

the register

A High School Newspaper Practicing Professional Journalism

Inside Peek:

On Stage Sweetheart

Alexia Childers in 'Spring Awakening'.

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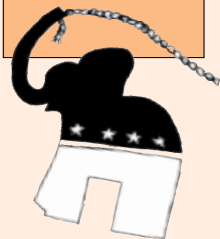
Are Teen jobs worth it?

Are jobs worth the stress and loss of time?

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Solution or Snide?

Are new voter identification laws the answer?



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Row Row Row Your Boat...

DeMott part of Omaha Rowing Association (ORE).

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PHOTO BY GISELLE TRAN/THE REGISTER

The drawings of the live art by creators Luke Gregerson and John Michael-Points.

Unproclaimed artists put new twist on cartoons

GISELLE TRAN
Business Editor

One glance at the artwork in room 249 would certainly confirm the subjectivity of artwork.

It began one day in January of 2012. According to Luke Gregerson, his friend John Michael-Points had "upset" him. Gregerson said in a jokingly morbid tone, "John, this is how you are going to get hurt every day..." Small whiteboards were the canvas, a couple of black dry erase markers the brush, and "live art" was born.

Students in the classroom began noticing whiteboards featuring different deaths for one character, often at the mercy of another.

The first image drawn was of one character shooting arrows at the victim (Points). In another scene, a figure was liquefied in a blender – ironically, the eyes remained whole. Michael-Points said that he draws inspiration from everyday life. Seeing a student step in gum gave him the idea of death by shoe.

Several whiteboards later (so many that Gregerson and Points' teacher had to "beg" colleagues for more), Gregerson

and Points began taking suggestions from other classes. Every day, a whiteboard is left open to the public. Classes have left suggestions such as shark attacks and digestion.

Gregerson commented, "It kind of turned into this big brother beating up little sibling." But Gregerson did note that the ideas were slightly "twisted."

Points complemented Gregerson by saying, "It's fun to make something that other people enjoy, that other people can sort of relate to as a sibling... That's how I picture it."

Gregerson enjoys the atmosphere of room 249. Now its bland walls are covered in whiteboards that feature this new, unique form of art.

The originality of the artwork impressed many. When asked if he would like to pursue a career in drawing, Gregerson responded that he is interested in entertainment. Points mentioned, "I just like making people laugh."

"Live art" has achieved popularity with many students and several teachers. It's hard to believe that two sophomores would have the dedication and the gall to delve into such a dicey project. However, Gregerson and Points continue their artwork as they enter their junior year.

Alumni Writes Best Seller

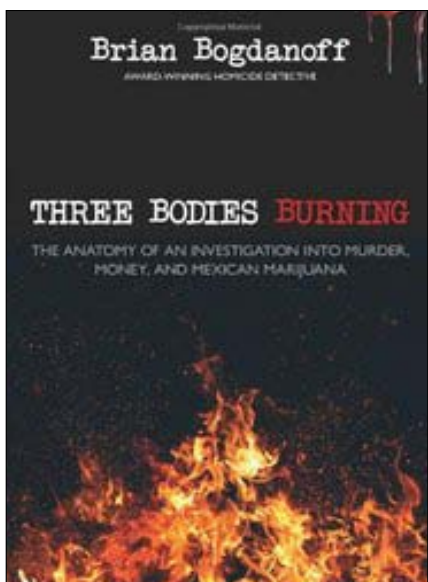


PHOTO COURTESY OF BRIAN BOGDANOFF

The fiery cover of Brian Bogdanoff's novel, published in December of 2010. The Central alumni graduated in the early 1980s.

JENNIFER ROONEY
Editor-in-Chief

On May 5, 2005, Omaha Central grad and police officer Brian Bogdanoff responded to no ordinary forest fire call on 60th and State Street, in Omaha, Neb. Someone realized it wasn't the trees burning: it was three dead bodies that were burning.

In his book, *Three Bodies Burning: The Anatomy of an Investigation into Murder, Money, and Mexican Marijuana*, Bogdanoff wrote about the case that touched his life as a Narcotics officer and Homicide Detective. His path to becoming an award-winning author started 30 years ago, when he graduated from Central High School.

Alumni Brian Bogdanoff writes a book on a case that changes his life in becoming a homicide detective.

Three Bodies Burning

The story starts with a forest fire down on 60th and State Street on May 5th in Nebraska. Finally, someone realizes it's not the trees that are burning; its three bodies.

The three bodies were of Mexican heritage, and were stripped of their clothing down to their ankles or lower legs. They had no ID on them. Everything was gone except for a hotel receipt and what is claimed to be a drug record. (The book displays the "drug record" on the page.) The men were killed on 60th and Ames and taken to be burned.

After just a few days, Bo Harrison, Bogdanoff's character, was in Arizona looking for information. The suspects had been doing dope deals all over the United States of America. They were the three biggest dope dealers in Omaha.

After being tracked to more and more people, he finally found Shine and Nephew (these were their nicknames used by other people so nobody would figure out their identities).

The criminals even started admitting to selling drugs to other people while talking to Harrison, who thought that he could arrest all of these suspects right away, his being a narcotics officer.

There was so much data to be found. He was looking and watching for months. He could not figure it out and could not find Shine and Nephews' real names to catch them . . . until finally, it came, the "big break." At Creighton, a guy ended up shot in the leg and gave up their real names.

Harrison listened in on some conversations and wrote a wiretap, which started the narcotics investigation of the case. He started to watch them. Both of them didn't have

Continue to 'ALUMNI' on page 2

Moon steps in as temporary Superintendent

Virginia Moon was chosen to serve as interim Superintendent after events led to Nancy Sebring resigning.

EMILY BECK
Executive Editor-in-Chief

Virginia Moon, former Superintendent of Ralston Public Schools, stepped in as the interim (temporary) Superintendent for OPS after Dr. Nancy Sebring's racy email debacle came to light earlier this summer.

It was discovered by district officials that the Superintendent was sending and receiving inappropriate emails through her work account. The email correspondence was with a man whose identity was not disclosed—but that man was not her husband. Before the situation went public, Sebring, who was to take the place of former Superintendent John Mackiel on July 1, resigned from OPS on June 2, telling the board of education that her "ability to lead the district [was] compromised," according to an article by the Omaha World Herald.

She had spent the last six years in the Superintendent position at Des Moines Public Schools, making positive changes in curriculum and improving graduation rates, among other accomplishments. Many educators and members of the OPS community had hope for what Sebring would be able to do for the school district, but she never got her chance.

Many expressed regret at this scandal. "I'm sorry the district had to go through that," Moon said. She called it an unfortunate situation that caused a lot of distress during a time that, for the district, was already stressful enough. The interim did, however, point out the fact that Superintendents are humans too, and that unfortunately ev-

Continue to 'MOON' on page 5

Upcoming Events:

Omaha Marching Exhibition at Northwest High
Oct. 2, 2012

Varsity Football Game vs. Northwest at Northwest
Oct. 5, 2012

Midterms
Oct. 16 - Oct. 18, 2012

ACT Testing at Central
Oct. 27, 2012
8 a.m.

CHS Fall Musical Once On This Island
Friday, Oct. 26
7 p.m.
Saturday, Oct. 27
2 and 7 p.m.

Fall Sports Banquet
Nov. 6, 2012

Half Day for Students
Nov. 8, 2012

Advanced Forensics students raises money for uniforms through silent auction, held at Central High's Open House

MEKENZIE KERR
Copy Editor

It seems an oxymoron to say that the Forensics, or competitive speech team, held a silent auction, but the Forensics team did just that at Open House on Sept. 12. Once simply Speech class, Jayme Prisbell is taking on Applied Forensics for its second year as an official class.

Different from Speech class, where the skills of speaking are developed and honed, Forensics is the strictly competitive sect of the Speech class world. The 15-person Forensics team will be competing in a total of around 20 competitions around the metro area. With these competitions comes the necessity for uniforms to keep the team looking professional and ready to represent Central. The team also requires funding for transportation to and from competitions.

In order to do so, the Speech Team, lead by captain and senior Sam Bennett, held a "very successful" silent auction in order to begin raising money to help cover costs for the whole team. Still undecided on how the money will be divided, the firm conclusion is that the silent auction already made a hearty dent in costs for team members.

The auction opened at 5:45 p.m., fifteen minutes before Open House began, to give time for teachers and staff members to get a "preview" of items before the rush. As staff members and parents began to file in, the silent auction began.

"It was when people started showing up an hour early [that I got stressed]," said Bennett. "I spent the entire first hour walking around panicking and making sure everything was okay."

There were pictures and descriptions of the items being auctioned off, each with a sheet of paper to go with it. After deciding upon the item of their choice, the hopeful buyers were asked to place amounts on the paper next to their names.

"It went very well and I'm very happy," said Bennett. "Surprisingly, the only thing we didn't have any bids on was the \$20 ticket pass for the Omaha Storm Chasers."

While the auctioning process and event itself was a major event, the steps leading up to that night were just as hectic and busy. The Forensics Team students were the sole components of finding items to be donated in order to auction them off.

Students called businesses to inform them of their cause, and versatile results flowed in. Most stu-

dents restaurants while others called sports and entertainment facilities. Auctioned off were gift cards to restaurants, two yoga gift certificates, a horseback riding lesson, a wine basket, two Central sweatshirts and many other unusual things. Prisbell feels that the biggest item was the four-pack of Kansas City Royals tickets donated. Though Bennett says that the "parent-donated wine basket" brought in the most revenue, starting at \$200 and auctioned off for \$250.

"They did an outstanding job, it was literally like Wall Street down in the journalism room," said Prisbell.

Finding the items was only part of the process, the advertising followed next. Students hung up signs in the school building and made sure announcements were sent out to the staff via email. "Word-of-mouth" was said to be the biggest component in the advertising process.

With more hard work to pay off in successes such as the recent silent auction, the Forensics Team hopes to be clad in black suits, skirts, and purple dress shirts by the time their first competition rolls around.

"We haven't done any fundraising before," said Bennett, "but it was a new experience, and it's worth doing something like this later in the year."

Four Scales, Four Years

Students express frustration at yet another grading scale change.

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Big Man on Campus

Central star athlete's past, present and future plans: why he chose Louisville and why he considered a move to Maryland--unveiled.

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Walk It Out

See Inside, Page 6

Seniors Phoebe Perry, Jess Parks, Audrey Giambattista and Lena Wolcott storm the Fashion Week stage.



The Register

2012-2013

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The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its readers accurately as to items of entertainment, interest and importance.

The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all its proceedings.

The Register is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), the Nebraska High School Press Association (NHSPA), the Journalism Education Association (JEA), Quill and Scroll and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA).

The Register is an 11-time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in San Francisco, Boston, Phoenix, Dallas, Washington D.C., Seattle and Chicago. The Register also won first place in Front Page News Layout for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA convention in St. Louis.

The Register has won multiple NSPA Pacemakers, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism.

It has also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA.

It has also been awarded the Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA for its overall work.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Register staff and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central High School or its faculty.

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Letters to the editor are encouraged.

They can be sent to The Register at 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102 or via email to central.register@ops.org.

Letters must include the author's full name and grade. The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters will be edited for length, clarity, taste and accuracy.

Misrepresentation of fact will not be considered.

Special thanks to all the faculty and staff of Omaha Central High School and Omaha Public Schools. Your cooperation with our students help us maintain a professional atmosphere in order to teach media education.

Question, concerns and inquiries are directed to Ali Hodge and Hillary Blayney at (402) 557-3357. If there is no one available, please leave a message.

Thank you, readers.

It is the goal of the Central High Register to represent the student body on issues effecting their lives as young people and students. If you feel like we are not covering an issue that is important to you, we welcome contributing writers who bring fresh ideas to the issues.

If you would like to write a story for your student newspaper, please contact Ali Hodge or Hillary Blayney at hodge_alexandria@yahoo.com or hillary.blayney@ops.org or come to room 029 to discuss your idea.

Alum details case in true crime thriller



1.



2.

1. The three dead bodies laying on the ground after the fire had burned out. 2. Brian Bogdanoff sits in front of money found from drugs sold by the criminals.

Continued from 'ALUMNI' on page 1

jobs, but they were spending money like it grew on trees. There were nine storage garages filled with dope found.

Twenty four search warrants were developed. Harrison started listening to jail calls after people were getting arrested. Every phone call added up, and finally he had over 500 fifteen-minute phone conversations, each very hard to understand.

As each person came into the story, he developed a case on each one until he was down to three of four people. One was just about a teenager who wouldn't speak because he was afraid of getting caught by the others if he sold them out, but after getting arrested, he finally spoke. They were all right here in Omaha.

Now what happens next? Does Harrison figure out the suspects who killed these suspects, or are they victims? Read *Three Bodies Burning: The Anatomy of an Investigation into Murder, Money, and Mexican Marijuana* to find out about a true story crime case that happened right here in Omaha (to just one of our alumnus of Central High School).

Life at Central

Bogdanoff attended Central High School many years ago. He graduated in 1982, thirty years ago. He is also a third generation Eagle, meaning his grandpa had gone to Central High, and so did his parents. In fact, he still has friends to this day from Central High.

All through high school Bogdanoff was undecided on what he wanted to go into once he left Central High. Two things helped him with anything he could have gone into though: Central's diversity and writing curriculum.

In being a homicide detective, or even a policeman, you have to be able to react to different backgrounds and cultures of people and respect them for it. "Diversity is such a tool in life," said Bogdanoff. Some policemen took years to figure it out, but for Bogdanoff it came easy, thanks to his experience at Central.

Before he was a homicide detective, he was an undercover narcotics officer and had to deal with a lot of drugs. He said it was just so much easier to talk to people, being accustomed to all of the different races, ethnicities, economic, and social backgrounds.

Central High's writing curriculum also helped Bogdanoff tremendously in his field. "It gave me a great foundation with the English department," said Bogdanoff.

All of the themes and stylebook reflections finally came through. Having to hand write police reports, it came easier to him.

He read a lot of police reports and wiretaps (federal or state level) before having them put on the actual computer. (A wiretap gives authorization to hear phone calls from bad guys.)

He could tell who was uneducated and who was not. "Some people couldn't write a sentence and some couldn't even put a thought down on paper," Bogdanoff said.

As a College Student

Bogdanoff attended the University of Neb. at Omaha after he left Central in 1982. He was still, in fact, undecided on a major. He didn't know he wanted to be a policeman yet. And then he took a class called "Deviant Behaviors."

This was a really interesting class to him about real bad guys and criminals. So he then took more criminal justice classes. To get credit hours, he worked an internship at the police station as a call taker at a nighttime hotline.

The hotline was made earlier from people being scared of John Joubert, a serial killer many

years ago.

In 1986, he finally reached his "hook." While he was at the police station, he received a call from a young boy. A child named Richard Chadek had been abducted and murdered. "From that time on, I knew I wanted to be a cop," said Bogdanoff. So he graduated in 1987 from UNO, took the police test and got hired right away.

The Start of Becoming a Homicide Detective

After being accepted and hired into the police academy, you always start off with twelve to sixteen weeks of law, defensive tactics, driving, shooting, and all of the basic skills into becoming a police officer. After that, you're on "probation" for two years, but you're on the streets working. After your fourth year, you can go into your specialty unit.

His specialty unit started when crack cocaine was being carried into the Midwest from the west coast and gangs were starting to appear in Omaha. He started in the worst place in Omaha, the Logan Fontenelle Project. The street name was called "Little Vietnam" which had shootings about every day. Bogdanoff had to walk foot control with another officer for a few years.

After the fourth year, he finally became a narcotics officer. It involved a lot of undercover capacity. He had to have good people skills, develop information, and was always looking for more information. He would sometimes have people under charges paid to do dirty work.

What would happen is informants would send a guy in and give him money to the dope dealers. And that's when the search would begin because they would send a search warrant on the dealer once they have found out the information.

There are four types of search warrants: daytime, nighttime, knock, and no knock, which all pretty much describe themselves. Bogdanoff claims that he has been involved in over one-thousand search warrants in his life as a policeman.

The Start of the Book

For fifteen to twenty years, Bogdanoff has been doing talks at Millard North and currently still does. They would usually include a presentation of what he works in and is involved in.

Soon this case was over and he started to tell that story to the students. One student inspired him as he told Bogdanoff to write a book on the case. So he decided to go with it.

He then began to take book writing classes at Metro. A year later, the rough draft was made. In fact, another alumni of Central, Lisa Pelto, a publisher from Concierge Marketing took a look at it. It became a self-publishing genre.

Just two days later, a professional editor, Sandy Wendel, called back and she loved it. They edited it right in her house. It was that good.

One question was the language.

It was really rough in the real world and Bogdanoff didn't know if it would be okay to be added to his story. It would change a PG-13 to a rated R story.

But Wendel claimed it would tell more and add to the story. "I still kept it cleaner than real life. There are a few F bombs. I wish I hadn't put them in," said Bogdanoff.

Another question was that if he should have his real name as the author of the book. Bogdanoff even met with lawyers to see if it was okay. Just the names in the case are changed in the book.

Bo Harrison in the book is himself in fact.

Different names were used, but Wendel said it would be better not to because if anyone wanted to do a back check on somebody, they could easily. He just didn't want to draw attention to himself. "In the end it turned out all fine," said Bogdanoff. So everything was based off of his true story of experience of this one case.

Finally the copyright came out 11 weeks before Christmas. They anticipated it to be in Jan. of 2011, but it got out earlier. They even sold a lot of books really quick.

The book became very popular. It was #1 on Amazon in true crime genre over everything. The book even receives National Attention. It receives medals and #1 book of the year winner.

What's weird is that the bad guys also love the book. Search warrants that Bogdanoff is involved in have the book lying out. And prisoners are asking for the book because they're so intrigued.

The Real Point

"Three Bodies Burning: The Anatomy of an Investigation into Murder, Money, and Mexican Marijuana" is also dedicated to the children, spouses, and parents of the cops involved with these cases because "they are also victims because they lose quality time with their parents who are investigating crime, lose companionship with their life partner, or never stop worrying about their child's calling."

Bogdanoff has four kids in fact. Three of them are in college. Two of them are boys, ages 22 and 11.

The other two are girls, ages 20 and 18.

All of the different levels of cops out there work "ungodly" huge hours.

"It probably affects my family more than it affects me. I'm the type of guy that goes 150% and always wants to prove something," said Bogdanoff. Bo Harrison was also named after one of his sons; it's his son's middle name. Bogdanoff claims that all the names that he used in the book as covers mean something or somebody to him.

The point of the book was to show people the investigation process. "The worst thing you can do is to put an innocent person in jail," said Bogdanoff.

Last Additions

Bogdanoff will be contributing into another talk in Swanson in Oct.

One of the suspects will actually be there that is now out of prison. The cop and the suspect will be together talking about this one case. You never see that.

Bogdanoff does still do a lot of book talks now as he works at the police station.

He has started to raise a lot of money for charity for them.

At some talks he would sell books and for every one sold, one dollar would be donated to charity.

The book is in fact in the Central High Hall of Fame. Bogdanoff even claimed that he could help Central out.

His idea was to have students sell the book to their parents and it would fund a lot of money. "The book is \$19.95 at book stores, but \$8 of the profit could go to Central to be used for something like Prom," stated Bogdanoff.

"Three Bodies Burning: The Anatomy of an Investigation into Murder, Money, and Mexican Marijuana" also has a Facebook page for itself so go and "like" it as you read the book and are thrilled by the way that a Central alumni can succeed into something so intriguing.

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2012-2013

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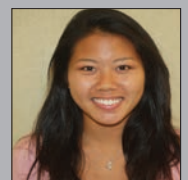
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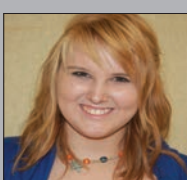
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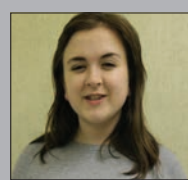
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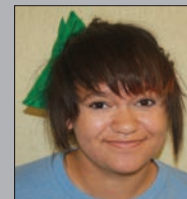
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Owners of Amsterdam Falafel & Kabob open new eatery



PHOTOS BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN / THE REGISTER

1. A server at the French Bulldog's bar pours a glass of wine. Along with meats and cheeses, the establishment also offers fine wines. 2. The French Bulldog's sign hangs proudly in Dundee. This new restaurant supplements all of the other locally owned places on the block at 50th and Underwood. 3. A window display shows off meats and cheeses, the restaurant's specialty. 4. The French Bulldog is fashioned with an image of industrial modern.

MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

The French Bulldog opened in early September in Dundee. Owners Anne Cavanaugh and Phil Anania have been in the restaurant business for years. The two also own Amsterdam Falafel & Kabob, a nearby haunt that happens to be located on the very same block. Bryce Coulton is the restaurant's cook.

Coulton is not an Omaha native, but like Cavanaugh and Anania, he is no stranger to the restaurant business. After serving in the military, Coulton decided to pursue a second career in the culinary arts, attending a culinary school in Ireland. He started at The Boiler Room, a ritzy restaurant in Omaha, where he met Cavanaugh and Anania.

They had always talked about running a restaurant together, and when the space became available, it was hard for them to turn down the opportunity.

Before The French Bulldog opened, they encountered obstacles. The previous establishment, Subway, had left them with nothing but four walls, so they had to do some major renovation. This was frustrating because the group wanted to open as soon as possible. Construction began in January, and it wasn't finished until the last week of August.

When one walks into the building now, it is almost impossible to tell that it was ever a Subway. The décor in the restaurant is quite unique. The walls are covered in barn wood, which Anania and Coulton obtained after a tornado occurred in a small town in Nebraska. They also have a display case a variety of meats.

Most of the food at The French Bulldog does happen to be meat, but you still can find a few vegetarian options on the menu.

The French Bulldog got its name from Anania's wife Kate. They chose this name because it is cute and quirky.

Although Anania and Cavanaugh also own Amsterdam, The French Bulldog differs from it

in many ways. The French Bulldog strives to make simple foods extraordinary, while Amsterdam makes very complex dishes.

