and there is no God then oh well. Your false belief was false, obviously, but it was not a waste because you probably lived your life with hope, faith, and good morals and there is no harm done.

The belief in Global Warming can be put in the same light. If we don’t do anything about it now, we could be kicking ourselves later when the harsh effects of Global Warming ruin our planet. However, if we bite the bullet and try to reduce emission standards, but it turns out Global Warming was a myth, then so what. We helped out the environment.

In conclusion, the argument over whether or not Global Warming is a hoax is irrelevant to the matter at hand. I personally do not agree with how some politicians used it for their own personal political gains, but in the end, the message of going green is not a bad one. There is no harm in trying to save our planet little by little. That being said, some will participate in helping out, while others will not. Some

people are going to recycle. Some people aren’t. It is difficult to change people’s habits and opinions once an idea has formed and taken hold inside their head. No one wants to admit that they could be wrong about what they previously have stated about climate change (believers and non-believers alike) therefore, this argument is a dead end. The population of America has already made up their minds about this issue, and with no new research, information or point of view about Global Warming, no one is going to change their opinions about it any time soon.

**EDITORIAL**

The **OPINION** of the Register Staff

## Social Networking needs lesson learned, anyone looking at site

“Hold on, Lemme check my Facebook real quick,” a statement from many teenagers these days that you will probably hear every day. Is this a bad thing? Or are students nowadays gaining more information from social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter?

There are always going to be complications when supplying information to the internet because everybody can see it and identify it somehow what it is. In fact, 61 percent of parents’ number one concern with their teen’s social network is sharing personal information online.

Remember when Myspace first established years ago and everyone was so hung up about it? That was one of the first social networking sites teens used, and nobody had even a thought of what it would attain over the years.

Everyone had so called “cool” nicknames on Myspace to explain their personality in a few words. Not a lot of personal information was given out at that time except things like your favorite movies or music, nothing really important.

By the time this generation moved up to high school and we all started to discover Facebook or even Twitter and finally all established a profile on that as well, but things got complicated then. Personal information was soon even given out just on a profile.

People even over the age of 65 have a Facebook now. It’s an easy way to communicate with people that you don’t have easy access to talk to anymore.

Some people even think it’s a necessity to have a social networking profile. Yes, maybe the media might gain some fame from their fans in posting statuses, pictures, and videos.

73 percent of teens from the age of 12 and 17 now have profiles on

social networking sites. Statistics show that girls use social networking sites more than boys. It also is said that girls use it for reinforcing pre-existing friendships and boys use it for flirting and making new friends.

But, could this be a bad thing? Teenagers, these days may be evoking too much information on the internet now. Anyone can see it, and I don’t think teenagers realize the consequences of putting something online.

It’s like this; if you wouldn’t want someone, like your mom, to see this, then why put it online. If you wouldn’t do it in person than don’t do it online. Forty percent of parents worry about their teen’s social networking sites, but 34 percent actually check them.

You really can never delete something online. I’ve even heard of complications of when people have taken screen shots of a disastrous uproar on Facebook or Twitter. Everything will always be open to the public even if you think you have put “privacy” on your profile. Nothing is private these days and don’t believe it.

Cyber bullying even adds to that because the school and the police could now get involved, but that’s a whole other story.

But really it’s not the problem of evoking too much information on social networks. It’s the problem of if teens spending too much time on it and not enough time on their current education. This is called procrastination.

Education should be one of the most important things in a teen’s life because if they really care about getting into a good college and the one that they want then they will believe this.

Sixty three percent of teenage users go online every day. This may include social networks. Could this be the reason of why some students are not getting their homework finished?

**EDITORIAL**

The **OPINION** of the Register Staff

## Tanning indoors speedy alternative to sun bathing, totally acceptable

It’s that time of year again when people want to be ready for swimsuit season. “Now that summer is coming up, a lot of people want to look darker for summer,” said an employee of Ashley Lynn’s. Tanning is “very beneficial” and “people want to look good for vacations” she also said.

I’d say I have to agree with her. I’ve been pretty pale skinned all my life and am starting to feel more comfortable with my skin now that I’ve started tanning.

A lot of people think it’s ridiculous that I don’t just tan outside but you would be surprised to find that my body does not get very tan from being outside. Not only does my body not get very much color from the sun, but it also takes way too much time; time that I normally don’t have on a regular basis.

If I really wanted to get a tan from the sun, it would probably require me to lay out for an hour at least two or three times a week. Eight

minutes once or twice a week is really all I need to get some color from the tanning bed.

My opinion aside, there are some pros and cons to both methods of tanning.

Tanning outdoors isn’t my first choice but I like the fact that you don’t have to worry about wearing protective eye wear. Tanning outdoors is also nice because you get that fresh air that you don’t normally get while you’re indoors. Also, tanning outdoors is 100 percent free of charge.

Not everything about tanning outside is good, though. Tanning outside is much more time consuming than tanning indoors.

You also have no control of the rays and how intense they are as you tan, which can be dangerous.

Indoor tanning is faster than sun tanning.