For instance, most people have heard of the reuben sandwich. The French Bulldog tries to make it extraordinary; that is their goal: to make simple foods taste complex. Coulton says they don't try to do things too fancy. "We like to cook the foods we enjoy," he said.

Inspiration for the menu comes from their travels, and also what they have always liked. For example, Cavanaugh once tried a cheese sandwich in Madison, Wisc. and liked it so much that they decided to put a similar version on the menu call the Ploughman's sandwich. It has white cheddar cheese, granny smith apples and greens on two pieces of sourdough bread.

The restaurant itself specializes in charcuterie, which is a broad French term that means cold-cut meats, including sausages and salami. They also have a large amount of different types of cheeses such as bleu, goat, soft and hard. Some of these cheeses are even local, although there do happen to be a couple imported cheeses. The cheeses, like many of the dishes on the menu, are the types of cheeses Coulton, Cavanaugh and Anania enjoy.

Dundee is a very lively place. The reason behind them opening in Dundee is simple. "Phil and Anne already own Amsterdam, so it was a natural decision," said Coulton.

"We really wanted to create something that would complement the neighborhood." The French Bulldog is a locally owned business, just like every business on that block now (the locally owned businesses on Underwood include eCreamery, the Dundee Dell, the Dundee Bank, Pitch, Scout, Dario's, Mark's and Blueline).

Dundee prides itself on this fact--all of these businesses really benefit the local economy and brings the community together. Not to mention it's a fun and unique outing on a weekend where you have nothing to do.

The French Bulldog, located at 5003 Underwood Avenue, is open Monday through Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m., and Friday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to midnight.

Tameraa Marion runs for Homecoming King, said 'it felt right'

SETH ARTER
Staff Writer

When people think of homecoming king candidates, they probably think of the jocks, the smarticles, and the popular guys of the school. But that's not the case this year.

Senior Tameraa Marion, who is the president of Central's Gay-Straight Alliance, was approved to run for the 2012 Central High homecoming king. Feeling bold and courageous, Marion said "I think I fit better in the category of king rather than queen."

With Marion doing something that has never been done in the high school's history, it wouldn't be surprising to receive some negative reactions. Fortunately for Marion, that wasn't the case either.

She has not gotten any negative reactions since announcing the idea to her peers. Marion's parents are also fully supportive of her running for homecoming king. Everyone has been very supportive. "Schools outside of Central wouldn't be as tolerant," Marion said, adding, "It definitely wouldn't be tolerated outside of OPS."

Marion, like many other students who want to try something different, had to attain special permission to do so. Marion approached Central High's Activities Director Dionne Kirksey with the idea.

The senior, said Kirksey, was nothing but cool about the situation. Not only was she very open to the idea, but Kirksey also applauded Marion for her idea and said that she was "impressed" with her. "If any school should do it, it should be Central," Marion said, quoting Kirksey.

Kirksey didn't have too much of a reaction as she learned of Marion's ideas. "I've got so much other stuff to worry about," said Kirksey.

According to Kirksey, she has many other important tasks and duties that need much more attention. Kirksey, however, did have to run this idea by Dr. Bigsby, who also did not have any major reaction to the idea.

One may get the idea that Marion may be trying to accomplish something, or prove a point with her bold actions. But once again, that's not the case.

As simple as Marion's idea sounds, people may be very curi-

ous as to why she wouldn't run for homecoming queen instead. When students found out that Marion was running for homecoming royalty, they asked if she was running for king or queen. Marion felt that after being asked that, king would suit her much better.

"I didn't think I'd be taken seriously," stated Marion.

As the big, eventful night approached, Marion was fully prepared. She took her girlfriend from Benson High to Red Lobster before the dance. The two were able to enjoy their dinner, but Marion was still a little nervous for the coronation.

Although Marion ran in hopes of winning, it didn't quite turn out the way she would have liked. Senior Devin Barfield was crowned the 2012 homecoming king.

"Homecoming was cool, but I was upset that I didn't get the top 5," said Marion. "I didn't care whether I won or not, I just wanted court, or the top five," Marion also said.

The senior wanted to do this for her sake, not for the sake of others.

"I don't have an agenda, I'm just doing what feels right," Marion said.

Spirit Week

Ugly Sweater

Junior
Patrick Nolan

Nolan represents his ugly sweater on Wednesday, Sept. 12.



Tie Dye

Senior
Jess Parks

Parks wears her tie dye dress in honor of spirit week on Tuesday, Sept. 11.



Flashback

Senior
Keyona Chandler

Chandler shows her older clothes as a part of flashback day on Monday, Sept. 10.



Western

Sophomore
Aggie Mullen

Mullen presents her flannel shirt on western day Thursday, Sept. 13.



Purple & White

Sophomores
Garson Sears and Krisha Regmi

Sears and Regmi represent their purple and white clothing on Friday, Sept. 14.



From Germany to America

16-year-old Max Scherer chose America after hearing about the experiences his friends and teachers had here. What started out as an opportunity to open doors for foreign jobs has lead to an entirely expanded lifestyle in Omaha, Nebraska.

CHEYENNE ALEXIS
Staff Writer

Choosing America

Living in a new country is definitely scary to think about. Imagine it: living somewhere where everything is different; schools, family, language and culture, could be hard to deal with for some people. However, for 16-year-old Max Scherer, the experience of living with a host family has been a good one so far, and there are more fun times to come.

His decision to come to America was based on experiences from other friends who did the Foreign Exchange Program, and by a teacher who told him about it. He wanted to come for possible job offerings, and for a new cultural experience. "Plus, I'm a good student," he said.

Scherer's host sister, junior Callie Austad, said that her family decided to take in a foreign exchange student because "the cultures are so different. We wanted to show him the American lifestyle, learn English, try something new."

The program requires the family that wants to host a student to read a biography students, and from there the family chooses a student whose description best matches the family. Following that is an interview and house inspection to make sure that the house is in good condition, and a background check on members of the family. The process took about a week, and soon after Scherer was on his way.

His journey from New Frankfurt was a long one indeed. The trip took a total of about 26 hours; the flights were from his hometown to Belgium, Washington D.C. to Chicago, and finally from Chicago to Omaha. Scherer said the trip was smooth because there was always someone to help him out, until he got to Omaha where his host family picked him up.

So began his new life in America.

Differences

The German student has experienced plenty of differences while living abroad in America, from food to simple everyday life. But on another note, he says things are quite similar in Germany.

He has a very strong and positive opinion about the attitudes of Americans, saying that they are "friendlier, if you go to a state or eat somewhere, they're nicer."

Differences for Scherer include the obvious language barrier, which at times was hard for him to adapt to because "when I hear people talk, I have to translate everything." But luckily he is getting better and translating comes easier to him. He has been learning English since fourth grade, so roughly seven years. Aside from German and English, the student also speaks Russian.

Other differences include food and transportation. "You love meat. [Americans] love fast food, [it's] everywhere." He also said that, "You like big cars... No one uses cars a lot in Germany; you use cars a lot here." He added that it's not weird, "just different."

Schooling for Max was definitely the toughest thing to adapt to. Austad said that, "He's not used to a huge school and so much diversity. [It's] eye-opening to be completely immersed in a different school. But he's adjusting to it."

Max has made a few friends (mainly from other schools) but he claims that it isn't a difficult task. "[I've made] a couple... Not really hard, you guys are open-minded." He said that when the time comes for him to learn the language better and meet new people it'll be better, but he appreciates the open-mindedness of the students at Central.

Adjusting to Central

Scherer said that schooling is "completely different" from Germany, the number one thing being that German students get up at 7 a.m., as opposed to 6 a.m. now. He explained that after elementary school the students are literally divided into good, bad, and middle, and that overall determines how many years they go to school. Of course, at Central anyone is welcome, which appeals to Scherer.

Although, as mentioned, it is sometimes difficult to make friends, he very much thinks that kids are extremely open-minded.

He appreciates the school spirit. "I like the school spirit 'cause we don't have that in Germany at all... No one can identify themselves in school [in Germany]." He also said his counselor has been of great help to him.

His favorite classes are sociology and marketing, and those are things he'd like to study when back in Germany.

"We don't have things like sociology or marketing... everyone takes the same classes." He also really likes his teachers, but doesn't have a particular favorite.

He likes soccer, but hasn't joined... yet. He says soccer is his favorite sport, and he may play it when the team is formed in the spring.

Scherer also hasn't joined any clubs yet, but that is only due to time management. "It would be kind of too much... I don't have time, really."

So far, it has been a good year for the exchange student, and he definitely chose the right school to go to for a good experience of schooling in America.

Host Family

Staying with the Austad family has so far been a good experience for Scherer; they treat him just as though he was part of their family.

He said it is fun staying with them and that they are funny. He really likes their sense of humor, and he feels very thankful for their kindness towards him. They are mainly interested in his culture, and they are very dedicated to showing him things so he has a great year living with them.

He likes Austad a lot, calling her funny and helpful. Austad said they always hang out and listen to music together, but they mainly just enjoy talking.

"He's really into sports," she said, "so we watch football and stuff like that."



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

The two get along pretty well, and they do indeed talk a lot. After school they like to hang out with friends, driving around to places and exploring Omaha. Once the Austad family took them to the zoo; they've also been to a few volleyball games. Scherer is in good hands, and they create an environment comfortable for him to live in.

"So far it's been good," Austad said about Scherer's time living here. "You need time to adjust, but I like it so far and it'll be a good year."

The exchange student is good at home, never causing any problems. Austad said it's different with him living there as he is a teenage boy (who eats a lot), but her family likes him a lot.

Germany and the Rest of the Year

Max said he misses his friends and sister, but he hardly gets homesick. "Sometimes, if I think, 'Oh, it would be good to talk to this person', of course you miss things... I have no time to get homesick."

He also misses the sports he used to play, like soccer, but otherwise he said it's nice coming home and having different activities to do.

Scherer said that he would like to come back to America after he graduates if he has the chance. "I mean, I'll go back, I'm just here for a year. I could imagine coming back after university." He could even come back with his family in the future, and can even imagine living here. He would of course visit his host family and any friends he makes.

"I like Omaha a lot," he said. "It's cool, different from German cities... You can get what you want, do different activities, it's cool."

"It'll be sad," said Austad, regarding Scherer's graduation, "because by then I think we'll be close." But she said it'll be good since she'd be able to visit just as he would.

Callie also will consider taking in a foreign exchange student when she is older with a family. "[It's] and experience I want my kids to have, 'cause it's fun and you will learn different cultures," she said it is, "An eye-opening experience."

I like Omaha a lot. It's cool, [but] different from German cities [. . .] you can get what you want, do different activities; it's cool.

~ Max Scherer

IB Students contribute to Walk-A-Thon to benefit the Open Door Mission, community

EMMA MILLS
Contributing Writer

Central IB students participated in a walk-a-thon for the Open Door Mission on Sunday, Sept. 23, to raise money for the homeless. The walk began in the parking area of Gallup University and ended at the Open Door Mission's campus about a mile away.

Central students in the International Baccalaureate Programme signed up to participate to fulfill their required CAS participation, or Creativity, Action and Service.

IB students are required to perform 150 hours of community service during the school year; 75 hours on one large commitment and 75 on various other causes. The walk-a-thon is one of many smaller community activities that the students will participate in to earn their hours.

Cathy Andrus, the IB coordinator, said that while there are teachers to approve projects and provide encouragement, students take a hands-on approach to choosing their service projects.

The IB students decided amongst themselves to get involved when they heard about the walk-a-thon. According to IB teacher Tracey Menten, the IB teachers are trying to get away from "hour counting" in community service.

"We want them to create rather than step into something that already exists, to have them build an event and have ownership," Menten said. "We're trying to foster a willing citizen."

Rachel Pruch, an IB participant who walked on Sept. 23, showed that she was focused on the mission rather than the hour requirements.

"It really is a good thing to do, to help with," she said. "We have a lot of homeless people in this country, and these sort of things need support."

Adults participating in the walk-a-thon paid \$19.20 to walk; they also received a t-shirt and a water bottle. The \$19.20 fee pays for ten meals at the Open Door Mission.

When asked what the Central students did to add to the mission and make it their own, Menten said that the kids figured out what could be done if someone wasn't able to pay the \$19.20, or if they were unavailable to walk on Sunday.

Instead of walking, some of the students volunteered to help World History teacher Vicki Deniston-Reed box up her personal donations to the Open Door Mission.

"She has a giant amount of stuff to donate. Kids can box up and donate instead of doing the walk," Menten said. "And even if they're not paying, they can still come and walk. It's making a presence and making it their own."

This is one of the first of many projects the IB students will be participating in this year. Andrus and Menten both expressed the desire to see other Central students affected by what the kids are doing in this program.

The program is striving to create a willingness to be a part of a community and take part in the betterment of the community.

The goal of the IB program is to encourage students to be willing and caring citizens, but they don't want to stop there. Both teachers said that they wanted to see a spread of community awareness throughout Central. "We don't want this to be restricted to the IB kids," Menten said.

The IB program is striving not only to strengthen the IB participants' sense of community, but also the community itself.

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Central volunteer visits Africa, brings back memories and a new desire to teach



1.

1. Mackenzie Anderson sits with a beaming Ugandan child during her trip as a volunteer. This was the senior's first time visiting Africa, and found the entire experience rewarding; she's hoping to revisit in the future. 2. During a school visit, Anderson holds one of the young students. The group with which she traveled, Educate Uganda, visited about 27 schools during the two weeks spent there.



2.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MACKENZIE ANDERSON

SAN JUANA PARAMO
Staff Writer

When it comes to summer, few people know how to really spend it. They either have plans, or just go along with whatever summer throws their way. Some take luxury vacations, relaxing after a tough year. Most vacations are just that, relaxation, but for some it's a time to help those in need or get out there and be involved.

An ideal vacation spot for many would be a sunny beach wonderland, but not for senior Mackenzie Anderson, who spent her summer in a landlocked country in eastern Africa—a place where the average year-round temperature is around 84 degrees Fahrenheit. Not many people would want to spend their summers in a country with low resources in unfamiliar terrain, especially where they aren't experienced with the social customs of the area.

United States citizens are often stereotyped as greedy and wasteful, especially when it comes to education. Not many students in Uganda (or Africa in general), receive the opportunity to have an education. Economic development has restricted and affected the daily lives of Ugandan citizens; due to the lack of economic resources and large number of parents with HIV, many children are landlocked when it comes their education—just like the country in which they reside.

There are countless organizations around the world that help children in Africa when it comes to education; usually it's hard to afford because potential students' parents can't afford it or one or both parents are dead. Educate Uganda is one of the organizations that helps children in Africa, by getting people in the United States sponsor them.

The Mission

Educate Uganda had the help of an Eagle this summer. Anderson traveled to Africa with Educate Uganda. There, she played with the children, took their pictures, and got a taste of what life in Uganda was like. Over the course of two weeks, Anderson visited 27 different schools to take pictures of every child—sponsors wanted to see whose lives they were changing and how they were making a difference. Anderson didn't go alone; her mom and older graduates from different schools volunteered as well.

Every day, Anderson woke up at 8 a.m. and visited six to seven schools each day. "We would be popping our medicine because the schools were so far away and roads were very bumpy," Anderson said. During their visits, they took pictures of the children and had the chance to play with them. When they came home for the day, the volunteers sat down for dinner and shared their favorite experiences from the day. For her, adjusting to a new country, time and culture wasn't too difficult. "It wasn't hard to adjust, because I was so excited to be there and work with the kids," she said.

Anderson did, however, face difficulty concerning the food, "Your entire meal would be carbs, so that was kind of tiring to eat," Anderson said. "We tried to stay away from the meat because you never knew where it came from. Sometimes in Africa they would have the meat out for a long

time," she said. The kitchens were something that surprised Anderson as well: "It was actually interesting seeing their kitchens, because it was like *Little House on the Prairie*. They would have pots over an open fire. Their culture is really friendly and they were always singing songs, which was fun," Anderson said.

During her visit, Anderson connected with an orphan school boy, whom she now sponsors. The young boy is in kindergarten and wore the same clothes every day before anyone sponsored him. "It's really cool to know that I can help him," Anderson said. Though he was too young to understand that she was going to pay for his schooling, his teachers were filled with gratitude.

The volunteer wasn't the only one in her family who sponsors children in Uganda: "My parents have around ten kids they sponsor," Anderson said.

She described this experience as mind opening, saying that "just the experience was unforgettable." In her opinion, anyone who finds themselves offered the opportunity should take it. "I would definitely tell them to go," Anderson said, "and I would tell them to probably bring some money because you'll probably have a kid that you'll get really connected to and you could sponsor them."

The Future

Anderson has plans to return someday and would like to pursue teaching in the country. "I would absolutely love to spend a summer there and teach, I would probably learn just as much from them," she said. Though she does plan on going back to Uganda she would like to visit other countries as well "I would love to go to other countries, but I would definitely go back to Africa," Anderson said. However, those plans are well off into the future. "It's expensive to travel there, I don't know if I'll have that opportunity to go there again so soon."

She hopes to see how the kid she sponsors is doing in the future, and other children as well. The senior makes a point of writing to the child she sponsors and even sends him care packages every once in a while.

Anderson plans on sponsoring more children in the near future, and she is starting to get her family involved too. "I've told my family members to just give me money so I can sponsor children instead of gifts for my birthday and other things," Anderson said.

She would like other people to do the same. "I would encourage people to donate \$30 to Educate Uganda, or donate school supplies that aren't heavy, like pencils or clothes, and they get to see the kid's picture, which is always heartwarming to see how you're impacting that kid's life," Anderson said.

Her parents are proud of what she has done.

"No matter what you have you can always be happy," said Anderson. It is an experience she'll never forget and something she wishes to do again if the opportunity ever presents itself.

All eyes are on new interim Superintendent Moon

Continued from "SUPERINTENDENT" on page 1

everyone is capable of making mistakes. Regardless of this, Moon still said that "I wish she wouldn't have done that."

After Sebring's resignation, the Board of Education scrambled to find a replacement on such short notice. After considering the other two finalists chosen for the job (Assistant Superintendent of OPS Dr. RaNae Kehrberg and Dr. Daniel Nerad, Superintendent from Madison, Wisc.), searchers turned elsewhere for someone to fill the position.

From there Moon emerged, who had served as Ralston Public Schools' Superintendent for 11 years (retiring in 2009) and interim Superintendent at Broken Bow Public Schools for two. She received much public praise for the latter, which contributed to her selection.

Moon's job now as interim Superintendent is very similar to what a new Superintendent would be doing. She is focusing on getting a picture of how the district is run and how it can be improved upon; this involves looking for efficiencies and working to make things go quicker and easier, as well as improving communication. One of Moon's goals is to improve communication, both within the district and on a national level. She wants to help OPS connect with national entities, agencies, universities and more.

Moon has hope for the year she will spend at OPS, and much of this stems from her love of the education field. According to the interim, "there are so many reasons" that she loves what she does. She loves working in "a field that is so full of hope" and that is so vital to the world (consider the impor-

tance of education in the local community, and in something as global as the economy) and would never want to do anything else. In fact, Moon came out of retirement to lead the Broken Bow school district, and is doing the same for OPS. "It wouldn't be like me to sit," she said, instead preferring to keep busy.

And Moon has been a source of hope herself for educators within the last few tumultuous months.

"I feel like I can make a difference," Moon said, calling herself the "bridge" between a long term leader (Mackiel) and a new one. Her attributes, including her organizational, communication and peacemaking skills, are ideal for this position. Moon will soon begin working with others to develop a strategic plan for the district, which will assist the new Superintendent upon his or her arrival into the position.

OPS continues to search for a candidate to fill its Superintendent position. Hazard, Young, Attea and Associates (HYA), the company hired by OPS to conduct its Superintendent search, will look once again (at no extra cost to the district, who originally set aside \$200,000 for the search).

Moon's contract lasts through July 2013. Her benefits include 25 days of vacation, 10 days of paid sick leave, \$1,000 per month for transportation and 12% tax annuity. Moon will receive no health care.

Moon, the Board of Education and those hard at work in OPS look to the future. Despite the somewhat embarrassing Sebring scandal, the district is recovering and will find a suitable candidate.



Rabbi Joshua Brown speaks to students about different aspects of Judaism. He joined the staff of Temple Israel earlier this year.

World Religions students take a trip to Temple Israel

STEPHANIE PAUL
Visuals Editor

Students who are enrolled in Intro to World Religions took a field trip to Temple Israel, a synagogue in Omaha, on Sept 15.

Before going to the Temple Israel, students learned some basic knowledge of Judaism over a course of two weeks. They went to the temple to review what they learned in class.

At the temple, they had a discussion about Judaism with Joshua Brown, one of the Temple's Rabbis. Brown spoke to the class about how the temple worked with followers of the faith, and about the faith in general.

Gabby Enriquez, junior, went on the field trip; she said that "it was really cool and really fun to talk to a real Rabbi."

During the discussion with Brown, senior Kylie Schroder asked how the religion felt about teen pregnancy, or pregnancy out of wedlock; he answered by explaining that the temple will help the teen or mother through the process of pregnancy and after the child is born.

Other than the discussion with Brown, the class got to look around the main entrance and inside of the temple. One of the first things the class got to see in the synagogue was a candle that flickers all the time. The candle flickers 6 million times a year, for the lives that were lost during the Holocaust.

When the class went into the temple area, Brown showed everyone the Tanakh, which is the Hebrew Bible. Brown spoke about its history and how it was made.

Temple Israel is a reformed Jewish synagogue. There are three types of Judaism: Orthodox, Reformed, and Conservative. Each of the different branches of the religion has their own special way of following the religion.

Throughout the semester-long class, teacher Gary Groff's students will take at least four more field trips (maybe five) similar to this one, but to other places of worship that belong to different religions.

During the course of the class, students learn about the

most popular religions in the modern world (these are Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism), then visit the place of worship on a field trip.

"I believe that going to the house of worship breaks down stereotypes of that religion," said Groff.

Groff also believes that seeing a believer of that faith is important. When the classes do come back from the field trips, Groff does not like to hear kids say things like, "they are just like us."

He says that this is because he wants kids to understand that each religion is different in its own little way.

"It is really important to have knowledge of different faiths, because the community in general is religiously diverse," said Groff. He also said that "when teens go to college and go into the workforce, it is really important to understand their neighbors' religious beliefs."

Since Central is the only school in OPS that offers World Religions, it is special to go on these trips. And students are lucky to have someone as knowledgeable as Groff for a teacher.

Groff has been teaching Intro to World Religions for 16 years; he began in 1996 at Bellevue West. He also teaches the class on a college level at UNO once a week.

With Central's diversity in religion and ethnicity, Groff's goal when he was interviewed by former principal Dr. Greg Emmel four years ago was to start the class at Central. Now, three years since the class began to be offered at Central, Groff sees how awarding it is. He's making a difference.

He never realized that students talked about the class to their parents at home until a parent came up to him and mentioned it to him at parent-teacher conferences.

"I find it very rewarding to hear that students are telling their families about what they learned in my class," he said.

With more field trips scheduled for the future, students in Groff's classes are excited to learn more and see more at the different places of worship that they will have the opportunity to visit.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL/THE REGISTER

Arts & Culture



Model Citizen

Seniors Audrey Giambattista, Jessica Parks, Phoebe Perry, and Lena Wolcott storm the Omaha Fashion Week stage by modeling for various designers involved in the biannual event.

GISELLE TRAN
Business Editor

MEKENZIE KERR
Copy Editor



Senior Phoebe Perry strikes a pose on the runway at Omaha Fashion Week. Photo courtesy of JL Williams.

Bright lights, big city – that’s where everyone wants to be. For some, the path to stardom is paved with designer outfits and heels.

Omaha Fashion Week (OFW) is one of the Midwest’s primary fashion events held at the Kaneko gallery in downtown Omaha. This year, March 19-24 and Aug. 20-25 were the weeks selected. Produced by Brooke Hudson, former Miss Nebraska and Miss America, OFW seeks to connect industry professionals to a large and engaged audience. Hudson mentioned that she expected about 5,000 people to be in attendance.

It is the community’s chance to participate in something that, prior to 2008, didn’t exist in Omaha. For the over 100 youths who model approx 350 looks for the 39 designers, OFW is their opportunity to achieve their dreams.

Unlike the typical supermodels seen on the runway, designers for OFW do not have height or measurement requirements. It truly depends on who the designers feel most flatter their outfits.

Last August, four Central seniors modeled in OFW: Phoebe Perry, Jessica Parks, Lena Wolcott, and Audrey Giambattista.

Phoebe Perry

Retiring her dancing shoes for two nights, senior Phoebe Perry slipped on a pair of wedge heels and a colorfully-clad dress for her first walk in Omaha Fashion Week. Nervous but well-equipped with her new-found modeling skills, Perry took the stage, a few inches taller, one step at-a-time.

Unlike the other models who applied for Omaha Fashion Week in the fall, Perry didn’t have to go through the “model pool” process like all the other participants. Rather than a quick strut in snug-fitting jeans and shirt, Perry was recommended and chosen for her background in dance; the designer desired a dancer for his or her fluidity and gracefulness on stage.

Perry was recommended by a former Omaha Fashion Week model leaving for college to designer Maximillian Suiter. Modeling in Omaha Fashion Week had never been on Perry’s radar, although the idea had always sent a wave of intrigue through her.

The long-haul began with dress fittings, of which Perry had a tiring amount.

“I had a ton of fittings for my dress to make sure it fit,” said Perry, “I had to drive to the seamstress’s house, and because she didn’t live far away, the designer and seamstress would use me as a guinea pig for some of the other outfits.”

Following the measurements for accuracy (along with a few pokes and stitches), Perry went on to “Model Bootcamp,” where she was taught how to correctly walk and pose on a runway. Flaunting a dress in heels proved to be a daring task, and her skills were further put to the test when the models had to go and walk the length of a street.

“At first I felt really scared because I never wear heels and that’s what we had to practice in,” said Perry, “I was a little shaky the first time, but we kept doing it over and over and then we went outside and did it all the way from one end of the street to another.”

Pushed to the limits, Perry was ready for the adrenaline rush that overwhelmed her as she anticipated going on stage in her wrap-around dress that flowed with the long, orange, blue, and red blotches all over the silk, complete with minx pom-poms. And who is to say that comfort can’t be stylish? Perry says she felt like a celebrity gliding across the stage and comfortable in the silky fabric at the same time.

“All you’re doing is walking and you have to keep your eyes straight ahead, focused on one camera while there’s a ton of cameras around,” said Perry, “It’s weird to feel all this attention on you when all you’re doing is walking.”

Although the idea of walking on a stage to get your picture taken seemed a little weird in reality, Perry relished her time on stage, as the “papparazi” snapped her fabulous fashions left and right. “I felt a little self-conscious,” she said.

Many of the models were what Perry and others would consider “typical models” – skinny physiques and previous professional experience. Although Perry had no previous experience in modeling, she was able to immerse herself in the surreal experience as a model for OFW.

Although her first experience was one to remember, Perry is uncertain as to whether she will participate in the upcoming Spring show. The time

■ Refer to ‘FASHION’ on page 7

Odd Life of Timothy Green reminds us all of what it’s like to be human

MEKENZIE KERR
Copy Editor

Enchantment, acceptance and a little bit of human photosynthesis – if you can grasp those three things than you’re on your way to grasping the plot of the latest Disney film. In “The Odd Life of Timothy Green,” director/writer Peter Hedges uses these three things to bring another well-rounded Disney film to screens across the United States.

Couple Cindy and Jim Green, played by Jennifer Garner and Joel Edgerton, have everything aligned just right in their marriage; they are happy and young, yet their hearts are shattered almost as soon as the movie starts with a dose of the news that many couples dread: they can’t have children. One dream, that’s it, the one dream the couple had been working towards their entire married lives is gone. To attain closure and relinquish their grasp on their last seeds of hope, the Greens take a bottle of wine, a notepad and pencil and a wooden box.

Together the two concoct the minute traits and successes their child would possess and experience throughout his life, their ideal child who would never be. That night the two bury what they believe to be their final chances and hopes of having a child, little do they know what is brewing behind the uncanny storm that night.

Low and behold, a peculiarly small boy with big eyes, little green leaves on his ankles (wait, what?) and, what we learn to be, an even more giant heart, shows up on their doorstep. As the Greens come to learn his name is Timothy, the one single name they always adored, he immediately takes to acknowledging them as mom and dad.

Timothy’s limited time with Cindy and Jim Green is narrated throughout the entirety of the movie as they relay it to the Adoption

Agency the movie begins in. And as we discover, the itsy, healthy green leaves play a dominating role in each characters’ life.

As the classic label Disney usually has, the film isn’t rated PG just for parental guidance and child safety but also just “Pure Goodness”. Like all Disney movies promise, there is magical moments of pure sentimentality throughout the entire film.

Awkward little Timothy plays the role of a “life lesson” for a handful of secondary characters throughout the film that inhabit the small town of Stanleyville; he teaches both characters and audience little fables regarding acceptance, death, life and love. These tidbits of lessons throughout “The Odd Life of Timothy Green” make for a very heart-warming plot, but to the point that it may become a little too saccharine for those who are not into movies that tug on every little heart string.

If you are a sap during movies, then I suggest you bring a small pouch of tissues tucked away in your pocket. Each of the separate experiences that Timothy and his dotting parents struggle through and rejoice are ones that have touched your life, than I guarantee a tug at the heart if not a tear or two. And while the movie does a splendid job of hitting the highs and lows of different commonalities that individuals face consistently, it still maintains a level of easy understanding for the two different audiences it seems to be publicized at: parents and children.

An infertile couple essentially “giving birth” to the garden child is whimsical, and the continuing plot of the story only seems to spring a sense of eternal hope for couples everywhere. At the same time, the sheer joy and child-like faith that “The Odd Life of Timothy Green” has is a positive refresher for adults and children-alike.

■ Refer to ‘ODD LIFE’ on page 10



McKenzie Clayton and stage mother Annika Williams perform in the new film The Boarder, based on the book by Jane E. Ryan.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MCKENZIE CLAYTON

Clayton lands roll in local film

Central student McKenzie Clayton lands a role in a Nebraska-set independent film, joining an impressive list of Central alumni who have been featured on the silver screen.

SAN JUANA PARAMO
Staff Writer

The recent film, “The Boarder,” is based on a book by Jane E. Ryan, which is based on true life events concerning children suffering from Reactive Attachment Disorder (RAD), and the struggles their families go through. RAD is a severe form of Attachment Disorder that causes a failure to attach in early life and can affect children who have been traumatized or separated from a parent.

In the movie, mother Annika Williams is convinced by her husband to take in Carl, an eleven year old homeless boy with a sketchy past. Williams not only finds out that Carl is mentally unstable, but also suffers from RAD. McKenzie Clayton, sophomore, plays Carl’s sister onscreen and her character learns to deal with his problems along with the family.

Clayton found out about the movie through family members and information she got at the John Beasley Theater. With support from her family she decided to audition.

Though the audition process was full of hopeful young girls fighting to get Lexis’ role,

Clayton was chosen by the author of the book herself.

During her audition the author was present, watching each girl and looking for the right person to fit into Lexis’ character. After seeing Clayton audition, she chose her because she saw her as the ideal Lexi. This experience wasn’t completely new: Clayton had previous experience in acting and auditioning from school plays.

“When I was four I told my mom that I wanted to be ‘in the TV,’” said Clayton, but due to her mother’s work schedule she could never chase roles as a kid.

At the age of seven, when Clayton’s mom began working as a stay-at-home mom, Clayton and her sister got the chance to audition for roles. During that time, both sisters got an agent and Clayton started with her second dream, modeling.

“My first job was with Hallmark. I was on the cover of a ‘That’s So Raven’ party game,” she said.

After several years, someone who knew that both sisters modeled and had done some acting contacted them and gave them information

■ Refer to ‘CLAYTON’ on page 10



Swimming in Sound

Andrew Bird wows crowds at the Holland Performing Arts with his eclectic instrumental style.

See Inside, Page 10



Vintage Wonderland

Scout, a beloved local consignment and vintage shop is reviewed by The Register.

See Inside, Page 8



On Stage Sweetheart

Theater kid Alexia Childers sings her heart out in the Blue Barn Theatre’s version of ‘Spring Awakening.’

See Inside, Page 9

Four Central High School seniors make a big impact as they walk the runway for designers at 2012 Omaha Fashion Week

■ Continued from 'FASHION' on page 6

and strain it took for the weeks leading up to and the week of Omaha Fashion Week presented a challenge for Perry. "It's time consuming, that's the only thing," said Perry, "but if I'm not busy, I'd be interested in doing it in the Spring!"

Jessica Parks

For Jessica Parks, fashion wasn't her life. It didn't consume her, but in a way, it chose her.

Parks auditioned to participate in Omaha Fashion Week a couple of years ago without any expectations. At these model casting calls, models are entered into a "model pool" and are rated on a ten-point scale. This pool is used for the Omaha designers to peruse and hand-pick who they would like to represent their



PHOTO COURTESY OF RD PHOTOGRAPHY

Lena Wolcott strikes a pose on the Omaha Fashion Week stage. This was the senior's first time walking in the big event.

designs. Designers may attend auditions and spot a model right away. Most of the time, models' scores and pictures are sent out, and from that selection, designers choose their models.

After being told she hadn't made the cut, Parks was surprised to receive a call from designer Maximillian Suiter, a 17-year-old from Brownell Talbot. After that call, Parks would end up modeling for Suiter for two years.

For those who think modeling is about looking pretty in a dress, Parks begs to differ. On the difficulty of modeling, Parks commented, "It's very technical. There's a lot of stuff they [critics] can find wrong with you."

When asked where she would go with her modeling, Parks responded, "I like doing the runway...but it's not really a career... It's more of a hobby for me." However, Parks has gained life lessons from her experience. Parks commented, "You have to have a lot of confidence to keep your head up in the game because there will be a lot of critics."

Lena Wolcott

Her queue to go on stage was the "lady behind the curtain." Her walk was initiated by the beats of runway music and a rush of adrenaline as she followed her fellow models in Omaha Fashion Week (OFW). Senior Lena Wolcott experienced the "wonderful" feeling of being a "supermodel" as she walked down the OFW runway for the first time.

While the simple idea of walking as fiercely as possible down a long runway in off-the-wall, extravagant designer's clothes in front of flashing cameras and intrigued eyes sounds frightening to some, Wolcott was interested in the idea as soon as she caught a glimpse of one of her friend's photos from the previous OFW.

Pursuing the interest further, Wolcott went clad in a snug-shirt and skinny jeans to be measured, have her photo snapped, and walk a basic runway in order to be entered into the "model pool."

Wolcott, chosen by two designers Sella and Chad Carr, "felt very pampered" despite the tedious model training she received leading up to her debut. Modeling training hoped to prepare the models for what Wolcott described as "extra pressure" from walking in heels that towered an extra four to five inches.

For Sella, Wolcott modeled a green-hued evening dress, heels included, making the walk in the dress a tad bit more nerve-wracking.

For Chad Carr, Wolcott modeled Lagoon beach shorts that Wolcott described as "adorable summer shorts" appropriately paired with a bikini top to top off the tropical feel.

"I enjoyed modeling the beach shorts more because we got to go barefoot," said Wolcott, "so there wasn't any added pressure from the heels."

Heels were not the only thing to instill a pang of nervousness during Wolcott's walk; the crowd of two to three hundred made Wolcott nervous as well.

"Was I nervous? Oh yeah," said Wolcott, "in the hours leading up to walking on the runway it hadn't really registered I'd be modeling."

Despite her initial pang of fret as she stood in line waiting for her turn to rule the runway, she immediately felt "like a supermodel" as soon as she took front stage.

"Your heart flies out of your chest," said Wolcott.

Make-up and hair done by professional artists, the once in a lifetime opportunity to strut in local designer's work on a runway at Kaneko, and being photographed by paparazzi are only a small bonus in participating in Omaha Fashion Week. The relationships and connections Wolcott made only enhanced her "supermodel" experience that much more.

"Everyone is so warm; they understood I had no modeling experience and told me what to expect," said Wolcott, "I didn't

feel intimidated at all."

Wolcott gained friendships that she feels could "definitely" last outside of the six days of glamour. "Everyone is so normal, not the stereotypical snobby model," said Wolcott, "everyone is incredibly human."

These connections are what will draw Wolcott back next year, despite the fact that she hopes to attend an out-of-state college. From her experience in Omaha Fashion Week, Wolcott encourages any girl interested to take the step of faith and apply.

"There are so many kinds of beauty displayed there," said Wolcott, "I feel like every single girl at Central could be a part of Omaha Fashion Week if they wanted."

Audrey Giambattista

Audrey Giambattista discovered her passion for modeling one night a couple of years ago while strolling through downtown Omaha. Surprised to see a bedazzled outdoor runway (characteristic of the finale of OFW), Giambattista conducted research and auditioned for the next Omaha Fashion Week.

During this past OFW, Giambattista modeled for Ellene McClay, whose designs have a Gladiator or 300 feel to them. In one outfit, Giambattista's hair was lightly crimped and she sported silver straps that ran up one leg. Giambattista noted, "A lot of the designers are just inspired by something, and you can tell they just create their designs around that..." As Tyra Banks might say, Giambattista looked "fierce" in McClay's designs.

Giambattista has stayed loyal to Eliana Smith, whose designs Giambattista described as "sweet and girly." Every year, Smith creates a theme around which her clothing revolves. This year's theme was Paris. Last year's was India. Giambattista was chosen by Smith for a reason. Smith's designer page reads, "The women I design for have a natural beauty; they dress to enhance, not change. Her silhouettes are classic and chic..."

Print work is just as valuable as runway shows. While Giambattista does not intend to be a supermodel on the runway, she does see modeling in her future.

Giambattista recently signed with the Develop Model Management, or Development, which is owned and directed by Alyssa Dilts. Dilts has had international exposure and experience in the fashion world. In its two-hour per week courses, Development covers such topics as personality, respect, public speaking, fashion styling, confidence and poise on the runway as well as behind the camera.

On her choice to sign with Development, Giambattista commented, "I saw this as a really good opportunity to see how far I could go." After an 18-week course, graduates from the agency will compete to participate in Development's annual fashion show with scouts from top agencies in attendance. Family has played an important role in Giambattista's passion. Her mother has modeled before and sees a future for her daughter. Giambattista commented, "I think she wants to see me get farther than she did... My mom definitely is really supportive."

Conclusion

As the lights and cameras flashed for their last night of high-end fashion capture, models made their final stroll up and down the catwalk on closing night, Aug. 15, 2012.

The outfits for the last night of Omaha Fashion Week were the favorites of the designers, each choosing a specific set to display that night. All of the models were clad in flashy bling, dolled up do's, the highest of heels and never-before-seen designs.

Phoebe Perry, Jessica Parks, Lena Wolcott and Audrey Giambattista, each walked away with an experience unique to themselves and memories that will carry them through their futures as they graduate and go on to bigger and better things, fashion-involved or not.

With websites like YouTube, the internet trumps television for entertainment

I rarely watch television, and when I do, it's usually whatever my mom watches. I don't really find television that interesting, and seeing how today's shows aren't worth much, I'd rather be doing something else.

Usually for a person like me, the next best thing is the Internet (but you can only do so much until you get bored out of your mind). As I was going through random videos on YouTube, I stumbled upon a few videos that I found interesting and now I can't go a day without watching them. They became to me what *Pretty Little Liars* and *Jersey Shore* is to others. Those videos became more interesting than television, and in a way you could say Internet kill television for me.

Internet Killed Television is a sort of 'homemade' reality show, starring Charles Trippy, his wife Ali Trippy and their two adorable dogs, Zoey and Marley. The goal of *Internet Killed Television* is to film their lives every day for two years and upload it to their YouTube channel.

So far they have successfully uploaded videos every day without missing a day for a year, and in fact are currently on year four. *Internet Killed Television* is commonly known by its fan base as CTFxC, which stands for Charles Trippy Family Core.

The first video I ever saw was definitely not my last. I was instantly hooked on the type of show they had going on, and it was really interesting to almost be a part of their lives. What made it better was that these are (or were) people who weren't famous (but I'm pretty sure they are now).

Though at first it felt weird looking in on the lives of two strangers that I had no original interest of knowing, it was pretty darn cool to see how they lived. It's not every day that someone just lets you on in on his or her life. I guess all my fascination just started out with curiosity.

It may seem that if they only film their lives, it gets boring quickly, but it doesn't: these two are always up to something. And I mean come on, who can deny a cute dog video? They film day-

to-day stuff that most just overlook, but looking in from someone else's point of view is pretty interesting. They have also filmed many milestones in their lives, from Ali's graduation, to Charles' band and overcoming many obstacles to marriage.

One of their most famous videos is the proposal video. While studying abroad in Spain, Charles went to visit Ali and popped the question while capturing every moment of it. It became one of YouTube's most watched videos at the time. The second most famous, longest (34 min) and my all-time favorite video, is the wedding video. By the time of their wedding, I felt like I was already part of their lives and they a part of mine, so being able to watch the wedding was amazing; it felt like I was actually there.

But not everything was fun and games and lovey dovey for Charles and Ali. While on tour with his band, We the Kings, Charles suffered a seizure, which later resulted in him having a brain tumor.

After undergoing surgery, results revealed that the tumor was benign. You would imagine that, while going through such a difficult time in their lives, they would have stopped filming, in order to get privacy, but they didn't.

At this point I really felt like I belonged the CTFxC family and being able to support them through their trials and tribulations. Knowing what was going on was incredible. If I were in their position, I would have stopped filming long ago.

The CTFxC is like a family and I really feel like I'm a part of that; we are just one big happy family supporting them through everything that happens, good or bad.

I love how I can follow their lives and be able to experience new things through them. Now after watching so many videos and keeping up every day, I honestly feel like a part of the family. I will continue to watch as many videos as long as they keep making them. And if they stop, I can always go back to day one and relive tons of memories.

For me, the Internet Killed Television, and I'm glad it did, or else I would have never known these incredible people.



HAKUNA MATATA
A Column by San Juana Paramo

Facing the despicable reality of American obsession over celebrities, television

The American media revolves around celebrities.

Singers, songwriters, movie and television stars, athletes, reality television stars and rich people all share (and often fight bitterly for) the spotlight. There are some people who are famous simply because they are famous.

I ask you, does that make sense?

What is the purpose of reality TV? It's disgusting. I'm appalled to say that I've sat down and watched "Jersey Shore" and those Real Housewives of [Insert City] shows before, but indeed I have—and was lucky enough to escape from the insanity that somehow captures viewers from across the country. Instead of becoming obsessed with them I simply shook my head and lost a little faith in the human race.

Granted, I don't watch much television. But what I do watch does not involve people drinking and making asses out of themselves or fretting over the decorations at their dog's \$250,000 birthday party. Some of these people's lives are ridiculous enough to leave people like me with a sick feeling. And while some viewers of shows like these may try to claim that they simply watch for the entertainment, the question becomes: how can you find this entertaining? It's totally unrealistic and it often involves big-breasted women spending thousands of dollars on more plastic surgery (while they should be putting their money toward therapy) or unnaturally tanned parties...partying. And getting drunk and bringing strangers home and you know the rest.



I MADE THIS FOR YOU
A Column by Emily Beck

More questions: WHY would you ever let someone into your house with a camera? Are you really so vain that you think people care about every little thing that occurs in your life? The unfortunate thing is that most people with their own reality shows can answer both of these questions with yes. Because people like to sit around and watch the goings-on of other's lives, their lives must not be nearly as intriguing.

I can only view these shows for very brief periods of time, because unfortunately my mom sometimes watches them. On some show with one of the Kardashian sisters (because don't they have a couple shows by now?) I remember seeing her lying in bed, pouting and watching *Titanic* while she called her jerk of a fiancé (who was downstairs—could she really not get up to go talk to him?) and complained to him that she didn't have enough romance in her life. I just had to scoff at it all. Sorry if I don't want to watch some overprivileged rich woman complain about her life. I don't find that entertaining.