You can control how intense the rays are in the tanning bed. The beds automatically shut off after a certain amount of time for safety reasons. Tanning indoors is very private and always available, no matter the weather outside.

Also, many people assume that tanning indoors is unsanitary.

This statement is false. The tanning beds are completely sanitized after each and every use, which gives me peace of mind.

However, tanning indoors can easily lead to skin cancer if you go too much.

Tanning indoors is not free of charge, and you may have to wait for a tanning bed depending on how many people are using the beds.

Regardless of the method, a little bit goes a long way, and everyone should tan safely and responsibly.



**PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS TO ME**

A Column by SETH ARTER



# Controversial death brings up discussion nationally, unknown conclusion on topic



GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO, THE REGISTER

The 17-year old's homicide made headlines from the east to west coast last Feb., and as the months go by more and more news of the cases' corruption seem to leak from news sources. But the heart of the matter is being carried farther and farther away.

Trayvon Martin of Fla. was shot and killed on Feb. 26 by 28 year-old neighborhood watch captain, George Zimmerman. The shooting occurred in Sandford, Fla., surfacing questions on racist intent and Martin's mothers following actions.

The young Fla. High schools student's shooting caught national attention after the 17 year-old was pronounced dead at the scene, armed with simply a can of iced tea and a packet of Skittles. Questions immediately arose as Zimmerman walked away with a wound to the back of the head and a bloody nose, claiming he shot Martin in "self defense."

"Self defense", if that, was taken past its limits; as an appointed neighborhood watchman Zimmerman violated a trademarked principle of the Neighborhood Watch manual that claims the following: "it should be emphasized to members that they do not possess police powers, and they shall not carry weapons or pursue vehicles." With the homicide of a 17 year-old boy, the effectiveness and reliability of neighborhood watch programs have been put up for debate: who and how do they choose neighborhood watch members? How do they assure the safe handling of situations?

What is even more nerve-racking is the fact that while police reports noted the minor injuries to Zimmerman, a police surveillance video was later released on March 28 that reveals no blood, bruises or sign of injury on Zimmerman's body.

With no markings on the shooter's body, what instigated this violent crime? Many, including Martin's parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin, say one thing: racial profiling.

Racial profiling, just another sect of hate crimes, are nothing new to society. From sexual orientation to race, crimes directed at niches of individuals because of any certain trait have been going on for years. One famous racially directed case involved three assumed white supremacists and an African American man named James Byrd; in 1998 the men brutally murdered Byrd for the simple fact that he was African American.

Alligator logo pasted on his tee, Arizona Tea in hand, and white - would Martin still be roaming the streets of Fla.? Perhaps, but perhaps not. Conclusions on Martin's case were drawn from the police 911 call that recorded Zimmerman huffing a racial slur under his breath, but does that amount to a racial profiling crime?

While no information released eludes to Martin initiating the brawl, fingers can be easily pointed towards a racially directed case. While some say that Martin beat up Zimmerman previously, a murder is never justified. The racial difference between Martin and the shooter is apparent, and with a racist remark recorded firsthand, Zimmerman's wild attack seems to be nothing short of a hate crime.

And though hate crimes are one of the latter half end of completely unreasonable crimes, we feel that the issue is much more than a racial profiling murder, and the racial aspect has been highlighted more than the heart of what is at hand. The focus should be on the fact that an innocent 17 year old boy's life was stolen from him; a high school son was taken from two loving parents; a friend was snatched from the lives of his peers.

Martin's shocking death sent a quiver of strength through civil rights activists and communities throughout America, creating a sense of revolution among those who felt victimized.

## Sate testing to go on transcript, unnecessary to youth tester

Neb. State Accountability tests or better known as NeSa testing, junior testing and to students, a pain in the rear, have arrived.

Juniors at Omaha Central tested the week of April 9, and teachers prepared students in the areas of math, science and reading. The problem is, is that although emphasized in school, there seems to be a ringing chorus of "I don't cares" or "It doesn't matters" floating around the class of 2013.

Students may not realize that the scores on the NeSa tests determine failure or success of Omaha Central High School, your high school.

Previously a non-self-affecting score, Principal Keith Bigsby along with teachers at Central High School, made it one.

During the second semester junior assembly in March, Dr. Bigsby dropped the bomb that students' NeSa test scores would be placed on their college transcripts. A little more pressure? We'd say so. Did it make an impact on students' determination to do well? Not so sure.

While the secretive incentives involving Burger King and the potential threat of having your future college see your standardized test scores are an added kick, it will remain impossible to have 100% "in it to win it" participation.

Students as individuals, and not a student body, will generally give consideration the NeSa tests, additives aside.

While there are those who do give a lick, there are just as many who have no regard for themselves, their future or their current high school, and will fill in the bubbles at random to finish, or maybe go the extra mile in creating a festive Christmas tree or tropical fish out of the bubbles.

NeSa state testing, while tedious, standardized and as some dub "a waste of time", is still significant to the student body and school as a whole. But why should students care?

Giving warnings about the potential shut down of the school or Central becoming a federally-run school are nothing short of a wave of relief for some students.

And if some students simply do not care about NeSa state testing, than who is to mandate a few additives that will make them care?

Food, a good school reputation and some recognition are not good enough for the general population of students in any school who don't try on a daily basis.

The man with the gun took a young boy's life, but that's not what the focus of the situation has panned out to be, instead, it has created a flood of race right-activists.

Racism has metamorphosed into the justice movement for Martin's death, when in fact it should be that a young boy's life was wrongly taken by the pull of a trigger. Vindication is being achieved by figures like Jesse Jackson alongside Al Sharpton, two individuals making an aberration into an entire forefront of revolutionaries, people involved in a movement to stop hate crimes, to advocate for African Americans. These two men are making drastic leaps to turn an anomaly into a movement.

Civil right activists and communities like to live their lives believing that America is still a semi-racist society, creating their own sense of boundary in equality. But if one takes a look at America in the 60s and 70s, they will see incredible leaps at equality - and while some people who stereotype races exist, occurrences of pure hate crimes have gone down. Statistics show that in this day in age, African Americans are nine times more likely to be killed by other African Americans, not whites...or Hispanics, or Asians, or any other race for that matter.

Yes, the crime's clues and evidence make it a racial profiling crime. Yes, Zimmerman's actions were grotesque and unqualified, unjust and monstrous. But as our Twitter timelines, Facebook newsfeeds and Tumblr dashboards are strewn with pictures of Trayvon Martin marked with "Racial Profiling case," "Zimmerman is a racist murderer," "Racism? Stop it," down to the remarks like "Drinking tea and eating Skittles 'cause Zimmerman got 30 year for life!" we are being distracted from what the case really is. And

while all our true, we feel that the focus has turned to one of race, racism, racists, as opposed to the fact that a teenager's life was, to the fullest extent, unfairly ripped away.

Martin's death, much more significant because it hits home for many people, is being turned into a campaign against racism rather than justice for a murder grossly committed by a man who overstepped his boundaries, and the healing for a family that has experienced something traumatizing, a stain that cannot be removed or forgotten.

And while the murder of Fulton's son is traumatizing, some are accusing her of using her son's death as a profit margin.

Martin's parents are even portrayed as celebrities at hearings on racial profiling, almost being immortalized rather than advocates. Fulton filed the trademark papers to have the slogans "I am Trayvon" and "Justice for Trayvon" trademarked.

With the trademark under her arm Fulton has the full right to use the marks nationwide, force popular clothing creators to remove the trademarks, and if not she could drag the case to the federal court.

And while many accuse her of trade marking her son's name and different slogans to be a money making scheme, her lawyer simply says that is not her intention.

Trademarking a slogan for your deceased son whose case has gone nationwide, while respectable and somewhat inspirational, seems a bit fishy.

To an extent, wanting to rally for justice is respectable, but when the murderer has been sentenced to 30 years in prison, is the best, most reasonable decision to keep the rage for justice alive? Or is it better to let things settle and give oneself time to repair and process the ordeal?

As unjust, barbaric and racially directed Martin's murder case is, the basic fact that an unarmed, untimely death of a 17 year-old boy happened, and simply for that fact, we should respect and mourn his death regardless, all facts aside.

# Champ City or Bust: Omaha is the nation's finest



**BIG MOUTH STRIKES AGAIN**

A Column by EMILY BECK



Everyone's been talking about how fantastic Central is. Nationally recognized and ranked, it's hard to deny that we're among the best (not to sound cocky or anything).

It's also impossible to deny that we've descended from greatness. Nobel Prize winners, inventors, authors, actors, professional athletes, politicians and others stand among Central alumni.

A few notables: Peter, Susan Alice and Susan Thompson Buffett, Peter Kiewit, Brenda Council, Henry Fonda and Jarvis Offutt (among many others).

They walked the same halls that we now walk. All of this Champ High business has really been going on for generations—and clearly we're doing a pretty good job of keeping up the legacy (and even giving it a name).

I believe that where we come from is also a reason for our greatness. Omaha, Nebraska, a place regarded with warmness and often ignorance.

Omaha is also a place nationally known for its zoo, the CenturyLink Center, the Old Market, the Joslyn Art Museum and as the site of the College World Series.

It's a good place to grow up, it's a good place to raise a family. But Omaha has so much more to offer. It may even be—hang on for this—cool.

I may go so far as to call it Champ City.

It truly irritates me when people say things like, "I hate Omaha. It's so boring and there's nothing to do here." That, to me, shows ignorance. Clearly it's going to be boring if all you choose to do is sit at home and watch Lifetime.

Don't sell Omaha short like that; do you even know what goes on in this city?

There's a whole lot to do if you aren't afraid to try new things—our little city is growing quite rapidly into an urbanized hotspot.

I'd say that's pretty good for being land-locked in a small corner of Nebraska.

Do you really want me to list some of the fantastic things going on in Omaha?