Another thing that bothers me: those awful, trashy gossip tabloids with grainy photos that you just know sleazy paparazzi are responsible for. And you know they probably got thousands of dollars from one quick snap of some television star without makeup on. How pathetic is that? A career that centers around stalking famous people, trying to humiliate them or show how much weight they've gained/lost. My main question here: who cares? Or perhaps a better question is: why do we care so much?

That is something that I really can't answer.

Why do the American people find celebrities so illustrious and interesting? Why do we need to follow them on Twitter, stalk them on the Internet and mindlessly sit on the couch and watch those gossip shows on E!?

Granted, not everyone famous is conceited: some choose to stay out of the spotlight, and are merely tortured or just never left alone by the public—or the publishers of those awful tabloids. I suppose they should know what they're getting into when they enter show business. But I do appreciate those who choose to not do stupid things or draw attention to themselves—clearly because they want to live as normal of a life as possible despite being in entertainment.

Granted, some reality television shows aren't all rotten. Some of the ones involving talent, like "American Idol," "The X Factor" and programs on VH1 like "America's Next Top Model" and those salon takeover shows—those aren't so awful, at least to me. At least there's some sort of competition or point to the show—to win something, to exhibit talent, etc.—instead of the show simply documenting the ridiculous lives of the rich and famous.

No wonder members of foreign countries often hate Americans, if this is the way we're choosing to portray ourselves. Not everyone in America is like that—not even a significant percentage of Americans are like that (I hope, anyway). Perhaps we should rethink our media in order to not humiliate ourselves...or we should put more emphasis on things that actually matter in our culture, like education. Ha! There's a thought.

“50 Shades of Grey” leaves reader largely unimpressed

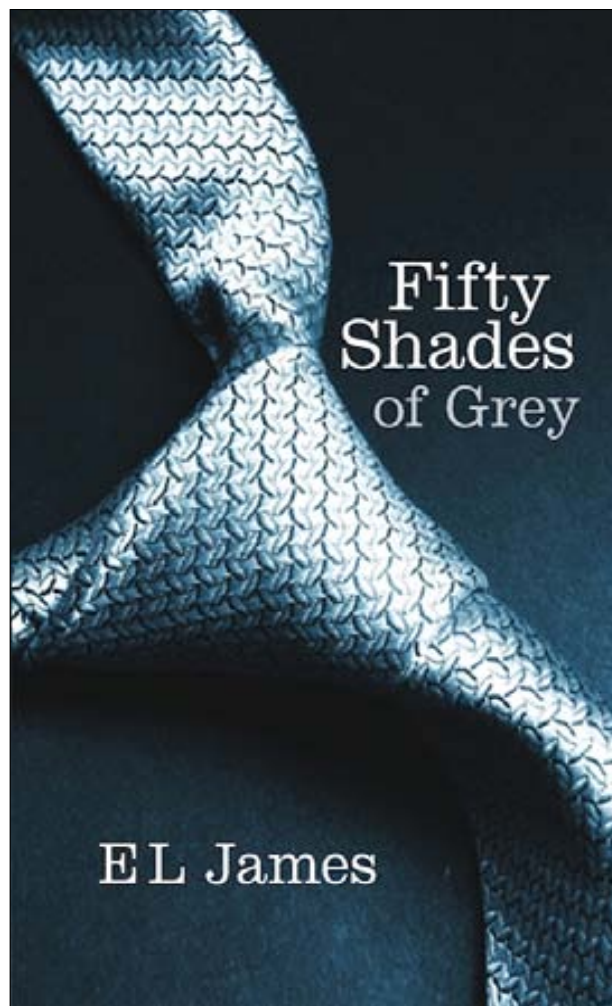


PHOTO COURTESY OF VINTAGE BOOKS PUBLISHING

CHEYENNE ALEXIS
Staff Writer

Many people have heard about it, bought it, read it, and fallen in love with its insanely erotic plot. But the book itself, once opened, causes everything inside your head to fall to the floor. It's downright painful reading this poorly-written novel.

The story, written by E.L. James, was published March 5, 2012, and it is one of the most popular, best-selling books out there. Not to mention that it is actually a trilogy. The story receives a good amount of compliments, admiration, and good and bad criticism. The bad criticism is what should strike readers, because most of it is true.

Firstly, the book is bad because there is hardly a meaning outside of it being erotic.

This story should *not* even begin to fit into a “Best Romance” or “Best Novel” category; the stories belonging in those categories should be possess a good meaning, a good message and a good plot. It doesn't even come *close* to being a gracious tale with a significant meaning.

Secondly, the story has some of the most aggravatingly horrid characters ever. When an author is thinking of preparing a hard-hitting novel, a good thing to do is identify the characters. What will they be like? What will their morals be? Who will they associate with? Will they have a strong or poor impact on the readers? Will the readers even like them?

If the character is a narrator, then they definitely need to be someone the reader does not forget. The narrator of “50 Shades of Grey,” Anastasia Steele, is definitely one no one will forget, even if they are trying to. From her awkward behavior, to her shy personality, and to her frequent, irritating blushing, she is one of those I-want-to-punch-you-so-hard-in-the-face characters. The reason she is so annoying is because she is with a guy who punishes her and wants nothing but control over her, yet she still stays with him even if she wants more and he won't give it to her.

Then there's the second character, Christian Grey, the wealthy, handsome CEO. He is the man Anastasia is with,

and he's a control freak and just a bit psychotic. Yes, he is one of those characters to hate, too. Basically, E.L. James' characters are just not very addictive, and they tend to get immensely annoying.

Thirdly, the next reason that the story is lacking literature is due to the whole plot.

Most people who have heard of this story know it probably because of its erotic plot. (This story, by the way, is highly recommended strictly for mature audiences.) The plot consists of bondage, BDSM, and themes of abuse, so that is why it is just not for kids or people who are sensitive to those types of things.

Anastasia meets Christian, she falls for him, and they run off and begin their erotic relationship. . . . how touching.

Again, the story is for mature audiences only, but even so, there are some scenes in this story that are highly

disturbing, and at times even disgusting. This plot leaves one thinking just, “What?” throughout the whole story. To think it's a trilogy! How many more intimate scenes can one person write in two more stories without being redundant? The first one already has about 20!

A fourth reason this story is not good is because the genre of the story is false. It's known as an erotic romance, and while it is insanely erotic, there is hardly a sprinkle of romance. What person wants to read a romance story with no romance?

A fifth reason this story is not good is because it is so poorly written. No grammatical errors are present, sure, and it's written in present tense, which may be easier to read. So, two bonus points.

It's the structure that is so bothersome. The end of the paragraphs and the end of the chapters usually all end off with no clincher, just a random sentence used for decoration, so it seems. The end just has someone thinking, “What just happened?”

Why must people be so blinded into thinking stories like this is good? It's not at all considered literature. People learn no significant meaning, no nice message, so it's almost like a fan-fiction.



Marching Band and cheerleaders contribute to Omaha Metro Improvement Campaign

EMILY BECK
Executive Editor-in-Chief

The 2012 United Way of the Midlands Campaign began with a bang the afternoon of Wednesday, Aug. 29 with a parade down Capitol Avenue. Leading the celebration despite the sweltering heat was Central's own marching band and cheerleading squad. Among the approximately 1,000 people who attended were donors and volunteers involved in the cause. Also in attendance were Creighton's Billy Blue Jay mascot and the band Lemon Fresh Day.

The campaign's theme was dubbed “The Power of Change;” the main goal which United Way of the Midlands is trying to reach consists of raising \$23.45 million to go toward bettering the community. This will be done through financial support that United Way provides to health and human service clinics and programs across Omaha and parts of Iowa. Another overall goal is to make improvements to the Omaha area, which will benefit current citizens—as well as generations to come.

According to its website, United Way of the Midlands is an organization that works to “unite people and resources to improve the quality of life in the Midlands” through determining what is needed in a community, working to obtain community resources and then distributing said resources. United Way is helping to organize workplace fundraisers to obtain the necessary finances. Donations will probably come from area businesses and corporations as well; the organization hopes that at least 80,000 people will also donate, according to the Omaha World Herald.

“I think it's really cool that so many powerful organizations and people are supporting compassion and those in need instead of their own bottom line,” said Patrick Nolan, junior and marching band member. “Especially when so many people have enough to worry about themselves.”

This “investment” will lead to “better family units” and “better neighborhoods” according to Dan O'Neill, president of First National Bank, as quoted in a piece by the Omaha World Herald. The campaign itself is set to last for two months.

While Central may not have been donating funds, the school still donated time, talent and entertainment. Representation in the community is part of the Central Way, and through acts like these the school is upholding its longstanding legacy. Nolan enjoyed being a part of the message that was sent out to all in attendance, as well being included in a campaign that will help to change Omaha for the better.

“It was inspiring,” said Nolan, “and I think it's something that we as a community in Omaha can be very proud of.”

Lake, beach, sun and sky: Senior reflects on a long summer spent at Lewis and Clark Lake

Waves. The sound of the tide coming up the shore. Air. The feel of the breeze rushing through my hair. Fish. The smell of all of the many creatures in the water. White caps. The look on people's faces as they glide over the water, calm or rough. Splash. The taste of the water spraying you underneath of the boat. This is the life. My life.

Have you ever found a place to go that makes you feel so comfortable and so relaxed that you wish you could stay there all the time? But you feel as though if you're there too much, it will cease to be your favorite place? This is my favorite place. The Lake. The Lewis and Clark Lake. Yankton, South Dakota.

Every summer, I am there so often that it may as well be my summer home. In fact, some of my friends that I see up in Yankton live there every summer. My family somewhat wants me to live there in the summer as well, because I could work there. But at times, I think, maybe they're just trying to get rid of me. Who knows these days?

We do stay up there for a fair amount of time each visit, usually camping. I wouldn't call it camping though, because we have air conditioning, showers, heaters, electricity and more. And we're just at the lake for about most of the day. It's more like luxury...or “glamping.”

I never knew why I fell in love with this place; maybe because it was forced upon me. My parents went up even before I was born. So when I was a baby, I just went right along with everything. I mean, at that age you really don't have a say in anything.

The water just makes me think of so much and makes me feel so much. When you're cruising down, you just don't know what's in front of you, and you really don't

have a care in the world.

When you're tubing, skiing, and wakeboarding you have more cares though. Like c'mon, you don't want to fall and get hurt. You have to keep your balance, watch where you're headed and hold on tight, and do it all at once. Think of it as a hard life.

This is my life. Maybe because everyone is so happy where we go and everyone can enjoy what they love together.

There are no worries and you trust just about everyone. There aren't many places like that here nowadays in the world. You have to look closely and explore.

I would love to show everybody what the fuss is about and what makes it so enjoyable, but I can't. Sorry, it's mine and I will fight to the death for it. And people just don't enjoy it as much as we or they ruin it, for example, thinking they can love it

like I do.

I will never not enjoy my, as people would say “happy place” because it calms me and keeps me going, which is why I can never stop going. I wish I could go there more though.

I wouldn't even have to get in the boat. I would sit at the dock and watch the waves come running up and watch the seagulls fly by in their monstrous flocks.

But the best things are, closing my eyes and just listening. Listening to the people. Listening to the waves. And listening to the breeze.

Going there is one of the best things that has happened to me and has become better and more exciting each time. I will always go there no matter how far away I am from it, and no matter how old I live to be.



NEVER WOULD I EVER
A Column by Jennifer Rooney



PHOTOS BY MAYA DURFEE O'BREIN/THE REGISTER

Omaha's favorite vintage clothing store may have been around for a few years now, but it continues to offer a cheap alternative to clothing shopping, serving Omaha with lightly used, older fashions.

Unique shop caters to both genders

MAYA DURFEE O'BREIN
Staff Writer

You may think that in order to shop at one of Dundee's best clothing stores, you have to fit the cookie cutter image: hipster vintage, fan of old-school music, ombre hair style, just the perfect hint of turquoise, perhaps a bird tattoo, and at least one pair of orphan-style boots just in time for fall.

Well, yes, Scout Clothing Store does support their faithful hipster crowd, however, at the end of the day, Scout is for anyone who likes to look hip and cool, while trying to keep their image on a budget.

Scout is a secondhand store located in the heart of Dundee open 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and Sunday hours are 12 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The inside of Scout is what I enjoy most: while the outside is pretty, with their awesome logo design, and a planter with flowers in the window, inside Scout the décor is amazing.

The way the store looks is also a unique aspect of Scout. Let's just say they know how to visually appeal to their specific customers.

What catches you in the windows may be their unique window design, something you may not see at the mall. After the window catches your eye, you head inside to see a large room stuffed with clothing, but presented in a way that reminds you of going to someone's home.

The furniture is unique, the manikins have kitten heads, there are paintings on the wall, and nearly everything appears hand made. And if it's not, I'm sure they mean for it to look as such. The handmade décor makes the whole store fun and inviting. Most staff I have encountered have taken pride in working at the store.

The store itself is rather organized. All of the T-shirts are arranged together by size, and so is the rest of the store, which includes: dresses, pants, skirts, coats, sweaters, shirts, shoes and even men's clothing.

Around the store one will find a few mannequins with uniquely styled outfits. Accessorizing is a must and Scout understands that.

Up in the front of the store by the cash register, they have a small range of distinctive accessories. Some are even vintage.

Scout specializes in vintage clothes. You'll

find labels from designers of the past. And looks you won't find anywhere else. In addition to buying you can also sell your gently used, stylish clothes.

Depending on the condition each item is in Scout may or may not take them. Let's just say they are a little picky which is good because their customers will always know they are getting the best garments.

The amount of money you get back depends on the item, but store credit is usually the way to go, as you receive more in credit than in cash.

Girls, Scout is not just for you. Scout has men's attire as well. They have everything from belts to jeans.

So for the trendy male come to Scout. Boys you can sell your clothes here as well.

Ever heard of shopping on wheels? Well Scout's mobile shop Lil' Scoutie – a 1963 aloha camper according to ilovescout.com, is just that a shop on wheels. This camper is fully equipped with everything from dresses to shoes.

Some places Lil' Scoutie has visited this summer includes: Benson Days, Maha Music Festival and Dundee Day.

The camper itself is quite cute. Lil' Scoutie sports the same kitschy little knick knacks as in the main store. I would say that Lil' Scoutie is a mini version of Scout. A replica.

I am sure many of you high school students do not have a lot of money.

Lucky for you Scout has the perfect option for those of you who love a steal of a deal. The \$1.00 sale features cute clothes that are piled into bins, stuffed to the top, and almost to the point of overflowing.

Sometimes these sales get crazy. So go early, scope out the items you like and you will be sure to find some fashionable clothes, on a budget. Think about it you can get a whole outfit for under \$20.

That is something to be proud of. Scout opened four years ago, which seems like such a short time. The first time I walked into the store I fell in love.

There is so much Scout has to offer for men and women, and all for a reasonable price.

Their vintage clothing is a little pricey but still less than the retail cost, while keeping true to your love of good-quality of vintage clothing.

Whether you're hanging out in Dundee or you are just wanting to go somewhere that sells noteworthy pieces, Scout is a great place to shop.



Childers chases dream of becoming professional actress



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXIA CHILDERS

Alexia Childers performs in The Blue Barn Theater's rendition of "Spring Awakening" this past summer.

ELISSA WIENER
Staff Writer

Two years ago the Blue Barn in the Old Market decided to put on the musical *Spring Awakening*. This "musical is actually an adaptation of a play written in 1891 which was very controversial at the time.

The show was put with very modern rock music which is basically, mind-blowing. It's a fantastic show. And relatable to teenagers because it's all about them," the brilliant singer and actress, junior Alexia Childers, tells.

She got the chance to play a part in this magnificent show at the young age of 15. Before the show Childers hadn't truly been into theater for that long.

"I've always been around theater," Childers states, "My mom worked at the Dundee Dinner Theater until I was eight, and I was always around there. Because my parents knew so many theater people, I did some shows just as an extra when I was younger. I really got started doing it in eighth grade when I assistant directed my first show. Then, I was in every school show I possibly could."

After being assistant director for just one show, everything changed for Childers and her focus in life shifted and centered on the art of theater.

Theater always attracts many people but everyone has a different reason for loving it, or several in Childers' case.

For one "it gives me an opportunity to become someone else and learn their story then, to the best of my abilities portray them. [This] is really cool if you think about it, I get to become someone else if only for a couple hours." Childers said.

"Another reason why I like it so much is because, I'm weird. I am a complete dork. I used to be shy and awkward and very uncomfortable with myself, theater really helped me express myself and come out of my shell. It made me feel less like a complete misfit and more like a member of the island of misfit toys."

This "born and raised" Omaha girl had been around theater for a while before really choosing to pursue it.

Her inspiration for theater came close to home and influenced her daily.

"My mom is definitely my biggest influence. She inspires me with the things she's done. I still love hearing the stories of her show experiences. She is my inspiration. I love finding tapes of shows she did when I was little and just being in awe at her talent. I hope when/if I have kids I can show them the ancient VHS tapes of her. She's amazing."

So even though she had been around theater her whole life, and her mom had been around theater for a while also, and she didn't get started on it until later in her life, her mom was still her biggest inspiration.

But while her mom may have been her best encouragement, it was her sister that brought her to *Spring Awakening*.

"I... learned about the show from my older sister. She played the music in the car all the time and I fell in love with it. I actually got to see it in Lincoln at the LIED center the spring of my freshman year."

Once Childers heard about the tryouts at the Blue Barn she "auditioned for *Spring Awakening* just purely for audition experience. Because of the content of the show, I was sure they wouldn't cast little 15 year old me. I can still remember sitting in my Honors Chemistry class last year and getting a call saying they wanted me to come back and do a callback. I'd never been so shocked in my life."

Because she was cast, many may think that Childers gave a tremendous audition that she knew would leave the casting directors wanting more, however if you ask her you would get a different answer.

"...I am awful at auditioning. I get so incredibly nervous. I shake like a chihuahua in the winter, [it's] that bad. [at] The first audition, I sang the song "Breathe" from *In The Heights* and read a short snippet from the show. I left that audition feeling awkward and very young. Callbacks however, were much better. We actually had two rounds of callbacks. The first one, we danced and sang, and the second one we just sang. It was an amazing experience, and I wish I could do it again with more confidence."

Auditions for Childers and the show itself were completely different experiences for her. Compared to auditioning, the show was one of the best plays ever performed.

"I could talk all day about how amazing *Spring Awaken-*

ing was. It was full of learning experiences. I got to work with extraordinarily talented humans. It was crazy to think that they were all older than me. I learned so much about myself by doing that show. I honestly feel so lucky. I'm still going through show withdrawal. I miss that feeling I got at every rehearsal or show when I'd hear us all sing together. It was a crazy, butterflies in the tummy, tingling in your toes, mind boggling experience. I miss it."

Childers has had many great accomplishments during her short time in theater.

She has worked extremely hard for each one.

"I'm honestly proud of every role I've ever done... It just makes me proud and humbled that directors cast me."

Aside from the actual roles, Childers declares one of her best accomplishments is "just realizing how much I've grown and changed as an actress and even a person because of theater."

Theater has shaped and molded her life into what it is today.

Once acting took hold of her life it didn't let go and she doesn't plan on letting it leave anytime soon.

"I have no idea what the future holds for me. I want so badly to continue on with my theater career and reach that point of being on Broadway. That would be legitimately the coolest thing ever. However, it's incredibly competitive and it takes your whole being to commit to that. I don't know what my future holds, but Broadway is always in the back of my mind."

So Childers will continue to work as hard as possible to achieve the biggest dreams in the world right alongside unforgettable actors like Julie Andrews and Alan Rickman.

And perhaps one day people will see her name on a big neon sign in Times Square displaying the title to the biggest and best Broadway musical of the year and in the middle it will say starring award winning singer/actress Alexia Childers.

It made me feel less like a complete misfit and more like a member of the island of misfit toys.
~ Alexia Childers



PHOTO COURTESY OF ALEXIA CHILDERS

Junior reflects on the joys of cracking open a good book for relaxation, learning

When I was in elementary school I loved reading, reading new books that came out in the library at my school made me so happy.

My favorite time of the school year was when parent-teacher conferences happened so I could see all the books at the book fair that took over the front entry to the school. All the new books that haven't been read by anyone yet and still had that fresh new book smell.

Other than the book fair at my school I could sit in Borders or Barnes & Noble for hours on end trying to figure out what book I would want to buy that day. Looking back to elementary school I loved to read *The Magic Tree House* books.

I believe I had the whole series of the books. Every time a new book came out in the series I made sure I got the book and read it a couple of time before I could put the book down. That is how I was with every book I read or even saw in some cases. Well in some cases that was most cases. I loved to read and I couldn't get enough of it, it was my addiction.

But, as I got older I got less excited to read. As soon as I knew it I was in sixth grade and I didn't read at all because I thought it was uncool for some odd reason. The only book I remember I actually read that year was *Twilight*. Yes, I know, very sad that I actually choose to read that book. And yes I do regret reading it most of the time. I refused to read because I wanted to be cool and not read.

In seventh grade I only read when I had to because everyone in my grade that was cool didn't read and I wanted to be just like them.

But then a year later I realized how much I loved to read when I was cleaning out of room and found so many books from my childhood and I wanted to read for fun again. So I did. I didn't care if people thought it was uncool I loved to read so much.

Throughout my high school career I have found books can help out with life problems or at least I think books can help. It can also bring down stress levels by relaxing me and creating my own little world in the book I am reading.

I also learned what kind of books I like to read. I sometimes like reading about happy ending at the end of the book but most of the time I don't want to read that, because it is not real and it doesn't happen in real life.

I like reading books that seem like that the plot could happen in the real world not some little fairy tale that is like every other book. I like real books with real plots and characters from the real world.

So it took me a couple of years just a couple to figure out that I love reading and I will never regret it because I think it will take me somewhere in life. Even if it is just to library reading makes me happy and I will never forget that.



MY NAME IS PAUL
A Column by Stephanie Paul



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNIVERSAL STUDIOS

The Campaign brings to light all the humorous, dirty tricks of American Politics

SAN JUANA PARAMO
Staff Writer

The Campaign clearly shows what many would imagine politics to be if they were just about winning, and neither candidate could be punished for his or her actions, as absurd and illegal as they might be (a complete paradox to campaigns today). Cam Brady (Will Ferrell) might be your typical political candidate if it wasn't for his teenager-like actions (among his actions are promising more than he can offer, being completely stupid and only caring about power). Marty Huggins (Zack Galifianakis) is your typical yet completely weird, hard-working American with no political knowledge whatsoever.

When Brady runs for his fifth term for North Carolina's 14th District Congress unopposed, his chances of winning are ruined when his reputation of a law-abiding Christian husband are shattered after he accidentally leaves a sexually explicit voice message on a local family's phone. Corrupt businessmen and brothers Glen (John Lithgow) and Wade Motch (Dan Aykroyd) seize the opportunity to convince Huggins to run against Brady on the Republican ticket, as part of a plan to profit from illegal dealings with Chinese companies. Criticizing modern American elections and filled with the competitiveness of election season, inappropriate behavior almost everywhere, and two grown men fighting like children to do anything it takes to win, this movie is defiantly laugh out loud funny.

Cam at first underestimates Marty and humiliates him by playing a video biography highlighting Marty's dim-witted nature. The Motch brothers then hire Tim Wattlely (Dylan McDermott) to be Marty's campaign manager. Tim reinvents Marty as a successful entrepreneur and family man. Marty's popularity rises due to his effective campaign while Cam's is further damaged when he accidentally punches a baby.

Getting back at Marty, Cam runs a campaign ad portraying Marty as an Al Qaeda terrorist, and Marty exposing Cam as a fake Christian by asking him to recite the Lord's Prayer live during a convention which he fails to do. Resulting in Cam attending a church of snake handlers to restore his religious image, but gets bitten and a video of the bite is leaked going viral and increasing his popularity. At this point both are in a race to gain popularity, doing whatever it takes to over throw each other as stupid as it may be.

Marty then portrays Cam as dim-witted by publishing a "communist manifesto" that Cam had written in 2nd grade, and later showing a video of Cam's son addressing Marty as "dad". A furious Cam attacks Marty, resulting in Cam accidentally punching Uggie, the dog from *The Artist*, once more suffering in his popularity levels. Cam gets revenge on Marty by seducing his neglected wife Mitzy (Sarah Baker) and recording the act. The released sex tape humiliates the Huggins family and causes Cam's campaign manager, Mitch (Jason Sudeikis), to abandon him.

Marty retaliates by shooting Cam in the leg on a hunting trip, increasing his own popularity.

As the election nears, Marty with the lead and Cam slightly behind, he starts to contemplate if what he's doing is the right

thing and whether he wants to run or not, but is pressured by his wife Rose, (Katherine LaNasa) who in the end leaves him seeing that his campaign is a complete failure and his chances of winning are slim to none. He decides to visit Marty and tells him the real reason why he went into politics.

Marty decides to drop out realizing the plans the Motch brothers have with China. The Motch brothers then decide to take Cam back and use him as their puppet instead, hiring Tim Wattlely to clean up his campaign and his act along the way. Though Rose and Cam are on verge of divorce, the Motch brothers pay her to make appearances and show the public that they are in fact the 'perfect' American family.

The movie makes perfect, but not clean fun, at elections today. Saturating politicians and corrupt businessmen who try to bribe politicians into doing whatever they please. Will Ferrell is at his best in this movie, working great as both an actor and comedian. Zack Galifianakis character can be related to people by his shyness and awkwardness, his acting in the film made everything as believable as possible.

As elections are just around the corner, the movie shows people that like Cam and Marty, politicians will do anything to get the public to vote for them.

Just not to the extent that they did, though it would get more people's attention and maybe then the voting rates would go up, a fight to the fittest style election. The movie overall is targeted to grownups in general and people who like politics, or are up for a good laugh.



Swimming in Sound: Andrew Bird at the Holland



PHOTO BY EMILY BECK/THE REGISTER

Andrew Bird (middle) plays the violin, the instrument he is best known for. Bird has a musical method of looping sounds, such as whistling, his violin, and other instruments to create a unique sound.

Musician Andrew Bird impresses at the Holland Performing Arts Center on August 20th, delivering a musical experience that has been described as “surreal,” and leaves audiences floating on sound.

EMILY BECK
Executive Editor-in-Chief

Andrew Bird does not play music. He is music.

Or at least that's how I was feeling the night he came to Omaha (Monday, Aug. 20).

Bird came onstage to deafening applause, said nothing to the crowd and began playing. I don't think that he had a set song; he literally played what was flowing through his head at the moment. Such is the beauty of the music of Andrew Bird, an incredible musician whose specialty, apart from whistling, singing and guitar, is the violin. He does an incredible thing with looping, where he plays a melody, loops it and plays it over while continuing to add to the sound, harmonizing in a way that could make angels weep.

Soon it sounded like an entire orchestra composed just of violins was serenading us.

It's difficult to pin the genre that his music falls under. Some would just stick with indie, which is what I consider him to be—he's sort of a wild card, blending lots of classic instrumentals and whistling into rock songs (but only on some of his tracks). It is best for the individual listener to pin him into his/her own category—but maybe he's unpinable, a unique free spirit. I'm not going to pretend that I know much about music, or how to really describe it well—I'm going to apologize right now for my lack of knowledge concerning musical terms, etc. The only thing I really know how to do is listen and appreciate.

The other three members of his band snuck onstage while he was engulfed in a song, rich blue light engulfing him.

My mouth hung open for at least the first half hour—when I wasn't beaming like a child given too much sugar. I had to keep grabbing my friend's shirt to remind myself that it was all real.

Bird and his band played roughly half of their latest album, *Break It Yourself*, which shares its name with the tour. They also played a combination of older songs, and one new one called *Something Biblical*. Bird told the crowd that they'd been working on a new record, which would begin recording that week.

At one point near the end of the show, Bird began doing a crazy loop of his whistles, and soon the auditorium sounded as though it had been invaded by a colony of songbirds—a surreal experience.

Let me take a minute to compliment the entire Holland Performing Arts Center (located downtown, only several minutes away from Central): the venue is beautiful, the seats are comfort-

able, the acoustics and overall sound is of the purest quality and the employees are friendly and helpful, ensuring a smooth and pleasant experience. I usually don't pay very much attention to lights, but the ones in this show were superb; they definitely added to the surreal feeling of the show. The entire Holland reeks of class, and it was the perfect host for the likes of Andrew Bird. Even he said that it felt as though he were swimming in sound.

At least three times Bird asked us how we were doing. “Is everybody okay?” he said kindly. “I just need to know.” This elicited yet more chuckles from the crowd, as well as just about everything else that he stopped to say—which wasn't much compared to other performers I've seen. Usually bands and singers take a large chunk sometime during the concert to talk about themselves, but Andrew Bird did not. He allowed the music to speak for him, which I could not appreciate more (not that I wouldn't like to hear about him. If he spoke, let me tell you, I would listen).

He really does come across as a funny fellow, and it's obvious that he writes and performs simply for the music, simply because it is ingrained into his soul. He was made to make music. Bird often closed his eyes and wove a hand or his violin bow about in the air as he sang, and at one point, while gathered around a microphone with a guitar and bass player, managed to stab the bass player in the head with his bow. But he didn't notice because he was so in tune with what he was playing—and I still wonder if anyone else noticed this.

The performer has a wry sense of humor that engendered laughs from the audience throughout the evening. At the conclusion of the show he received a standing ovation and, much to everyone's delight, returned onto the stage with his other band members to play several more songs. When he said his final good night to us, he had been playing for roughly two hours, and I had gotten a lovely fill of the illustrious Andrew Bird. I drew feelings of content from the entire experience, although I do wish he would have stepped out into the area outside of the auditorium to mingle with members of the crowd. That probably would have occurred if the show had been at a smaller venue such as the Slowdown—and maybe he did come out after a while, but unfortunately I did not stick around to find out.

The only thing that could have made this experience better would have been an opportunity to meet the famous Bird, who I can definitely say is my favorite musician. A picture with him would have been icing on the fine cake that the evening was, but at least the lack thereof provides me with something to dream about happening sometime in the future.

Because the next time that Andrew Bird returns to Omaha to play a show, you better believe that I will be in the crowd, gazing at the talent that never ceases to amaze.



Central sophomore becomes local movie star, securing a small role in *The Boarder*

■ **CLAYTON:** Continued from page 6

considering the movie. “I read for Lexi and was invited back for a table read in Ravenna, Neb., where I was cast,” said Clayton.

The filming for the movie started in Oct. of Clayton's eighth grade year, but word didn't get around until the finishing of the movie and its debut during her freshman year. Clayton worked with a huge cast; most of which were from Calif., and her being the only Omaha native put a certain type of pressure. Clayton's filming for her scenes lasted three weeks, during that time she was homeschooled on set with five other kids on set.

Clayton sees a lot of herself in Lexi, finding similarities on how active both are in school, sports and other common interests. Because of the many similarities, portraying her character came natural to her, therefore she had no problem getting into character. The difficulty was also lessened because her acting coach assisted her and the crew and actors were welcoming. Clayton also found the experience to play the role of an adopted daughter interesting, giving her insight on something she wasn't as aware of.

McKenzie's family was very supportive, but no one knew just how much attention the movie

would get. “When I was casted, I was excited, my parents supported me but didn't know what to expect,” said Clayton.

Clayton likes acting and dreams of someday becoming an actress, and sees this opportunity as something she can take away from. Clayton notes that this opportunity pushes her to strive to make her dreams come true.

“I would like to do more acting and have been invited to Los Angeles, by an agency,” said Clayton.

When word got around in school of her acting debut, things got a little crazy, but says everyone was always supportive of her. Passionate about acting, Clayton plans on going to college to further pursue her dreams.

McKenzie has not felt any regret regarding her participation in the film; meeting new friends, gaining more acting experience and the potential to get her name out on the acting scene made the experience even better.

From here Clayton hopes to work in more movies, and sees herself doing just that. Though she is open to any type of movie, she likes working in movies that help get a message across and raise awareness on something we know little to nothing about.

Child's movie brings values of acceptance back around to both adults and children

■ **ODD LIFE:** Continued from page 6

Sentimentality and mushy-gushy overcrowd the movie, making the only few times of laughs the times that Timothy cracks a joke (one of the many traits that the couple specifically wishes for) or two.

If a happy-go-lucky, light-hearted movie is what you are searching for, than ‘The Odd Life of Timothy Green’ is not your speed. The movie perfectly executes the trials and tribulations of parenthood and growing up, to the point that you can begin to sympathize with the characters.

While the plot is essentially picturesque, the actors and actresses bring a professionalism to the screen that enhances the movie greatly.

Movie veteran, Garner, who played the infertile mother, already experienced with a role similar to this in ‘June’, takes on the task as ‘Cindy Green’ wonderfully. Garner's maternal side is prominent in the role, yet still presenting a quirky aspect, something fresh and fun pertaining to young mothers.

Edgerton also executed the part as a “be the dad I didn't have” type of father perfectly, as a young, handsome married-guy who's paternal instincts blossom with time. Edgerton's father

character is a passionate, driven man who means to do no wrong, and all the aspects both typical and non-typical are brought to the screen fluently from Edgerton.

Most important to the film, CJ Adams, the flippy-brown-haired-boy with peculiarities that become endearing to the heart. For eleven years-old and his first film, Adams does a tremendous job portraying the innocence and heartfelt nature of an uncommon boy.

‘Pure Goodness’ strikes again in Disney's sickly sweet ‘The Odd Life of Timothy Green’ with the Disney promise of a blockbuster movie suitable for family's consisting of any age.

Fan of Saturday Night Live fearful of the show's survival after major cast members resign

On Saturday at 10:30 I always find my way home, put on my most comfortable clothes and get cozy on the couch with a bag of popcorn. I turn the channel to NBC and wait for the show to begin. “Live from New York... it's Saturday Night!” These iconic words ring throughout my room and this week's episode of *Saturday Night Live* has started.

The first episode of *Saturday Night Live* was aired on October 11, 1975 but was originally named NBC's Saturday Night. The late-night show was created by Lorne Michaels and developed by Dick Ebersol.

The show itself is series of skits and sketches that portray hilarious scenarios of American culture and politics. The sketches are performed by a large cast group who are hand-picked for their comedic side and spot-on impressions. Each week a different celebrity travels to 30 Rockefeller in New York City to host the show and act in the sketches with a wonderful musical guest who performs a number for the live studio audience.

In the 1970s every Saturday night, no matter who you were, you would stop whatever you were doing, find the closest T.V. and laugh you heart out with sketches like “Mr. Bill” and “Samurai Taylor”.

It was this way for years. Saturday Night Live was just the thing to see every weekend. As the show became older and the original members of the cast fanned out the annual viewers decreased. Of course, the show was still wildly popular but not drop-what-ever-you're-doing-and-watch popular. Nowadays everyone knows of the show but only some people watch it. I am definitely one of those people. Now.

Five years ago I had heard of SNL but I never really thought it pertained to me so I had no reason to care about it. I saw sketches from it and heard Andy Samberg's SNL Digital Shorts but the fact of the matter is I didn't even know it was from Saturday Night Live. A few years later, I heard Betty White, one of my favorite actresses of all time, had already hosted the show and I had

missed it. Well, I could never miss out on Betty White so I searched online for the hour-long late night comedy. Eventually I found a watchable version and I popped in my headphones and pressed play. From the very first sketch, The Lawrence Welk Show, I was laughing until tears sprang into my eyes. I quickly ran through Betty White's sidesplitting monologue and onto “Scared Straight” and ending with “The Delicious Dish”. After I finished that episode I decided I had to move on and watch more and more. I started with the end of season five and then waited for six to begin. For the next two years my Saturdays were filled with uproarious laughter and amazing musical guests. I learned every cast member by name, face, and voice. I fell in love with every detail of the show and I haven't looked back since. Until now.

At the end of this 37th season, Kristen Wiig announced she was leaving. She had been my favorite cast member and one of the best actresses on the show for years. She was a huge part of the reason my love for the show never waned. Her departure struck me hard. As if that wasn't enough, my favorite male actor, Andy Samberg, decided to leave the show also. I had been watching Andy Samberg and The Lonely Island's Digital Shorts before I even knew where they came from. Often times the SNL Digital Shorts were my favorite part of the whole episode. With my two favorite cast members gone, Abby Elliot's broadcasted resignation was more than I could take. I'm just not sure how the show can continue its high standards while being out two of its best performers.

Of course Michaels is always recruiting new cast members, including Kate McKinnon, who made her debut this past season on episode 18 hosted by Sophia Vergara with musical guest One Direction. Her first big sketch, the Pantene commercial, was a huge hit and people saw just how successful she could be on SNL. Hopefully, this summer Michaels located some other wonderful comedians to hire in an effort to keep the Saturday Night Live magic alive. In the words of Weekend Update's Chevy Chase, “Goodnight and have a pleasant tomorrow.”



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND
A Column by Elissa Wiener

SPORTS

New Chapter for Central's Star Player

Senior Akoy Agau has had quite the road to travel, but all has lead to this: his senior year, looking forward to a professional career in college basketball. Agau reflects on the past and looks to his future with the University of Louisville.

ELISSA WIENER
Staff Writer

"...one hell of a prospect and could be a great player at the next level..."
"Shows flashes of becoming a dominant force in time..."
"...he sure is a dang good player."

These are just a few of the remarks that are being made about Central senior Akoy Agau. Agau is one of Central's star basketball players. Right now, Agau's future could follow many different possible paths, most of with basketball at their centers. What most don't know is that when Agau was younger, having a career in basketball wasn't something he dreamed of or even wanted to pursue. He didn't even become serious about it until he moved to Omaha, which was his fourth home.

"I was originally born in Sudan, and I lived there until I was about the age of seven. Then from Sudan I moved to Egypt and I lived there for about a year and a half. After Egypt I moved to the United States...to Maryland. I was there for about a year also and then from Maryland I moved to Omaha and I've been in Omaha ever since," said Agau.

Before he moved to the States, sports and school weren't at the center of his day. "It was definitely different. When I lived in Africa, I didn't go to school, I... helped around the house, a lot more work and it was just a lot different. It wasn't anything like the US is. [The] cars and the technology and everything was a whole lot different and you just actually had to do manual labor yourself." While every kid undoubtedly goofs off with a ball in front of his house with a group of friends, there were no serious sports for Agau until he moved.

It was first here in Omaha that Agau started to become serious about basketball. Before his move to Nebraska he was not even a basketball player. In Maryland, he had originally been devoted to soccer.

"When I first moved to the U.S...I used to be a soccer player and then...I was taller than everyone and everyone thought I was super big... I thought I was pretty normal, but they [were] just...like 'you're tall, you should play basketball.' [I] did it a little bit for fun, [but I] wasn't really serious about it and didn't really start getting serious until...I moved to Omaha" Agau stated.

Basketball has seriously changed his life, especially the obvious career paths that have opened up because of it. However, playing has also impacted the way he lives. When he was younger, sports were just for fun--but now sports have a powerful influence in his day-to-day life.

"I would say basketball is the sport that I really love and it's something that I could say... is like my peaceful place," Agau said. "I could be mad, I could be happy, sad, angry... [and] I just feel a lot better when I'm doing it." Everyone has that one activity or pastime that can change an outlook or make something easier to deal with, that one sanctuary.

Discovering basketball has given Agau not only a paradise but "the success I've had with it has just been really helpful and it's really done a lot for me," he said.

Finding a calling in basketball has really shaped Agau's future and he has many impending choices to consider. One of those decisions came sooner rather than later.

Before senior year started, Agau was wavering between staying at Central or changing schools to Oak Hill Academy, which is "a prep basketball school. Kids go there to play basketball...I felt like it was an opportunity for me to be in a structured school. It's a small school... all they do there is basketball workouts in the morning, then they go to school, then they do basketball [and] after it's homework and bed. I just felt like the things they offered me could help me better myself at college. It was just a consideration," Agau said.

Continue to 'AGAU' on page 12



Akoy Agau spends time on the court. Agau is looking forward to his last basketball season in high school before heading off the college at Louisville.

PHOTO BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER



PHOTO COURTESY OF MICHELLE ROBERTS

Principal Keith Bigsby addresses the alumni and supporters of the Generation C Tailgate. The tailgate was a benefit for the alumni who have donated to Central High School.

Alumni and Donors of Central High attend Generation C tailgate and homecoming game

Members of the Sea Eagle level of Generation "C," an annual giving campaign started by the Central High Foundation, enjoyed a tailgate party before the homecoming football game at Central against South High on Sept. 14.

Generation "C" is a support group recognized by Central High, whose mission is to help Central to advance in every way that it can through raising money for various events, keeping communication lines open between Central and donors and sponsoring fun activities for alumni and students alike.

Any person in the community joins Generation "C" as soon as he or she donates to Central, but members of Generation "C" are generally parents, alumni, staff/faculty and even students.

The program gives back to donors by inviting them to various events throughout the year depending on their levels of donation.

A \$10 donation earns one a monthly e-newsletter, while a \$2,500 donation earns

one a parking pass and tickets for home football and basketball games and tickets to a Road Show performance. Other incentives exist between these two levels as well.

Members of Generation "C" earned an invitation to the tailgate if they were on the Sea Eagle level (donation of \$100), and enjoyed a night of food, catered by KFC, football and fun.

About 125 people arrived at Central the night of the homecoming game and were welcomed into the gym lobby for a catered dinner.

The Central High band and cheerleading squad busted out the fight song for everyone to sing along to, and members were invited to socialize with each other.

As they enjoyed dinner, the guests of the Generation "C" tailgate also were able to listen to a speech from Principal Dr. Keith Bigsby, as well as meet him. Dr. Bigsby thanked the guests for their faithful support of Central High School and urged them

After the dinner, the Sea Eagles ven-

Refer to 'TAILGATE' on page 15

Absence of North High from lineup leaves students and players confused

SAN JUANA PARAMO
Staff Writer

For the guys on the football team, the Omaha North game has long been a tradition. Central has played North countless times, but this year many players have noticed North's absence from the list. "There is nothing we can do about it," said reserve coach Jay Ball.

That's because football schedules are decided by the Nebraska School Activities Association.

It is something that can't be changed, no matter how much we dislike it, or how much we may try to change it. It is set in stone, so to speak.

The Nebraska School Activities Association is in charge of setting up football schedules for all the schools in the state, and other states have similar associations as well.

No school authority can overturn that decision they can try, but it's not up to them.

"There's nothing you can do about it, the NSAA sets the schedule, it's one of those things in life that you just live with it," said Anthony Williams, co-head reserve coach.

Every two years the NSAA comes up with a rotation, they assign football and put us in districts.

The out of district games we play this year. For each school in the district, home games played this year will be played away next year and vice-versa for away games this year.

This year North High Magnet School isn't in our district, there for we don't play them this year, or next year in football.

"The NSAA determines the schedule, that's just how it came out this year," said head coach Jay Ball. But that doesn't mean we may not be able to play them at all, we could be able to play them in other sports.

Those who did not know how the scheduling works may have thought this was due to the rivalry between both schools.

There are people who think both schools have a rivalry going on, and there are mixed feel-

ings about that as well.

For students it is a rivalry, they see north as a challenge and they want to prove that Central is the best, but for teachers and coaches it's a different story, even those feelings are mixed.

"We don't have a rivalry with North. They might have a rivalry with us. I don't get into that rivalry stuff, there's bragging rights all the time, and the school pride. As the administrators and coaches we want to play the best," says Williams.

Ball, on the other hand, believes the opposite, "They are, North is a rival of ours without a doubt. I guess for the students it's an important game, I guess it's a rival, I can see that part".

Just because North isn't on our schedule, it doesn't mean it's completely out of the question.

"North this year has a good team, I wish we were playing them, they have a good team this year and we could learn from them," adds Williams.