Omaha Fashion Week, Jazz on the Green, the Farmer's Market, shows at places like Sokol Underground and the Waiting Room, Shakespeare on the Green, the annual Arts Festival, fantastic films at Film Streams and diverse food choices at ethnic restaurants spread throughout the city—if you really stop and think about it, Omaha is sitting atop an impressive arts and culture scene.

There's a ton to do...it really isn't boring unless you are.

Obviously it can't really measure up to major cities like New York or San Francisco, but come on...we're on the westernmost edge of Nebraska. I think that we're doing pretty well. And new things are springing up all over the city every year.

Clearly I'm proud of Omaha, but I do plan to one day spread my wings, expand my horizons—whichever cliché you prefer—and move somewhere else. But that isn't out of boredom; that desire stems from my desire to, through exploration and experience, find my own independence.

Staying here would feel a little like a failure to me, only because I would be stanching the opportunity to grow and subject myself to new things.

Not that I wouldn't be able to experience new things right here in Omaha, or in a nearby city. But there's a lot of allure to get out of the Midwest and go to school somewhere else.

To put it a different way: staying here would feel like playing it safe to me.

If I don't leave home for university, who's to say that I'll ever leave home? Don't we all yearn to travel and see things and become who we were meant to be? Or maybe that only happens in the movies.

That's one of my major goals—not to get out of Omaha for the sake of getting out, but simply so that I can pursue opportunities.

I'm not looking down on anyone who wants to stay in Omaha, or even Nebraska—we have great colleges and universities here as well as all of the exciting aforementioned perks.

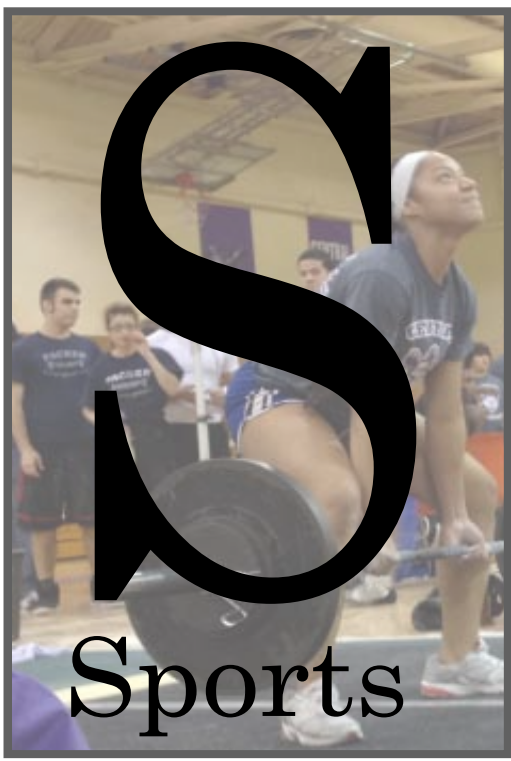
And it's comforting to know that you could be home within an hour or two. Just because you're staying doesn't necessarily mean you're playing it safe; you've just found what you want here. Or you're opting for less expensive schooling to save yourself from insane student loan payments in the future.

I'm 100% sure that I'll return to Omaha—but I hope that it'll be to visit family, friends or whoever else is resigning here.

And I'll always harbor a deep love for Central High and Omaha.

And while to the outside world we may seem small and dull, we are in fact teeming with life, excitement and exceptionality.

EDITORIAL  
The **OPINION** of the Register  
Staff



Friday, May 11, 2012

Omaha Central High School

Vol. 125 Issue 5

## Sophomore turns to summer gym class



**BIG MOUTH STRIKES AGAIN**

A Column by EMILY BECK

Throughout my Central High career, I've tried like mad to avoid gym class, and I know I'm not alone.

Don't think that I detest exercising—I don't. On the contrary, I don't mind it at all if it's fun and rewarding. But that just isn't gym class in a nut shell for me.

It is, to be honest, the getting gross/sweaty aspect. It isn't that I'm some delicate ultra-feminine girl who faints at the thought of getting dirty. I simply do not want to sweat profusely during the school day.

Thanks to our raging teenage hormones, we sweat enough as it is without running and whatnot... and I like to look nice in front of my peers and for myself; I don't want to be uncomfortable. It's very easy, if you detest the thought if it enough, to simply ignore the fact that you need four gym credits in order to graduate. But it's really been sitting in the back of my mind all this time...

You see, I decided to rely on the district's new P.E. waiver policy. If it seemed too good to be true that you could get out of gym by doing at least four sports over the course of your high school career...you were spot on. The district has snatched this away from us and I'm not happy about it.

Apparently it was originally thought that only several students would apply for this waiver—but instead an overwhelming amount did, and the district panicked because that was unexpected. And now it's being eradicated and forgotten.

I think that they should keep this policy. The honest truth is that participating in a sport requires much more dedication than a gym class—and if you go out for said sport, you obviously care about it and will be putting in a whole lot more effort than a class that you don't care about (and will probably be an easy A anyway—yes, those do really exist).

Take swimming, for example. A season of that puts you through a hundred times more physical strain than you would get from any gym class.

And look at cross country—do you know how much running that is? To tell the truth I don't even know how much running that is, but I can tell you that it's a whole lot more running than you would do in a gym class. And you would be putting in (close to) 100% because it's something that you're choosing for yourself—not just for a credit so that you can graduate. So shouldn't you get credit for that? Shouldn't you get a *credit* for that? I think so.

I've decided to turn to summer P.E. as a way to escape the dreaded class. Although I'm really not escaping anything; I'm actually giving up a lot in order to do this, but if it means that I can knock a few credits out of the way in a matter of four weeks, then I'm down for it.

Even if it means getting up early. At least I'll be enjoying the sunshine while I sweat it out.



PHOTO BY PRECIOUS GASPARD/REGISTER

Michaela Bigsby (12) kicks the ball to fellow soccer player at the game against Bellevue East on Tuesday, May 2nd. The score was 2-1 Bellevue East.

## Senior player awarded full ride, dedication pays off

BY PRECIOUS GASPARD



"I never really believed I'd get a full ride to college" said senior Michaela Bigsby, after receiving a full-ride scholarship to college for soccer Bigsby was pretty determined that she could do it all; the Scholarship which was presented to her earlier this spring covers almost everything. "I'm very proud she earned that scholarship," said father Keith Bigsby. "The whole thing in our household is that we aren't given things, we earn things." Surely Bigsby has proven that she has the work ethic and passion to play soccer, "She has the heat of a lion and is a warrior," said Dr. Bigsby.

Bigsby will be attending Midland University in Fremont, Nebr., and playing soccer for the college's team. Bigsby is always used to being a starting player on her soccer team, "I'm not sure what to expect when I play for them, I can only hope to play my best," said Bigsby.

Her father is determined that she will do well while at Midland, "what she takes to Midland is leadership and a work ethic and Michaela and the other girls have really set a foundation for the for the girls in the future," said Bigsby, as he acknowledged the fact that this year's season was the best in history.

Bigsby has played for club teams other than Central high's soccer team; she has played for the Gladiators, Toro, and has ended playing club teams with Elkhorn. Bigsby has always been a versatile player "the coach can place her in any position he needs her to be in," said Dr. Bigsby.

Bigsby has a lot of support from her family. "My mom's really supportive

and excited, already buys shirts and sweat shirts in the school's colors," said Bigsby. "My sister really doesn't want me to leave. She was really upset that I'm leaving because we are really close. Even when we have our ups and downs, at the end of the day we still have each other's back."

With big goals to become a nurse, Bigsby originally had plans to attend UNO for her first year, and then transition over to UNMC to follow up so she could become a nurse. "I really wanted to stay close to home," said Bigsby. One of her family members had that in mind as well. Dr. Bigsby expressed how glad he was to have Bigsby going to Midland so he can watch her play during the game rather than her going somewhere not in close proximity to home and being able to go to a few games a year.

Dr. Bigsby had been really supportive and allowed her to decide for herself where she wanted to go—but ultimately influenced her to make the right choice. "He kind of showed me why it wasn't a good deal because of all of the transitions...and I don't do well with change," said Bigsby.

A few changes have occurred throughout the last two year of Bigsby's life, but many of them have proved to be positive.

She didn't mind how close her teammates have become this season; in fact she was quite grateful for it. "Just cherish the little things," she said. She was also scared initially after learning that her father would be the principal of the school. "I thought I was going to lose friends," said Bigsby jokingly. "I also didn't mind when my sister came to Central, it felt great to have her going to school with me," said Bigsby.

Bigsby knows how important going to college will be and plans on living up to the family name. "The challenge for Michaela is to keep working hard,

Continued to 'BIGSBY' on Page 11

## Avrie Welton, Emily Gamble and Michaela Bigsby signed to respective Universities

BY RAINA BEHRENS



Three female student athletes signed to their respective colleges on April 23. Michaela Bigsby, Avrie Welton, and Emily Gamble. Michaela Bigsby earned a full ride scholarship to Midland University in the soccer program. She says she thinks the school is a good fit for her because, "They have a small campus and their soccer program allows you to focus on school."

Soccer coach Jason Paige said Michaela plays with heart and has great leadership. "She plays her hardest every minute of every game. She gives 110% all the time, that's something not many people can do." On her full-ride track scholarship, Welton will be attending West Point Military Academy in New York. Welton's coach and friends are excited for her, but will also miss her dearly. Senior Chelsea Baker said she is going to miss workouts with Avrie. "Seeing her made my day" said Baker.

Track coach Trent Lodge describes Welton as dedicated, bright, and ambitious. Welton was a four year varsity starter, who qualified and medaled at state all four years. Coach Lodge said, "West Point is going to get a great kid."

Northeast Community College in Norfolk recruited Emily Gamble, and signed her for the basketball program. Basketball coach Tom Lee described Gamble as a very versatile player saying she can play well at different positions. This is one of the qualities Northeast liked about her. Emily has outstanding leadership qualities on and off the court.

Coach Lee said Emily was one of the first players to reach out to him when he first started coaching for Central. Coach Lee said, "I believe Emily will be successful at Northeast and continue on to a higher level if she chooses." Emily will miss her basketball team, but she said, "I'm ready and excited to start my future."