Williams is up for playing anybody that severs as a challenge for our students, and anyone that can help better their game.

"Whoever's on top, that's who we want to play," said Williams.

As students we shouldn't be too focused on who we don't play, but rather who we do, we need to be able to support our team and cheer them on.

The coaches are doing just that, "I'm not worried about north; I'm worried about us and our next opponent," said Ball.

That doesn't mean that North was never a big challenge for us. "North is always a fun game," said Ball, but maybe we do need change in the schedule and work hard on our game.

For the team losing the first two games of the season was tough, it was something nobody was happy about and all that means is that we have to work hard.

"While we are not happy with the results of our first two games we know we have a lot of work to do," said Ball.

They guys on the team are very resilient, they roll with the punches and they are willing to get back on their feet.

Central's Step Team Steps it Up ... With an Unlikely Teammate

The Step Team welcomes its first - and as of right now, only - male member.

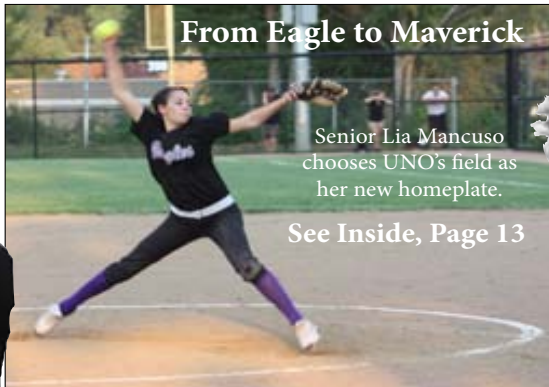
See Inside, Page 13



From Eagle to Maverick

Senior Lia Mancuso chooses UNO's field as her new homeplate.

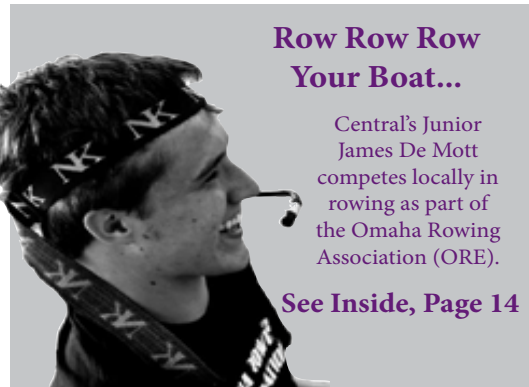
See Inside, Page 13



Row Row Row Your Boat...

Central's Junior James De Mott competes locally in rowing as part of the Omaha Rowing Association (ORE).

See Inside, Page 14



Agau sends packing rumors of a possible transfer



■ AGAU: Continued from page 16

After much consideration (fortunately for Central), Agau decided to stay an Eagle. “There were a lot of...personal reasons and also my parents weren’t going to let me [go]... so that was probably the main cause, because I need parent permission. They didn’t agree on it but at the end of the day I just kind of made the decision also for myself that it was best that I stay.”

Choosing to stay had been the first of many big decisions to come regarding Agau’s future and his first decision turned out quite well for him. “I’m definitely glad I stayed at Central,” Agau said. “I mean I think Central has a really great history of really successful people... the more and more I think about it I’m actually really happy I decided to stay because... I was here for three years, Central has done a lot for me; I’ve been really successful here. Education is obviously something that’s great about it. It’s considered to be one of the best. So I mean in our 160 years that we’ve been around, Central has had a lot of success for people that are doing very well. And I’ve actually had a chance to meet a lot of them.”

Agau’s decision to remain an Eagle not only made Agau happy in the long run, but Dr. Keith Bigsby is also really happy with the outcome of Agau’s choice. When asked if he was pleased with Agau’s decision he enthusiastically replied, “Absolutely. There’s no question. I’ll tell you the thing that makes me the happiest is that Akoy is not just a basketball player; he’s a very good student here at Central High School. He’s taking some really rigorous classes; I think he has a couple of AP classes. I think he understands what our expectations are. You know...basketball is important but academics are more so and he’s very involved, so, yes, very pleased he’s an Eagle.”

Of course, his teammates and coaches are also glad he stayed.

“I mean, he’s got an opportunity to win four state titles, which hasn’t been done. I feel pretty good about that. I feel pretty good about the team. If they stay healthy, they’re going to position themselves to win again. But it takes a lot of work and you need to have some luck in keeping your students healthy,” Coach Williams said.

He also said that working with Agau has “been pretty good. He’s got real good mannerisms, you can tell they raised him well. He’s real popular with the students, and with the staff. I think he’s a gentleman. All my interactions with him have been positive. What we have to remember is that he’s still a high school student. You know, because of his height and the attention he’s getting sometimes people [forget] that; [but] he’s just your typical high school student.”

Agau won’t be a typical high school student for much longer, though. This will be Agau’s final year at Central, and then he will be going away to lend his brilliance to a different team.

Choosing a college was difficult for Agau. There were loads of great schools that Agau was considering and they all had brilliant qualities that he was interested in. All the schools wanted Agau to be a part of their team as well. “I [had] a pretty big list: Georgetown, Louisville, West Virginia, Baylor, Duke, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State,” Agau lists. Choosing between the schools was “a really tough decision” but in the end the most important thing for him was deciding on the best college that was “going to make me happy.”

Out of all the dozens of wonderful schools that he was choosing between, one college in particular stood out to him. It wasn’t the all time record of 1662-864 (.658) or the fact that it was ranked as the seventh best basketball program by Street and Smiths or even the fact that it is the only school in the nation that has been the champion of three major national post-season tournaments.

“When I visited the campus, I had a feeling in my gut that it was the right place for [me], and I wanted to attend next year,” Agau describes, “For real, I had that feeling in my stomach. I just had a feeling and I chose [the University of Louisville].” Because many people had encouraged Agau to go to different schools, choosing a university was a tough decision for Agau. His family however only wanted what was best for him and once he chose Louisville they were “very excited for me and felt that it was the...fit for me. My family was very supportive and behind me 100 percent. They will miss me but they know that I will be successful at the University of Louisville.”

Dr. Bigsby on the otherhand understand Agau’s choice but like a true Nebraskan would have

preferred if he had gone elsewhere.

“I’ll be quite honest, I’m a Nebraska grad. I was hoping he would stay at Nebraska but I also understand when Rick Pitino come knocking at your door, when the University of Louisville Cardinal comes to your door you’ve got to listen... but you know... I’ll be honest I would like him to stay in Nebraska. I would like him to do well here, but it’s quite an opportunity... It’s good for Central, the whole bit”

Coach Williams really encourages him to put his academics first after high school. “His future better be grades first, academics first,” his coach said, “because from there, your career—if it’s in high school, if it’s in college, or if it’s in the pros, it’s short-lived. You know, because people are getting bigger, faster, stronger, and they’re getting younger. I think what he should do is make basketball secondary and his academics first. And I’ve talked to enough college students that have played, and maybe played in the pros, and they all regret they didn’t get their college degrees. I mean, even one of our Central grads, Ahmon Green, went to the pros early, but then he came back and got his degree.”

Coach Williams can rest easy though.

While he is considering each of his options for his future, he has many people to look up to and who inspire him. “I’ve a lot of inspiration it just depends [for] what. [For] basketball: LeBron James. I think he is the best player to ever play the game. [It’s] just...how hard he works at times and how he’s always focused during every game [even though] he’s been through so much and... been hated by everyone, [but] he’s just kept focus and kept on doing what he’s been doing for all his career.”

Even though he has people to look up to and people in his life who can steer him in the right direction, a bit of advice always helps. “Study,” Coach Williams advised.

“Study, stay focused, stay humble. Don’t let people steer you into the wrong direction. Because when you are a highly recruited player, I don’t care if it’s basketball, football, girls’ volleyball, it doesn’t matter the sport, people get in there with their own interests, and try to sway you to do one thing. [You] need to just stay solid, and make [your] choices and take [your] time. And he needs to study and get through college. That’s the most important thing.”

Bigsby also contributed a piece of advice to Agau. “I would recommend that he always stay true to himself and not worry about what other people think and other people do,” he said. “And you know, for high school students and people in general, it’s really hard to know that it’s you who’s going to live the success, or you who is going to live the failure.”

What everybody else thinks really doesn’t matter. I’ll give you one of my best quotes of the year, “What I know is, failure is an orphan. Success has a whole bunch of mothers and fathers”—everybody wants to say they were a part of something that works. But when it doesn’t work, very few people stay around and say, ‘yeah, I was a part of that.’ So I’m hoping Akoy understands that he’s going to be ultimately responsible for that success or failure.”

“Akoy is a very good player, but he’s also surrounded by some very good players,” Bigsby also said. “[He] is a very unique talent but as I said we’ve got some very good [other] basketball players on this team.”

While Bigsby is right about the team, Agau is certainly the best known player on the team. As of now, he is a three-time state champion and is in the running for a possible fourth award, which has never been done before. No matter what Agau chooses to pursue in life or where he chooses to go, great things can be expected from this hard-working team player.

His success in the future will match or advance past the remarkable things he has done so far both for himself and for his school as an Eagle. His achievements are something to be very proud of and the work he has put in to reach his highest potential and to achieve his dreams is extremely impressive.

Going from a simple boy from Sudan to a possible professional basketball player is a vast leap that will go down in the history books.

Akoy Agau’s triumphs and successes are ones that might one day be recorded in a hall of fame, but regardless of what happens to him in the future, he will always be remembered at Central.

What I want to do is what I will do.

~ Akoy Agau

Age old dispute over the consideration of dance a sport revisited

“It does not,” my friend yells. “It does too,” I shout back. “No way!” “Of course it does!”

I take a deep breath and slowly exhale already tired of our annual fight over sports. She, being the complete athlete that she is, always argues that dance cannot be considered a sport. I, as a dancer of about eight years, completely disagree. Our exhausting dispute has become an expected occurrence whenever I see her. But it is an interesting topic. Out of all the dozens of so called sports which of them are actually sports and which of them are just hobbies to do in your leisure time? This question is a very controversial one that has been thoroughly debated for years. So is dancing considered a sport? Or is it just put aside as a hobby not “sporty” enough to be called an actual sport?

As I always argued with my friend, I believe that dancing is definitely a sport. I have taken dance for eight or so years in a row and I can most certainly say that is the sport I do. Whether it was ballet, jazz, modern, tap, or hip hop, I can say I was always moving. There are also competitions for dance and it takes skill and hard work to be able to excel in it. These reasons, to me, show that dance should in fact truly be considered a sport, end of story.

However, many other people don’t feel the way I do about

dancing. In the article “What Makes a ‘Sport’” the author says that his beliefs come from his high school English teacher, Mr. Porter, who said, “In order for something to be a sport it must have offense and defense.” Going from the statement his coach made sports and hobbies/activities would be broken down more easily, but many so-called sports would lose their title.

Take fishing for example. This activity can be hard to be called a sport but I’m sure there are plenty of fishermen out there who would argue that fishing is indeed a sport and should always be considered one. Yet, if I were to put fishing up against the “Mr. Porter Test” it would completely fail, unless you’re saying the hook on the line is offense and the fish itself is the defense. Of course, if you go by this sport logic then swimming, track, & field and many other athletic activities that most would consider to be obvious sports would be out of the running.

Mr. Porter’s opinion definitely does not match the opinion of everyone else. In a four paragraph rebuttal of the article, the author claims that he is a major in sports management and this topic was the first thing they covered in class. He says that there is a four-pronged method that can easily separate the sport from the simple athletic hobbies. “Competition, wide understanding, wide follow-

ing, and physical” are the four things that make something a sport. The competition, the first prong, has to have “some sort of a competitive nature about it”. Number two, wide understanding, means “there has to be an agreed upon rules that everyone follows who plays the sport”. The next prong is wide following and the author said this was described as “people have to actually play it”. Lastly, is physical, which the author says is the most important prong. According to the author this means “There has to be some sort of a physical challenge to it”, simple as that.

So now comes the question about which author, if either of them, correct with their definitions. If I were using these definitions to settle whether dance was indeed a sport I would lean more to the second one because it is more in favor of dance as a sport than the other, but because of the second prong it wouldn’t fully be considered a sport.

Everyone has their own definition of a sport; some say it’s only a sport if it’s on ESPN, while others will simply say if you’re moving, you playing a sport. This issue is mostly opinionated and I suppose until an international poll is taken place, the official definition of a sport is found, and the “true sports” are called out, whether an activity is called a sport will be up to the participants in the activities.

Unfortunately, for now there is no certified classification so I’d better take a deep breath and prepare myself for my next “is it truly a sport?” debate.



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND
A Column by Elissa Wiener

Athlete defends the legitimacy and intensity of favorite sport: tennis

I love Novak Djokovic with a passion. And as a tennis player, I am proud of the game. I never thought that I would have to defend tennis’ legitimacy as a sport.

Golf has received its share of low blows, but I have always viewed tennis as a “real” sport. Unfortunately for the tennis community and me, detractors have called tennis a “weak” sport.

Critics argue that the sport has lost some of its legitimacy because tennis players refuse to play in the rain or snow, find difficulty in windy conditions, and fret about the burning orb in the sky. Even a sprinkle can cease play, and the sun poses serious problems for a serve or an overhead. But these same commentators must understand that these factors were meant to influence the game. Yes, that fuzzy, yellow, two-ounce ball is easily influenced by the wind, mist can destroy the strings of a racquet and make the court surface dangerously slippery for the players, and the sun’s rays can blind a player. But what make a sport are the standards and the confines within which the athletes compete. If there were no rules, sports would cease to exist.

Another criticism of tennis is “the racquet does all the work!” Ironically, that is a lesson commonly taught: Let the racquet do the work. Certainly, Novak Djokovic does not claim to be able to throw a ball at 150 miles per hour, but he can hit that fuzzy yellow ball at that speed and with such precision that it clears a three-foot net and lands inside a 21 by 13.5 foot rectangle. Tennis is as much about power as it is about control. The balance

between these two forces is crucial to the game. A drop shot that lands a foot from the net can be as lethal as an overhead that bounces over the fence.

For those who like a little roughhousing, tennis comes across as rather tame. Of course, my opponent and I don’t tackle each other or “accidentally” kick each other in the head. Tennis is not a contact sport. We don’t throw punches or trade blows. The closest we get to inflicting physical pain on our opponent is shaking hands at the end of the match (unless we nail him or her at the net). But we sprint around a 7200 square foot area and exercise both our fine and gross motor skills when we aim the ball to land within a 39 by 27 foot rectangle.

Tennis is a complex, multifaceted sport. Viewers find it boring because the ball “just goes back and forth.” Nevertheless, the mind games are as much a part of the sport as are the racquets and the tennis balls. There is strategy and wit and cunning that requires brawn and finesse for proper execution. Venus Williams once said, “You win or lose a match before you even go out there.”

In truth, tennis isn’t the rowdiest sport. Play stops with a drizzle. People are expected to clap rather than cheer. Fights don’t often break out in the stands. And the players carefully control their emotions. Nevertheless, none of these are capital offenses in the sports community. The mental and physical exertion that characterizes tennis also defines it as one of the most respected and reputable sports out there.



ITS ALL UNCOMMON
A Column by Giselle Tran

Central's Step Team celebrates the induction of its first male member

EMILY BECK
Executive Editor-in-Chief

Augustus Welch, junior, became the first ever male member of Central High's step team late last school year.

Despite the classification of step team as being an organization geared toward girls, Welch eagerly tried out at the end of his sophomore year and successfully became a part of the team, which contains 14 other girls.

He first saw Central's step team perform at the annual Road Show during his eighth grade year. Admiring the talent on the team and enjoying the performance, Welch never thought that in a few years he would be up onstage with them. But this year, he will be.

Welch began toying with the idea of trying out for the team earlier this year after an InCity retreat the first weekend in March at Camp Carol Joy Holling with Creighton Prep and Abraham Lincoln High School.

He met a cheerleader from a different school who was on a step team; throughout the retreat the two fooled around with different dances as she showed and taught him different basic steps.

Once in his head, the steps wouldn't leave. For the next few months Welch was constantly stepping, stomping and clapping to a beat taught to him by his InCity friend. He liked the style of dancing so much that he considered being on Central's own step team.

At first the idea wasn't too serious. The junior liked the idea of trying out but thought it might only be for a laugh.

"I just thought it was cool," Welch said. "I thought about it as a joke...but now I actually want to do it." This decision came in mid-March, and tryouts occurred in mid-May. During the last week of school the results were posted and Welch's name was

on the list. He used one word to describe how he felt: proud.

Now he attends weekly, although sporadic practices. Step team performs at home varsity basketball games and Road Show as well as various competitions throughout the year, so the practice schedule usually depends on which games are occurring during the given week, and which competitions need to be prepared for.

The girls of step team have met Welch with no opposition, instead embracing him as something fresh, new and different. Being the only male, he'll attract a lot of eyes during performances—so he'll need extra practice despite the talent and skill that he already possesses.

They've taken me to the side to help me get better, he said. "I stand out from our team, being the only boy" so everyone wants to ensure that Welch is the best he can be. The junior is very comfortable being the only male in the group. Mostly growing up around females, he has no problems befriending step team members. "I like being the only boy," Welch said.

Senior member Mecca Slaughter is definitely a fan of Welch. "I think he brings a new dimension to our team," she said, admiring his bravery in trying out.

Jayne Prisbell, Speech/English teacher and step team sponsor, was also excited for Welch's membership on the team. I hope that other boys will follow suit and try out, she said, and that in years to come the team will have a more equal gender ratio.

No one has discouraged Welch in his endeavor, looked down on him or thought of his decision as strange. Welch has full support from his parents and friends. Many admire him for his fearlessness in going out for the team, despite its all-female make up.

"Pretty much everyone thinks it's kind of awesome," said Welch. "People nowadays like boundary breaking."



Junior Augustus Welch practices steps after a step team rehearsal. Welch said he enjoys the team, and likes that he is "breaking boundaries."

PHOTO BY EMILY BECK/THE REGISTER

Despite lack of interested candidates, mascot needed

difficult to run around and get the crowd excited in such heat.

The mascot is usually only seen at home games, but being that there aren't too many home games anyway, the mascot is hardly even present. Only it's not to say that there has never been a mascot, it's just the simple fact that no one ever tries out. "Ever since I've been here there's been one [a mascot]," Kirksey said, referring to the amount of mascots present each year.

Unfortunately, not having a good response to mascot tryouts is a big deal.

Because this school is so passionate about sports, they need each component, one of the most important being a mascot. Again, the mascot is what gives the fans sitting in the stands that boost of energy to cheer for their team.

That not only gets the fans excited to watch games and competitions, but it can most definitely give the team a sense of support and the feeling that people are actually watching them and expecting them to win.

Yes, it is hard finding people who will wholeheartedly comply and go out and be wild just to please the crowd, but it's sort of disappointing hearing that there are hardly any people trying out.

There are of course cheerleaders and the band to help get the crowd pumped up, but a mascot is a classic part of sporting events. Those three components work together to provide a full football game experience for high schoolers and parents alike.

This school is already full of pep, but it is a mascot that can surely raise the pep scale to a maximum, which overall makes a game more exciting to watch. Other schools surely have peppy mascots, why should Central not be included?

Anyone can be the mascot, because, according to Candi Kadar, Central teacher who actually holds the tryouts, there are no specific qualifications to be it.

So, basically, if someone wanted to be the mascot, they can just go for it basically, because it's only about being there and showing up.

That sounds like a pretty easy task. Show up, act like a goofball and

Someone has to love Central High School enough to become part of it by becoming a mascot, right?

It is a good role to have, and even if one is being goofy, he or she is still being entertaining, getting the crowd excited, and most definitely showing that he or she cares about his or her school.

Central gives a lot to its athletes and students, as well as to the community, so the least we can do is to give something back to the school.



PHOTO BY SUSHMITA ADHIKARI / O-BOOK

Do you recall seeing a perky, excited mascot at any game at Central? If so, how often are they ever present?

While Central does indeed now have a mascot, there are hardly any tryouts, according to Assistant Principal Dionne Kirksey, who holds the tryouts. She claims that hardly any kid tries out for that position because "... kids just don't like that stuff anymore."

Mascots are a good prop to have at sporting events, because usually their duty is to get the crowd excited and on their feet. But, if Central is always lacking a mascot because no one cares, then obviously the game will not be all that exciting.

When the time comes and if people are willing to try out for the spot, then the tryouts will begin before the school year starts, so around mid-August.

Unfortunately not many kids signed up this year, therefore there were no tryouts because there was not a good response. Ms. Kirksey says that hardly any students tryout anyways.

There were rumors that Central was not even going to have a mascot this year, but there is one present now. The reason for these rumors is because the mascot was not seen at the first home football game. The only response to that is "Too hot; the temperature," by Kirksey.

Being that there has to be two people present, it would have been too



BIG BOW STRIKES AGAIN
A Column by Cheyenne Alexis

Time requirements, concentration and effort required for marching band more than make up for two years of gym class

"Detaail ateen hut," called the two drum majors.

"Hut," responded the band members with enthusiasm.

Sweaty palms grab instruments and heads are tilted up proudly with fierce eyes looking straight through the field. This is the start to a tremendous show that will take a lot of strength and a lot of willpower.

Although the band gets themselves together, some of the gym students have a different idea on what work really is.

The sound of a whistle gathers a lot of sweating people to listen in on directions for what needs to be done for the day.

Some leave running off not caring and start to walk around the track and others leave running that are too insane to just go back to what they have been doing in throwing a ball around.

Mostly freshmen and sophomores run around the field like they have just drank Red Bull, but most of them end up going inside sweaty only because the sun has been beating on them for about 30 minutes.

What's the difference in these two groups of people? One is the Central High Marching Band and the other is the gym students of Central High.

One is a four year commitment and the other is for two years. But in reality the one with four years is really more than the amount of work. Why does four years of band count for two years of gym? It really makes no sense.

Being a member of the Central High Band, I realize band is actually pretty stressful, but we

all get used to it and don't mind anymore. From Marching Band to Concert Band or Wind Ensemble to Roadshow, we have a lot on our hands.