Although all three seniors will be venturing off to different places, they will continue to represent the Eagles well, and prove that Central's truly "champ high." All of their coaches are positive that the girls will carry on with their excellent academics, leadership, and determination throughout their college careers.

## We've got spirit, yes we do ... Central students fall into various categories of school spirit

Rolling through the packed bleachers, an enthusiastic rumble of excitement escalates into an eruption of school spirit. Unfortunately, the support stems from the other school's student section.

Don't get me wrong, the four freshman shamelessly flaunting Central shirts are quite overwhelming, but it just doesn't match up to the opponents' clever chants with synchronized dance moves to go along with them, or their full student body participating in the wave.

At Central, it seems as though about 10 percent of the student population is gushing with school spirit as they angrily try to pull the remaining 90 percent onto the school spirit band wagon.

And the truth is, students only bloom with school spirit when it is convenient for them. When their friends are all going to be at the football game and they have nothing else to do on a Friday night. When they hear that there is going to be a brawl with North High School and they have been looking for an opportunity to prove that they are tough. However, the amount of school spirit that each individual has at Central is as diverse as the high school itself. There are many different types of students participating in school spirit in one way or another.

### The Die-Hards

These students have been looking forward to attending Central High School since they were in kindergarten. All of their older siblings, their parents, and their parents' parents attended Central High School.

They participate in every sport, club and academic competition that they can. These are the students who will try to drag you to the pep rallies and maybe have even made up their own chant about how Central is the best.

### The Trouble Makers

This mischievous bunch just can't seem to get their fill being the class-clown during the school day, so they use school spirit to put in some extra hours entertaining their fellow classmates after school. These kids might start fights, throw a soda or two onto the field, yell obscenities at the ref and dream of streaking across the football field at half-time but are never quite brave enough to do so. While this bunch is rowdy, they are entertaining, and for that we are grateful.

### The Go-Alongs

Come on, everybody is doing it! These students go to a fair amount of after school events, when there is not much else to do.

They sport their Central gear on game days. They went to the football games with their parents when they were still in middle school and felt pretty awesome hanging out with older kids. These kids seem to blend in. However, from this group will stem our doctors, lawyers, and community leaders. They blend in now, but will stand out later.

### The No-Go's

This particular group makes up more of the student body than you would think. This group is in high school to simply get an education, or because their parents make them come to school

every day and as soon as the bell rings the end of the day, they are out of there.

These students maybe are too busy with work or other activities outside of school to participate in school spirit. Whatever it is, they have better things to do, some of these things might be good, some might be bad, however, they are just alternative.

### The Majority

The majority of students do participate in school spirit at some time or another. The majority of students has been to a basketball game or owns a pair of Central Eagles sweatpants.

Even still, they are just more concerned with themselves as an individual than as their school as a whole and this is not always a bad thing. They focus on getting an education and participate when they can, which is all anybody can really ask for.

### Myself

I am not going to label myself as a different or unique group, but I would say that I probably fit into most of the groups above. Sometimes I do what my friends are doing because I can't think of anything better to do.

Sometimes I would just rather sit around at home and watch South Park. Actually, most of the time I would rather sit around and watch South Park, but the point is that it all just depends on my mood, which I think is the same for a lot of people.



**I LOVE THE 80'S**

A Column by TABITHA PANAS

# SPRING SPORTS KEY PLAYERS

*As the 2012 spring sports are in full swing, The Register staff found the Most Valuable Players of each spring sport and found out what makes them take their sport to the fullest.*

## BASEBALL: KALEB ZIMMER GOLF: TOM MCCARTHY



The Central Eagles Varsity Baseball team will miss senior Kaleb Zimmer's "leadership and intense attitude," according to head coach Steve Russel. He heads off to Garden City Community College in Kansas, which he has signed for next year to play for their Baseball Program. Kaleb has played on the Varsity team for Central all four years

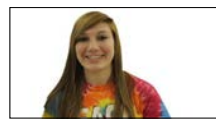
of his high school career. Zimmer has played baseball for sixteen years. He currently plays catcher or center field. However, some of his goals going into next year include improving defense and working on two-strike hitting. "I love playing for coach Russel," he says, "and playing alongside my friends."



With six years of golfing experience under his belt, freshman Tom McCarthy made the JV boys golf team this spring. So far, the team has been placing in the top half of their meets. McCarthy said he likes golf because it's a relaxing sport that anyone can play.

"I like playing for Central because we have fun at practice every day," he said. For the remainder of the season, McCarthy will continue to work hard at practice. "I'm hoping that we'll make state," he said. Until then, the boys will work together and hope for the best.

## Junior finds comfort in being apart of a team, Color Guard embraces leadership



**MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY**  
A Column by JENNIFER ROONEY

Girls Basketball State Champions. Boys and Girls Track and Field State Championship. Wrestling State Champions. Our school, as Bigsby would say, is nothing but the best. We play. We win. We celebrate. I have never been so heavily into sports when I was younger, even when I played on a few sports teams. It had never occurred to me that sports were so important—until I made it to high school a few years ago.

I have been on many teams and I had thought of them as fun. Yes, I would try to win because that would be even more fun, but I don't remember ever being so upset over losing one single game. I just wanted to play and try my best. Central has won so many championships throughout the years, many of which occurred during my time here as well as my sister's. I never thought there could be this much talent all in one place.

My dad has always been a huge Husker fan. Every day that there is a Husker football game on, I know to get out of the house because all I will hear is him yelling at the screen, even though my whole family has told him that nobody can ever hear him. My dad always caused me to strive to do my best in sports in order to win, but I was always afraid. I was never really good at competitive sports. Having people in your family that are overly competitive just might ruin it. Well, that happened to me.

I still remember when I made my first soccer goal. I was proud of myself, but my family was also proud. I know what it's like to look at a scoreboard and know that you just did something to change it. You just feel the rush that you contributed in winning, or even just that you helped your team out. Winning something was never anything I really thought about or even particularly wanted...until I joined Color Guard this year. Receiving almost a "superior," the best score you could have, was something our whole team always wanted. There was even one time when we were about one point away from achieving it.

The Color Guard, if you didn't already know, are the typical "flag girls" in the Central's Marching Band. In our team, it is diverse though. We have both boys and girls. This was probably one of the best decisions I have made throughout my high school career. I love the team. I love the thrill. I love the enjoyment. I love the competitiveness. And I love learning everything to do with it. People might not think it's a sport, but I believe it is, and I think the other people on the team would agree. All of us can't wait for the new season to commence (even though our captain, the guy that made us fall in love with Color Guard, is leaving to go to college). Color Guard gave me, as well as my teammates, something we could strive to do our best in and truly love. Now I can tell myself to do my best because this will always be my thing. No other sport could compare to this for me. We're all planning to make Central better at this and achieve "superior" in the competitions. We want to change the way people think about us. It's just another thing all of the teammates love. We are all champs at what we do.

## TENNIS: SYDNEY PETERSON TRACK: LAUREN WEGNER



An avid tennis player since the first grade, sophomore Sydney Peterson has been on Central's Varsity Tennis team for both of her high school years. "I love my teammates," said Peterson. "The team is really close and a lot of my friends play." Peterson has won five out of six of her single matches this season. "I normally

play doubles with Lia Mancuso, and we're number one on the team." This spring is the first season that coach Bob Tucker has coached Varsity for girls. "He makes practice fun!" said Peterson. Hoping to win state, Peterson says she will continue to practice hard for the remainder of the season with her team.



Despite a torn hamstring, sophomore Lauren Wegner takes track practice seriously. "I've got the thirst to run," she said. On her fourth season of running track, Wegner is on Central's Varsity Track Team. "I went out for track to stay in shape and meet people," she said. "It's a good opportunity for me to stay in shape for softball season."

Until the state track meet, Lauren will continue to run as much as she can in hopes of achieving first place with her team, despite her injury. "If all goes well, I think we could take the championship," she said.

## GIRLS SOCCER: JACINTA CHRISTIANSEN BOYS SOCCER: NORBERT PIEPER



Senior Jacinta Christiansen has been playing soccer since before she can remember, and has always been a hard worker in the sport, as well as off of the field. Jacinta has played on the varsity team for Central as well as other intermural teams. Her coach called her the Central Eagle "key player" because she always works hard, has a positive attitude,

and plays to her limit. In the future, Christiansen plans on skipping college (for the time being), and picking up with volunteer work for the next two years. Although her soccer career at the downtown high school is over, Christiansen plans on playing soccer for the rest of her life because it's not all about playing for a team, but for fun.



Another senior player, Norbert Pieper has been playing soccer 12 years, and doesn't plan to stop now. After graduation, Pieper plans on attending either UNO or Midland University, the decision yet to be made. He knows he will be playing soccer at whatever college he attends.

Along with school itself, Pieper says he will miss "being on a team with friends, and Peter Pham," the most when it comes to central soccer. Pieper is a key player because he's been playing for so long, is a riot on and off the field, and always puts his heart into the game.

## Central Students receive recognition at Metro Golf Competition

BY ESAU RENDON



In the month of May, golfers Allie Brock (11) and Emily Jezewski (10) received recognition from the Metro Conference. Seniors Katie Brock and Riley Maxwell received recognition from the Scholar Athlete Honor Roll, while both Brocks and Maxwell received All Academic Titles. Titles earned by the golfers had to do something with academics and not necessarily with performance on the course. "Academically we have a strong team," said Coach Linda Brock. She also made it clear that efforts to make the team stronger on the course have been made in the past and will continue to go on, while including that the focus put on academics has affected the player's ability to make it to state. Brock also included that she is hopeful for next year's team's ability to go to state with the aid of a new proposal passed by the Nebraska School Activities Association.