All summer we have practices and a whole week of non-stop sun beating, learning and practicing called... band camp.

You've always heard that saying "This one time at band camp..." People always tell me to not start a sentence like that, but I really don't care anymore.

Anyway Tuesday and Thursday night practices go on till about sometime in October, depending when our season ends.

Not only do we have those practices, but we have them every morning bright and early. Our school starts before anybody else. We have to be on the field at 7:30 a.m.

The many practices usually pay off though, performing in many football games and in competitions around Nebraska. That is when the real excitement flows through our system. We put more than 15 hours a week into everything depending if we have a football game or competition that weekend. And the drumline and color guard also have more than this because they have to get everything right.

We're not done yet though. We also have to keep the music flowing on the stands of football and basketball games. After October ends, we usually start to slow down and don't have as much on our plate, but still a lot going through our head about everything.

Not only do you have to deal with all the work, but you have to deal with all the people.

You see them more than you even see your real family so they practically become your second family. Some people just can't handle us and this is why you see these people walking the track in the morning with the gym students.

No offense, but at times we really do laugh at you.

The gym students have to at least pretend they're doing something to get credit for 42 minutes every school day. Yeah, the band just can't do that. Everyone depends on everyone.

I know some people actually do take gym seriously and try, but there are so many people who don't, so it looks like not a lot are. And some people take gym every year because it's like their workout each day.

Gym students just don't have as much work as band students, so why does four years of band count for two years of gym?

How is that even plausible? Band is a lot more work than anybody can even grasp.

Either gym should be four years or band should be two years even though we all know most of us would still take four years of it.

I just don't understand how gym is claimed to be more work than Central High School's band. We all put so much effort and practice in being the best and doing the best while gym students could pass by, doing nothing.



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE O-BOOK

Mancuso chooses UNO for softball

MEKENZIE KERR
Copy Editor

Pitching and a shortstop since she was merely eight, senior Lia Mancuso who is currently a pitcher for the Omaha Central Girls' Softball team has a diversified background when it comes to her history in softball.

Mancuso's high school softball career began at Marian and continued through her sophomore year. Although she misses the coaches, Mancuso transitioned easily her junior year when she joined Central's girls' softball team.

With Central's team headed by coach Ryan Neel, Mancuso practices every day that the team does not have a game, which has proved to be a lot of work. Although Mancuso says that the tedious practices help her stay in shape throughout softball's fall season.

While Mancuso practices her long-possessed athleticism with Central's softball team, she values the team and all its individuals as well.

"I love playing for Central because our team is so close," said Mancuso, "We make a lot of memories and have a lot of fun with each other."

Even though "there's always pranks going back and forth", Mancuso says that the team knows they can "always go to each other if" they need anything. The family atmosphere plays a large role in what Mancuso thrives on in her Central Softball career.

For Mancuso, softball with Central is another stepping stone to further progress her life as a player. Outside of her time with Central Mancuso plays as a shortstop for the Wichita Mustangs during the summer; a select travel team, the Mustangs travel all over the country. Mancuso gets to live there during the summer, and all expenses are paid for, another bonus of being a hard-working player.

Her hard work has already carried her through to her future in college. Mancuso committed to the University of Nebraska in Omaha last year, seeing UNO as her favorite option.

"I was looking at a couple of other bigger division 1 schools," said Mancuso, "but I loved UNO the most."

Mancuso will enter her freshman year as an infielder for UNO with softball honors already tucked under her belt. Last year Mancuso had the highest batting average in class A, and her team received the second place for team All-State.

Henderson makes Varsity for the third year in a row

SETH ARTER
Staff Writer

Being good at something can take nothing but pure skill and commitment, and these two qualities are presented in volleyball player Noni Henderson.

As a junior in high school, Henderson has made varsity volleyball for three years in a row, skipping right over the freshman, reserve and junior varsity teams to play on top.

It all began in third grade when Henderson adopted the sport as her own. She became interested after watching her older cousin play the intense sport.

Like many of those who have maintained a hobby or a sport throughout the years, Henderson has had a few special people help push and guide her.

"My dad pushes me to work out and practice." Henderson's mother also attends all of her games. Henderson's parents however, aren't the only ones who have helped her along on her successful journey.

"I've developed a family on the team, which is why I keep going back," says Henderson.

Not only is Henderson great at volleyball, but she has also a lot of team spirit. Before every game, "we always do a 'Jiggalo' dance to lift our team spirit," according to the player.

All though Henderson is on varsity, it certainly hasn't happened over night. Not only has she been pursuing the sport for many years, but she also plays club volleyball. Henderson's club volleyball team went to nationals this year and won.

Noni and her teammates spend about three months conditioning. The girls do a lot of cardio work such as running, jumping, and using the jump rope.

What's so unique to Henderson is that she has been able to b with her teammates for so long. "We have a lot of energy and everyone is supportive."

Henderson loves the thrill of volleyball in general, but she especially loves the memories she's had while being on the team.

"My favorite game was when we played Skutt Catholic High School because that was the most intense game and we played the best we've ever played," she said.

Head volleyball coach Jodi Brown had nothing but great things to say about the young athlete. Henderson's best skill on the court, according to Brown, is hitting an in system ball.

Not only does Henderson help the team's success with her physical abilities, but she also brings a lot of energy to her teammates.

"Noni gets so excited when she gets a kill, but even more excited when someone else gets a kill. Her energy spreads throughout the team."

As each year has passed, Henderson has learned to handle problems that arise, and is able to easily tackle them with pure success.

"She's grown this year, understands more, and she is emerging as a leader," Brown said.

High school volleyball is definitely not the end of Henderson's career. "I would like to play in college," she said.

Luckily high school volleyball isn't too stressful for Henderson, and there's more to come regarding her volleyball career.

"There's not too much pressure playing volleyball for school, but there is a lot of pressure for club volleyball," said Henderson.

"We always have college coaches at our club volleyball games, and I also play with seniors," Henderson said.

"So there are a lot of college level coaches watching me. I have to play really well so hopefully they see me too."

Despite this pressure, Henderson is able to hold up.

She will most likely play in college. While she is unsure of where she would like to go, she will continue playing volleyball, whether she is a part of an intramural team or the official team of the school.



PHOTO COURTESY OF FERGTOGRAPHY

Junior James De Mott has a laugh during practice with his rowing team, as part of the Omaha Rowing Association (ORA). He said that although it is not a well known sport, he really enjoys it and said that others should take a look at ORA and consider it themselves.

Nebraska's Water Sport

Central High School's James De Mott has taken to one of the lesser known sports, but still one of the most popular in the Midwest: rowing. De Mott is part of a Nebraska team, Omaha Rowing Association (ORA), and is looking forward to local competitions. De Mott said he loves the sport so much he's considering teams to join when he chooses his college.

EMILY BECK
Executive Editor-in-Chief

Junior James De Mott is the only Central student who can say that he is a member of the relatively new Omaha Rowing Association (ORA).

James' brother, who is now in his mid-twenties, joined a rowing team during his university years and enjoyed it immensely. He is the one who urged De Mott to join the newly-formed Omaha Rowing Association two summers ago.

"During the summer it was pretty manageable," De Mott said of the non-demanding schedule. "I was kind of looking for something to do." While the junior's decision to participate in the sport came from his brother's own passion for it, De Mott quickly developed his own zeal.

Rowing is a sport where teams or individuals race against each other in small boats, and can take place on a lake, river or ocean.

One of the oldest Olympic sports (a part of the games since 1900), rowing has a variety of different races (a few being time trials, endurance, and probably the most well known, side-by-side).

There are two types of rowing. Sculling, where one has an oar in both hands, and sweeping, where one uses both hands to work one oar. In single, double and quad races, sculling is the form used, and in full-team races sweeping is used.

Since members of a team have their backs to the direction in which they're traveling, a person (usually small in stature and lightweight) acts as the "coxswain," who has the responsibility of steering the boat, keeping everyone safe and encouraging/coaching those rowing.

De Mott isn't a fan of serving as coxswain; he considers it to be "really unsatisfying" since it doesn't include any actual physical activity.

He doesn't get the same exhaustion at the end of a practice where he acts as coxswain.

"It's a really different sport, nobody ever does that," he said, naming one of the reasons he likes it. A large aspect of his interest in rowing, however, is the physical strenuousness that it offers.

"When you put your boat back, when you dock at the end of your practice, you feel completely 100 percent drained," De Mott said. "They say that you use all the main muscle groups of your body in rowing...

you have your arms and all of your core, and your legs. All of that is involved...you don't really get that with other sports."

Apart from the physical side, being a part of the ORA also allows De Mott to meet and work with other teenagers from the Metro area.

Now in its third year, the ORA has grown gradually in size and membership and will soon participate in its first regatta, the term which is used to describe what in other sports would be called a "meet."

This, the Des Moines River Regatta, will take place on Sept. 29th in Des Moines, Iowa. Although the ORA has been alive and well for several years, De Mott said that the team wasn't qualified for competition until now because of its small size.

The team, which consists of about nine high school age teenagers, practices about five hours per week in the summer on Carter Lake.

The rowing season takes place mainly within those warm months, beginning in early June and concluding in August.

The team also practices during the school year, but sparingly. De Mott said that although they have entered the "off-season," competitions still occur.

Regattas work in much the same way as a swim or track meet would.

A variety of events are available to compete in, including individual, double and full-team races.

Announcers let teams know when they should be on deck for their events, and each team has its own territory on a field. Each team has its own area and a scheduled list of events is followed.

De Mott plans on continuing to row in college, making sure to include rowing teams as a part of his college research. He's considering schools in northern states, which have large impressive teams.

According to the junior, the sport is big in Midwest states that lie closer to the Great Lakes, so he'll be sure to look at schools such as the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

De Mott encouraged anyone interested to look into the Omaha Rowing Association for the next summer season (surprisingly the only rowing team in Omaha). While the sport may seem a little unusual, individuals shouldn't be discouraged by this,

according to the rower. It's an easy sport to get into, and the results, which come in the form of new muscles, are rewarding.

When you put your boat back, when you dock at the end of your practice, you feel completely 100 percent drained. They say that you use all the main muscle groups of your body in rowing . . . you have your arms and all of your core, and your legs. All of that is involved . . . you don't really get that with other sports.

~ James De Mott

Toss, Pull, Chad: Ultimate Frisbee turns out to be a way of life

I love ultimate Frisbee.

It all started at the free concert that Bank of the West puts on every year for the Fourth of July in Memorial Park. I was with a large group of friends and someone had thought to bring a Frisbee, so we began to play. It was the kind of disgustingly humid weather where any physical exertion will result in one's forehead to be drenched in sticky sweat, and I wasn't too keen on playing—I quit after several rounds.

I had learned the concept of ultimate in middle school gym classes, but we usually played with some sort of unidentifiable ball. I wasn't too crazy about it because, well...it was during gym class and I'm not exactly the overcompetitive type. But when it comes to playing ultimate these days, I go crazy.

Almost two years passed before I played ultimate again. But one fateful night a group of my friends gathered in Memorial with the intent of tossing a Frisbee around, and it turned into a game of ultimate...and an obsession was born, not just in me—but in all of us. We began using the lingo, replacing "Frisbee" with "disc" and "throwing" with "tossing" or "chad" (example: "Chad me that disc, bro!") Honestly, it just became a huge bro-fest...but with girls intermixed.

This summer we gathered almost weekly to sweat it out on our special field nestled in Memorial Park. This usually happened at dusk, when the sun hadn't disappeared over the horizon yet, but wasn't beating down on us. Someone would send out a mass text message that needed only three words: Ultimate. Memorial. 7.

It usually began in a laid back manner, with everyone hanging out and tossing in a circle while waiting for all parties to arrive. Then two captains would be shoved into power, and it was up to them to choose who they wanted. It was far too elementary recess-esque, but it was effective enough, and thankfully there were no hard feelings when one was picked last.

The way that Ultimate Frisbee works: two teams stand on separate ends of a field; to begin one team "kicks off," or in ultimate terms, 'pulls' to the other team. The team that pulled then runs to cover members of the other team, who begin passing to each other. The goal is to get to the touch-down zone. Once the disc is in your hands you cannot move or take any steps (the only exception to this rule is momentum; you can get some freebie steps while trying to slow down)—thus you are forced to pass. Short passes are usually key, but long passes can make or break a game.

This game is all about teamwork, which is one of the reasons that we enjoy it so much. I also think it's a fantastic way to get to know someone new, because you're working together while constantly yelling at each other.

We don't only like playing games. Sometimes if not enough people showed up we would just

end up tossing, perfecting our backhands and teaching each other cool new tricks. Many a night was spent not only in Memorial, but also Elmwood Park as well as my own backyard practicing tosses.

Toward the end of the summer we had to be more careful; as the season progressed our players had sustained more and more injuries from glass and other things like wire that happened to be hidden in the grass of the field. And of course everyone plays without shoes, since that's the only way to get excellent traction and ensure that you won't slip. Plus it just feels good. Luckily I was never cut, but I did begin to bring a rag, Neosporin and Band-aids with me every time we played in case someone was hurt. And trust me, it happened plenty of times.

Once in mid-July while I was at camp and everyone got together to play, one of my friends got a nasty surprise: a large shard of glass in his foot. Apparently out of frustration, after he pulled it out he stomped his foot square on another shard of glass. Needless to say, he bled. A lot. The stain is still on a section of cement in Memorial Park that we revisit every once in a while (no one had anything to help with the cuts so he had to wait until he stopped bleeding and it got everywhere, resulting in a massive Texas-sized spot that will probably survive any nuclear wars that come along, along with Twinkies and cockroaches).

Another of my friends on the same night also got some glass in his foot, and from then on it was like a curse: we couldn't make it through a game without someone getting hurt. You would think we would just put on our shoes, but that just wasn't an option; it didn't feel right.

One of my most memorable nights didn't occur in Memorial, but on a golf course in Council Bluffs. A few of us biked across the Pedestrian Bridge to where the Stir Cove concerts take place (Weezer was playing that night) to chill outside of the gates since those underage can't get in. While waiting for the band to begin, the five of us found a nearby golf course and began tossing. A horde of geese had flown in earlier and slowly began migrating toward us until they were mere feet away. They seemed to be attracted to the disc, attempting to chase it as it flew through the air—and we were scared they would have some crazy surge of goose testosterone and attack one of us, but luckily after probably 20 minutes they began to wander away.

I've never watched a professional team play, but they do exist, as do amateur and college teams do; apparently a team from UNO plays fairly often in Memorial Park as well, and they would put us to shame. They don't stop moving, ever—that's something I'd like to see. I can't imagine ever playing with them, but perhaps one day I'll be good enough to.

I was disappointed to find that Ultimate didn't make an appearance at the Olympics this year, but I suppose I only have four years to wait and hope for it to show. I think we all know what I'll be doing with my friends until that day arrives.



I MADE THIS FOR YOU
A Column by Emily Beck

Bringing Home the Win for Homecoming

Central Eagles do not disappoint when faced with opponents Omaha South. Not only did Central lead the Eagles into Homecoming victory, they crushed the Packers in a painful 42-7 game.



1.



3.



4.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE PAUL/THE REGISTER



2.

1. Player six kneels mid-game, awaiting to take on the field versus opponent South. 2. Central's football team's victory was a rock solid win over South with the closing score 42-7; Central's lead was apparent from the start. 3. Coach Jay Ball keeps an eye on his players as they run the field. 4. In ready position, Central's football team crouches down, anxious for the moment that the game can begin.

JENNIFER ROONEY
Editor-in-Chief

"The team that comes out and doesn't make mistakes and executes, wins the game," said Darin Williams, Athletics Assistant Principal.

Central High's varsity football team won the football game, 42-7, against South High on Sept. 14th.

The theme of the night was white for seniors and freshmen and purple for sophomores and juniors, but the seniors decided to wear togas.

Before the game, the whole team met at 3 p.m., right after school, for some relaxation time. Coach Jay Ball told the coaches to tell players to watch a lot of film and develop game playing.

The coaches went over things with the players for the game, like offensive and defensive tactics, to keep them focused. This is a normal preparation; they do this every Friday before their game.

"When Coach Ball is talking to us, I just visualize what good things I can do in the game like interceptions and scoring," said senior Devontay Leflore, #48.

They also do a lot of practicing on the field each day. The coaches try to get momentum in their systems. While practicing, they mostly do a lot of fundamentals.

There was also a different quarterback than the previous games. Junior Malik Sams, #15, was the quarterback for the

first two games, but in the third game against Papillion LaVista South, Sams switched to defense and Junior Cameron Dorsey, #11, became the quarterback.

The game started off with South's kickoff. After just a few minutes into the game, Central scored a touchdown. Senior Mike Leach, #6, picked up a fumble from South and made a recovery. Leflore claimed they call him the "Honey Badger" because the ball always goes to him or he always picks up the ball—for example, this fumble.

For a while, both teams were just working toward the next touchdown with no luck. That is, until there was just one minute left and we got the ball down the field, receiving six figures on the scoreboard.

At the beginning of the second quarter, senior Tra-Deon Hollins, #4, ran down the field, plunging over everyone and passing through anybody that got in the way.

He did not fumble or fall until he was just a few yards short of a touchdown. "It looked like he was really trying. He tried to make some things happen," said Williams.

And again with just 30 seconds on the clock of the first half, Leflore acquired a touchdown. "We were on a roll and couldn't be stopped. They just couldn't stop us," he said.

The score at halftime was 35 to 0. At the end of the first half, the football players ran off and the band members and pom squad waited to perform for their portions of the halftime show.

As the second half of the game started, something changed.

The younger players, including the JV team, began to play in the game. A few minutes before the third quarter ended, Central scored another touchdown and was up to 42 points.

When there were a few seconds left in the third quarter, South finally scored. And the game was over. The end score was 42-7.

All of the players who scored touchdowns were seniors #4 Tra Hollins, #6 Mike Leach, #22 Jackie Davis, #48 Devontay Leflore and #5 Deandre Hollins-Johnson. There was also one sophomore, #20 Tre Sanders.

Most people wanted to see more improvement though. "I think they're a better team than they've shown. They have made some mistakes that have cost them the game, but I think they're a better team than they've shown."

"They have some good effort. I think they could've played a lot better though, they should not be satisfied because they should continue to strive to get better. They still have a lot of areas to work on," said Williams.

The varsity football team is now two and two going into districts, which start with the Bellevue East game on Sept. 21st.

"It's a good opportunity to show everybody we can be a good team. It's going to be our best game," said Leflore. Everyone is looking forward to this game.

"We won and I was very happy about that," said Ball. "I think we can play better, but as long as we win, that's the most important thing."

When looking at it from every angle it's inevitable: sports just do not entertain some

When people are gathered in a bar or restaurant or even the comfort of their own home watching their favorite sports teams play, it's usually a fun time for them.

I would like to say that, if anything, the sport I like the most is volleyball...but I've had problems with it. When I was in the fifth and sixth grades I played volleyball for my elementary school's team, and I had a pretty fun time. I was pretty good at it; I couldn't serve overhand, but my underhand has always been good.

I took a volleyball camp during summer at Norris Middle School where I would be going the next year. I did well, and the coach seemed like the nicest lady, because she never yelled or told us what we were bad at. She was the coach at Norris, so I was comfortable trying out.

When I made the team, she challenged us to the maximum degree; it was pretty intense, even if the girls were just 12 and 13 years old. I hated my coach with a burning passion, but even now I realize how awesome it was for me to continue and deal with her annoying rants and accusations.

That was the time when I started to hate sports.

The main reason why I hate sports is because of the coaches. There are those coaches of variety who are really nice but are strict, but they don't get irritated if someone does one thing wrong. I personally do not perform well under pressure, so that's why every time my volleyball coach yelled at me I would mess up a game for the team. If the coach does nothing but yelling, tormenting, and complaining, then the team doesn't have a good impression on the coach, and then eventually no one will. A coach should be supportive but intimidating (to an

extent). If the coach does not constantly yell and is always telling the team what to improve on, not what they should and shouldn't do, then that shows they care. I have only had that one experience with a strict, unsupportive coach, but it was one experience too many.

Another reason I hate sports is because I feel that too many people are into them. There are people who spend hundreds, even thousands of dollars on tickets, and for what? Pretty much the same scenes occur within every sporting event, and how is that entertaining watching the same things happen all the time? Another thing; what is the point of sitting down for hours at a time only to watch a team exercise? Once in a while it's fine to watch some sort of sporting event, but what is the point in getting season passes to every game if nothing ever changes? Why do people spend so much money on tickets when there are even more fun things to spend money on that one can actually be active in instead of sitting down and watching people fail and lose? Obviously someone is going to lose and some fans will be disappointed because they had high hopes and wasted their money to watch their team play, so it's pointless.

The final reason I hate sports is simply because they're boring. When I happen to catch an Olympic game or just any game on television, I last about 10 minutes before I just give up completely. I'm so bored with them, that I've never even been to a Central sporting event, which makes me look bad, actually.

Yes, sports. I've hated them for a long time and I always will. I feel that sometimes people need to realize that there are more important things to think about and do than watch sports while sit-



BIG BOW STRIKES AGAIN
A Column by Cheyenne Alexis

Generation C Tailgate party brings alumni together to celebrate the support of Central

■ **TAILGATE:** Continued from page 16

tured into the stands to watch Central trump South High.

"I think it went really well," said Michele Roberts, Executive Director of the Central High Foundation. "It was a good variety of people." Young and old attended the event: alumni from a wide number of years as well as parents of past and present students.

Generation "C" is in its third year and continues to go strong.

Other events it holds throughout the year include a golf outing at Field Club and Rock the Nest Trivia Night, both of which helped to raise money for Central's campaign to go wireless. Together the events raised roughly \$70,000.

The program is chaired this year by Linda and Nelson Gordon, who graduated with Central's class of 1958. The two met on their first day at Central, dated throughout high school and eventually married, recently celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary.

The two, who were in attendance in of the Generation "C" Tailgate, are still incredibly fond of Central and still keep in touch with fellow graduates of Central.