According to Brock, the new proposal has been demoted in the past and just recently on April 13 did class A coaches find out via email that it will be put into effect during the 2012 golf season and will apply to boys soccer as well. She also included that the way the proposal works can seem a little complicated, especially to non-golfers. Regardless, she tried to simplify the change to me by pointing out two main flaws with the older system. One flaw according to Brock was that it would decide the eligibility for participation in state competitions over population of school. Therefore Central would constantly have to play against teams from schools like Westside and Papillion Lavista South, whose golf teams tend to have more players that would make the task of keeping a low score a difficult one. The other flaw was that teams who had less players would make it to state regardless of their inability to make the score. "There were times when players that had lower strokes made it to state when we had shown better skill and had to stay home. It can be confusing," Brock said. In the Central golf team history there has been less participation in tournaments; according to Brock it was the choice of a past coach

in order to leave the girls with more time in the class instead of on the course. "Of course we want the girls to perform well on the Golf course but academics come first", something that Brock feels can be the biggest challenge of a golfers job. Speaking from experience Brock has two daughters who attend Central and are on the golf team, one of which took a different calculus class because she would miss the few days of school that are crucial to understand the class. However, Brock feels optimistic for the year to come especially with the new regulations being put into place and are according to her a lot more fair than the one before. Her Senior daughter Katie feels the new regulations are more fair as well. However, she also feels a little discontent that they had not been put into place before with this last golf season being her last. Regardless, there is still hope for her younger sister who will be the last Brock's daughters that will participate in. "I always enjoyed going to practice and going to competitions, as well as hanging out with fellow players and of course my Mom and my Sister. My golf experience was great" said Katie Brock. Brock also included that efforts have been

## Junior commends athletes for daring to do what she can't

You can count on the fact that if I take more than ten steps I will probably stumble, if I'm running upstairs I'll most likely splat, or if I'm dancing I'll slap whoever is next to me in the face. If it involves physical activity, I'll probably let you down, and for that very reason – I do not get involved with school sports. I commend those who have and who succeed in the sport they try. There are several things holding me back from attempting to make a team or participate, my innate inability to stand without tipping one of them. First off, I am not very athletic. From the times spent watching this past March Madness all the way to the track meets at Central, I see that in each and every athlete there is this astounding drive to be number one. That drive that pushes the extraneous effort and sweat that soaks their shirts is competitiveness, and that is one thing I lack when it comes to physical activity. Granted, I do go running as often as possible, but never could I ever exert enough consideration into it to practice every day after school, let alone win. And for that trait, I greatly commend every student athlete at Central, because the energy they invest in practices and competitions is not something you come by every day, something true athletes possess. The second reason, in correlation to the first, is that I am way too shy to even begin to consider trying out for something that requires the faintest amount of skill. Granted I interview people and talk to strangers, but to have to show

that I'm unusually talented or fast or wondrous at catching and tossing a ball? That literally scares the pants off of me. Having the school body read my stories in the *Register* already makes my knees quiver enough with the potential of grammatical errors and "obsolete" opinions, but physically standing up and doing an athletic ditty would make my heart sink. Thirdly, I would be the unprecedently awkward, slow kid on the team. Sort of like the kid who gets picked last on the playground for kickball...my ability might be there, but my quickness in doing so...not so much. When I get my heart springs and wells in my throat and I get shaky, so shaky that I forget what I'm doing. You can imagine how everything falls downhill following my forgetfulness. For these three things that I lack confidence and prestige in doing, are the three things that truly make athletes, professional, college or student, completely and utterly, in my humble opinion, radical. When I sit down to feast my eyes on a big screen with chips in hand I feel the utmost respect for everyone on the field or court. Just watching the drive innately instilled in these players no matter what their playing "field", it inspires me to do my utmost best in my non-athletic areas of life. Luckily for everyone else, there's a huge helping of "champ" on all the sports teams within Central High school, so underdogs like me can sit back, admire, and enjoy the game.



**THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT**  
A Column by MEKENZIE KERR

## Bigsby accepts full ride to Midland for Soccer

■ 'BIGSBY' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

she will have to discipline herself because she will no longer be living at home with someone telling her what she has to do," said Dr. Bigsby. Members of the Bigsby family like to fall into each other's footsteps. Both her younger and older sister is currently playing soccer. "My older sister got a full-ride scholarship for soccer and academics to UNO, and now she's a teacher at Morton Middle school. I think she kind of wanted to follow in my father's footsteps now that she's a teacher," said Bigsby. "We have at least five generations of teachers, mostly the women have been teachers and the men were lawyers." The first year or two of college Bigsby will have to live in a dorm with another girl she played soccer with recently from Elkhorn, but said that she wouldn't mind finding a home elsewhere. "They have some cute little houses down there!" Bigsby is glad she will be able to see familiar faces such as Jamaal Shabaz, Zach Muschall, Nick Webster and I think Tiffany Pass, but I'm not sure," said Bigsby. As far as training Bigsby will continue working out and training even though the soccer season has ended and she will also begin a summer workout program to get into shape. Even though Bigsby is excited to see familiar faces, she is saddened by her friends that won't be attending school with her. "I feel like each and every one is taking a little piece of my heart as we all get ready to leave," said Bigsby.