Alumni and other members of the community continue to support Central through donations in the hopes that the school will continue to be one of the finest in the country.

Generation "C" will continue to sponsor fun activities for these donors, as well as the missions of Central High.



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Students reject low status

Students argue there is more to the success at Central than the results of standardized testing. Many factors should be taken into account to gage Central high school.

Omaha Central, the largest high school in Nebraska, was placed on the federal list of Persistently Low-Achieving Schools in November of 2011 for its low graduation rate. At the end of the 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 school years, Central High's graduation rates were 70.3 percent and 74.96 percent, respectively.

According to state standards, a school is "persistently low-achieving" if:

- a) the school has an average graduation rate of less than 75 percent and/or
- b) the school has fallen to the bottom five schools or bottom five percent (whichever is greater) in the state.



The top 3 schools in Nebraska for 11th Grade Writing Assessment, Class A is Papillion - LaVista South (87.17), Millard West (84.42) and Millard North (76.35).

School rankings are based on students' performances in reading and math on the Nebraska State Accountability (NeSA) tests.

In the **OPINION** of the **REGISTER**

The implications for Central High as a persistently low-achieving school (PLAS) are that it provides a poor quality education and does not adequately

prepare its students. But the principal of Central, Dr. Bigsby, rejects these notions. Bigsby pointed out, "People who don't understand... public secondary education have attempted to quantify a human process. It's impossible to quantify a human process."

Every Central student remembers his or her first day - strolling through the courtyard with its enchanting brick walls, encountering incoming freshmen, meeting welcoming teachers. Every student has walked Central's halls and interacted with teachers and classmates. Everyone has seen what happens in the gym, the auditorium, and the classrooms. Refer to 'FAIL' on page 18

Omaha Public Schools 11th Grade Writing Assessment Results

In order for the year 2011-2012

Omaha Burke	54.79
Omaha Central	51.56
Omaha North	41.47
Omaha Bryan	39.11
Omaha Northwest	37.54
Omaha South	37.48
Omaha Benson	35.92

Senior year: the end is near

Senior reflects on how to experience final year and facing the reality of growing up.



NEVER WOULD I EVER A Column by Jennifer Rooney

People always say an old goodbye opens a new hello. But is that what senior year has become about? Leaving old people and meeting new ones, leaving what you're used to and starting a new thing?

I've grown to realize that this senior year is something much different, something much more... what's the word... spontaneous. There are so many differences in me and in what's around me.

First off, some of the people I've met are becoming more mature in their attitude. For example, myself, never have I ever wanted to stay at school for all nine periods. Yet I am one of the only seniors that has a full schedule. What's the deal with that? I don't know.

People always ask me why I chose to stay. Well, my answer is usually, 'why not?' There are so many classes to get into, especially if you know what you're interested in and have finally made up your decision. The decision based upon the usual "what do you want to be when you're older" question. But what if you haven't? I'm not going to tell you that you have all the time in world to figure it out because in reality, you don't. So step it up and try new things!

Throughout the whole first day of school this year, all I heard was "hey I get out after this class" or "I don't have a lunch, I'll just eat when I get out." Truthfully I was a little jealous, but I was still glad about all of the classes I have chosen to take. Yeah, sounds a little cheesy, but overall it's the truth.

Why not get started early on college credits and college classes? It'll make that college life a little easier

Refer to 'SENIOR' on page 20

Seniors frustrated over another grading scale



Four different grading scales in four years have left students exhausted, especially seniors, who have never had a consistent scale to measure their achievement during high school.

"Sorry seniors, but we're going to change the grading scale once again to frustrate you even more." That's the phrase we all hear in our own minds upon finding out that the grading scale has changed...again. Are you serious? We all start feeling the headaches, and school has barely started.

During seniors' freshmen year there was the scale that we all loved, those A, B, and C's that just lead straight to our grade. A grading system

so easy "a caveman could do it." But if you think about it, some things were not right. For example if you earned an 84%, that was a C, but your friend earned an 85%, that was a B. Does that really earn one whole letter upgrade? How would you feel about that? Actually, how did you feel about that? There was a large possibility that the grades would come up higher or lower than was expected.

In the **OPINION** of the **REGISTER**

Refer to 'GRADE' on page 20

Omaha Public Schools Grading Scale for 2012-2013 School Year

A	3.51-4.00	C	1.51-2.00
A-	3.01-3.50	D	0.76-1.50
B	2.51-3.00	F	0.00-0.75
B-	2.01-2.50		

CARTOON BY HENRY GENTLE
GRAPHIC BY JENNIFER ROONEY/THE REGISTER



New liver, new life: an account of how organ donation really saves lives

Matt Iverson, at the time 12, and Emily Beck, 3, sit together and look at an I-Spy book during a holiday visit at their grandparent's house. The two cousins see each other about once a year but are able to keep in touch by text-messaging and social networking.



PHOTO COURTESY OF EMILY BECK/THE REGISTER

Upon being asked the question, 'what did you do this summer?' most respond with variations of the following:

'I got a job.' 'I went to the pool every day.' 'I went on vacation with my family to Colorado.' 'I went to summer camp.' 'I got a new liver.'

Wait... what was that last one? Did you say you visited Liver- pool? You got a new copy of *The Giver*?

For the past few years, my cousin has had some serious struggles with his health. A mere 24 years of age, he's been through more than his share of medical problems. Plagued with autoimmune Hepatitis, Crohn's disease and bouts of anemia, Matt has had a difficult struggle with life.

As a youth in high school, he was a champion runner as well as a math genius. He was a typical Mountain Dew drinking, video game playing, technology obsessed, curly headed teenager that I got to see once or twice a year, usually in the summer or around holidays. He is one of my two cousins, the one who when we were both younger sometimes tied me up, didn't like when I played with his Legos and could sometimes be a little mean.

But he was always Matt. As I grew up he still teased me, but we had become friends—even though he still kept to himself a lot. I was there when he graduated high school and college. Everything was fine. And then he started having health problems... which got progressively worse.

My family had always been concerned about Matt's health,

even if it was just in the back of everyone's mind. Always picky, I remember him at one point refusing to consume anything but milk and peanut butter sandwiches. Cans of soda lined the table his computer rested on in the perpetually dark basement. But then he was just a kid, and no one knew what was coming.

It all began in the late summer of 2007, when some check-up results showed that his liver and lymph nodes were enlarged. In late Nov. it was discovered after much testing that Matt had lost 70% of his liver function, and a month or so later it was concluded that he has autoimmune Hepatitis—which means that his immune system cannot tell the difference between healthy and harmful cells, thus attacking the healthy tissue.

There really was no cause—or if there was, we will never know. It sort of just happened.

Throughout the next few years, Matt had countless check-ups and doctor visits, as well as many blood draws, a colonoscopy, bouts of jaundice, hernias and medication issuances, with innumerable changes to said medication—his doses fluctuating, switching medicines, etc. That, in itself, sounds miserable to me. While his condition also fluctuated throughout those months, the decline was steady and it became clear that Matt was not getting better.

When we visited last Christmas there was obviously something very wrong. You could see it through his T-shirt and feel it

Refer to 'COUSIN' on page 20



I MADE THIS FOR YOU A Column by Emily Beck

Freshmen feel the wrath of being deemed 'cute' by their barely older superiors

"Oh my god, isn't my cousin such a little rockstar?" - yikes, everytime I play this seemingly complimentary line throughout my head I can't resist a little cringe. This phrase was my cousin's, who might I add is only a year older than me age-wise but two years grade-wise, way of introducing me to her boyfriend. Nevertheless he probably thought I was about 12 rather than 16 at the time.

Ever since I can remember the age gap has seemed effortlessly larger than the San Andreas fault between my cousin and I. Since I can remember, and it actually just happened a month ago, she has always asked me: 'So, you're a (insert grade under my actual grade here) now?' And when I reply 'Actually, I'm a grade older', it's always met back with a 'OH MY GOSH NO WAY? You are getting so old.'

I don't know if it's quite possible for me to explain the absurdity and the little bit of ick that I puke up into my throat whenever we have these conversations, which, awkwardly enough, are always the ones we have. The only result I've

come up with is simple, and sticks out like a sore thumb: grade.

Throughout our years in school, we know that the top dogs in the building are the older kids, i.e. the sixth graders, the eighth graders and lastly the seniors. This grade difference importance doesn't really seem to become apparent until we enter high school when the four year age gap becomes more like an elderly person to a child.



THIS IS RANDOM BUT A Column by Mekenzie Kerr

Not simply the upper- from under-classmen, but literally anything older than the "dreaded" freshmen. While sitting in on a few freshmen classes where seniors or juniors were helping, I recall a junior saying, in response to the fact that they were 14, 'oh my gosh you're such a baby!' The little bit of bile settled in my stomach welled up, just like when my cousin would say that to me. Going into junior year most teenagers land at about sixteen, which is a "whopping" difference of 2 years between them and a freshman.

I'll agree that maturity level difference between a senior or junior and a freshmen is generally quite large. Freshmen tend to

yell a little louder than necessary, say things that are naïve, what have you; yet seniors do the same thing, in a different way (sometimes not...), and we've all been at that point. Nor does this generality give us upperclassmen the permission to categorize all underclassmen as such, even if most of them fit this status quo.

Years from now the upperclassmen and underclassmen titles will be done away with, and age becomes less of a barrier. I've seen countless examples of people that are between 20 and 26 that are friends without age interfering. You can argue with me that maturity finally comes to an equal playing field, but even greater is the fact that there is no longer classes and grade levels to compare age difference - just common interests, likes and dislikes playing in-together to create a friendship. There are no barriers as we get older besides commonalities or differences to prevent a friendship.

All this to say, next time your cousin or fellow upperclassmen says to you something like, "Oh my gosh you are so little!" take it in stride, roll your eyes, and think about how someday you might be their boss, superior, or maybe just even their friend.

Now Hiring!
Teen jobs supply funds for food, friends, and fun, but is the extra stress really worth it?
See Inside, Page 20

Solution or Snide?
Are new voter identification laws an answer to solve fraud, or just a dirty political trick?
See Inside, Page 17

New Hope for Hopeless
Hope for young illegal aliens to gain citizenship arrives with the passing of The Dream Act.
See Inside, Page 19

Register Your Opinion

Freshman Corner

What's your biggest fear in regards to starting high school?



Josette Pappan

Being in a small class where awkward silences are the norm.



Kacey Ratigan

Falling down the stairs or tripping over the door steps.



Derek Smith

Finding my classes and being lonely in class. Also all the homework.



Ellie Pleggenkuhle

Not being able to find a balance between school and extracurricular activities.



Janay Chaidez

Not getting asked to homecoming.



Jacob Bigelow

Being in a school with so many people.



Drew Moffatt

Getting through the halls to my class since the halls will be busy.



Alyssa Shuler

All the people at Central. Plus this school is huge and I don't want to get lost.



Voter identification laws leave thousands ineligible to cast their ballots in the upcoming election, despite the absence of a real problem with fraud.

If you have been following the current election, you should be informed about the new voter identification laws being pushed. We at *The Register* believe these laws should be abolished. Republican Governors, in states including S.C., Wis., Kan., Ga., Ind., Pa., Texas and Tenn. are all passing voter ID laws. The purpose of Identification Laws are to stop "countless" voter fraud cases. In actuality, the amounts of voter fraud cases are legitimately countless. So countless, in fact, that according to the *Huffington Post*, a study of in-person voter fraud in presidential elections dating back to 2000 showed that there were only ten cases of voter fraud in over 600 million votes casted. Another study was conducted at the Brennan Center for Justice revealing that Ohio had 9,078,728 votes with only four fraud cases reported. That puts the amount of voter fraud at the sarcastically staggering rate of .0004 percent. That is merely forty-four one millionths of a percent. It has also been reported that Pennsylvania has zero documented cases of in-person voter fraud.

There is no reliable proof that voter fraud is a massive problem in America, and is mistakably a myth while ridiculous ID laws are still being pushed with specific demands. In S.C., a harsh law has been passed that requires a driver's license, military license, or passport to be able to vote. This

makes 178,000 voters illegible to vote in S.C. In Texas you cannot use your student ID to vote, but you can use your concealed handgun license, which is morally misguided. With these absurd ID ramifications, the *Huffington Post* estimates, up to 758,000 people will not have a valid voter ID in the United States. So why is there ID laws when the percent of tampered votes is at a miniscule and irrelevant percent compared to the amount of ineligible voters?

With voter fraud nonexistent, there are no reputable speculations to why these laws are being pushed. It doesn't take much time to deduce the real reason the laws are being passed. With minimal research, the only advocates of these ID laws, Republican Governors, are blatantly revealing their intentions. Republican State Legislature Representative Mike Turzai quoted in a Republican State Committee meeting, "Voter ID is going to allow Governor Romney to win the state of Pennsylvania." Chris Matthews from MSNBC News responded that he just "blew their cover." These voter ID laws are disenfranchising the elderly, the poor, minorities, and students across the country. Many of these affected are Democrats and the laws inevitably favor the Republicans. By creating a large population of Democratic voters ineligible, the Republicans gain a considerable

advantage in the swing states, which have been integral in the outcome of presidential elections. These bogus laws were started to assist Romney and other Republicans to win office seats.

Several other members of government and newsmen support Turzai and the voter ID laws by reasoning that people who are not able to get an ID are simply not capable of having a legitimate or "correct" vote. William O'Brien, a Republican House speaker told a tea party group, "Voting as a liberal. That's what kids do. They don't have life experience. They just vote their feelings." O'Brien and other conservatives believe that people voted "wrong," so they constructed a law based on a fabrication so this population, without approved identifications, cannot vote.

Rush Limbaugh added on his radio show, "If people cannot even feed and clothe themselves, should they be allowed to vote?" Judson Phillip, a tea partier, said, "If you're not a property owner, I'm sorry but property owners have a little bit more of a vested stake in the community than not property owners do."

It's suppressing Democrats less fortunate, elderly, inner city, and students. To ban 758,000 people from voting due to ten documented voter frauds by passing the ID laws, the Republican Governors have interfered with the democratic system that makes America so great.

In the OPINION of the REGISTER

In the OPINION of the REGISTER

Possible hate crime fraud may tarnish national LGBT community's reputation

Hate crimes: they are an unfortunate and a real part of our society. Anyone who is accused of a hate crime is most likely looked down upon by the public. What about someone who is not a victim, but makes a false allegation?

On Tuesday, August 21st, Lincoln police arrested 33-year-old Charlie Rogers. She claimed a group of men tied her up and carved anti-gay slurs on her body and lit gasoline in her home. Rogers also claimed that the men spray painted anti-gay slurs on her basement wall.

After the men fled, according to Rogers, she ran naked to a neighbor's to get help. Not only has this been on the Lincoln and Omaha news, but this story has now made national headlines.

If found guilty of falsehood, Rogers will face a maximum sentence of one year in prison and up to a \$1,000 fine.

According to Roger's lawyer, she is not changing her story at all. "She has maintained a consistent story throughout," said Roger's lawyer to the Lincoln Journal Star.

Days before the alleged assault, Rogers posted on a social media site saying "I will be a catalyst." The "assault" happened only four days after Rogers had made the social media post.

"The Facebook posting may offer a hint of motive behind an act," said Lincoln Police Chief Jim Peschong.

Medical experts say the wounds on Rogers' body are most likely self-inflicted. The cuts on Rogers' body were not in sensitive areas.

If it is proven that she made the story up, there should definitely be some punishments that follow. LGBT communities not only in Nebr., but across the nation are holding vigils for Rogers and protesting for human rights. Some people are even starting a campaign to raise money for Rogers.

She needs to understand that if she is proven guilty of making false allegations, she will not only give herself a terrible, horrendous reputation, but she will also give the LGBT community a very bad reputation as well.

By making false accusations of a hate crime the LGBT movement's entire campaign could carry a sense of questionable motives behind it, the whole movement being slandered.

She could end up being the reason that police and other government officials may lose trust in the LGBT community when one may try to seek help in the future.

However, the police department of Lincoln released a statement saying that they certainly aren't going to change how they handle cases for anyone.

On the other hand, the Lincoln police have every reason to question Rogers. Maybe it's just how things played out, but it's pretty convenient that Rogers made a statement on a social media site about being a "catalyst."

Despite the fact that Rogers hasn't changed her story doesn't change the fact that we have every reason to be suspicious due to Roger's social media wall post.

Not to mention the fact that during the recent ongoing investigation, Lincoln Police have discovered Rogers but all the materials necessary to stage the event that she claimed happen.

If Rogers is found guilty of this crime, she will not only change the way people in Lincoln look at her, but she will also change the way this whole nation views her.

Rogers will most likely end up disappointing thousands and thousands of people in the LGBT community after how many vigils were held and also after how much money was raised for her.

All of the LGBT community's attempt at comfort for Rogers will seem as if they have gone in vain.

However, if Rogers is found innocent, the Lincoln Police department will most likely be looked down upon due to the fact that they questioned her while she was just trying to figure out who committed the vicious crime.

If she's telling the truth, I wish nothing but peace for her and I also hope the suspects involved are brought to justice.

Home, sweet Dundee! Omaha's neighborhood put on the map

I am grateful to have grown up the past sixteen years in a neighborhood affectionately termed D-Block, otherwise known as Dundee. Contrary to the nickname, Dundee is not "the worst block in the hood" but an eclectic, viable, historic community.

The *USA Today* Survey of 2011, Great Places In America, announced Dundee as one of America's top 10 best historical neighborhoods.

As I speak for many of my classmates and friends that also reside in the community of Dundee, I believe we are all grateful to live in such a flourishing neighborhood.

The business district, which roughly occupies 49th and Underwood to 51st and Underwood, is rapidly growing and becoming an acclaimed food destination in Omaha.

With the lingering smell of their renowned curry fries, one cannot overlook Amsterdam as one of the most successful businesses in Dundee. Despite its small space, kids and adults alike frequent tables that sit both outside and inside of the restaurant, waiting to get their hands on the greasy bag that comes with tiny forks and cups of mayonnaise.

Along with Amsterdam, a family owned restaurant, Dario's Brassiere, is an informal French café serving memorable hamburgers with frites as well as pots of steaming blue cheese mussels.

Pitch, another largely popular restaurant, has acclaimed coal-fired pizza with a hip, city-like atmosphere. Marks Restaurant, established in 2003, has fully embraced the community aspect of Dundee and offers, along with its extensive menu, the best outdoor patio space in Omaha.

The Dundee Dell is a legendary pub; its original location at 50th and Dodge Street dates back to 1939. Not just bar food, the Dell has an array of home-cooked comfort food.

New restaurants are also developing. In the former space of the Subway sandwich shop, the French Bulldog is moving in, co-owned by the owners of Amsterdam, teaming up with the founder of Pitch and the founder of the Boiler room to provide a charcuterie/ restaurant.

As the restaurants grow, the small businesses also flourish. Scout, a consignment clothing store, as well as Halo, Omaha Healthy Kids and Tangerine Design are all making sizeable contributions to the business district's success.

These accomplished local businesses are going to become even more desirable to patrons due to \$2.5 million raised to renovate the Dundee neighborhood. These renovations include new sidewalks, more parking, and landscaping, which will enable this historic district much needed restoration. The start date of renovation is yet to be determined.

Besides being a thriving business district, Dundee has a reputation as a hangout refuge for teenagers, whether that's on one of the sidewalks or at one of the businesses or parks.

As an example, there is a social loop that ranges from driving past Amsterdam and A.B.S. (at 50th and Underwood), to the "sunks" (the green space at Happy Hollow Blvd. and Underwood Avenue), then looping into Memorial Park's round-a-bout (57th and Underwood).

Surely, you'll run into someone you know at any one of these locations. A large chunk of the students who attend Central also live in houses that sit snugly within the D-Block.

These public spaces attract neighborhood kids and fellow Omahans 365 days a year.

Whether your passion is ultimate Frisbee, extreme sledding, hackey sack, or just eating good food, Dundee has it all.



THIS IS MY STORY
A Column by Sydney Petersen

Lessons learned from classic Disney movies

It is every young girl's dream to become a princess or a model, to be showered with jewels and compliments, and to discover the elusive Prince Charming. But these dreams are accompanied by an overshadowing dependency on men. The lessons learned from classic Disney movies don't always teach girls to be an independent professional but rather, a trophy wife. Also, because of these movies, my seven-year-old self had unrealistic expectations for how her life would unfold.

Snow White, the maiden with skin white as snow, lips red as blood, and hair black as ebony, convinced me that I could look like a porcelain doll. And with seven dwarfs and every woodland creature imaginable at her beck and call, Snow White rarely wanted for anything. When at the mercy of an evil queen, Snow white solved her predicament by shacking up with seven dwarves. To further the stereotype of the everyday housewife, Snow White offered to cook and clean for them. And when the evil queen poisoned her, Snow White was doomed to sleep forever unless she received a prince's kiss. From the tale of Snow White, I could have taken away the idea that I can depend on men, short or tall, to rescue me from my problems.

Ariel was born into underwater royalty with perfect flaming hair and best friends who also played the role of her indentured servants. Because

of Ariel, I was briefly under the impression that if I ran away from home and lost my father's most prized possession in a shady bargain, then my father would welcome me back with open arms.

Cinderella was the epitome of the damsel in distress, but I would like to look at her situation in perspective. While psychologically abused by her stepmother and stepsisters, let us keep in mind that Cinderella enjoyed spa treatments and self fashion advice from uncannily savvy mice and birds. For some time, I wondered if the animals in the twenty-first century were defective because birds and chipmunks refused to hang up my laundry. To escape from a broken home of abuse and torture, Cinderella had to dress up and look pretty at a ball. Understandably, those were different times. Nevertheless, it would have been comforting to know that Cinderella had some control over the situation, rather than subjecting herself to psychological abuse while she awaited a fairy godmother or her Prince Charming.

When I watch these movies today, I scorn these princesses for their naiveté in relying on a fairy godmother or a young prince to save them from a broken home or a wicked witch. I understand the importance of preserving classic children's stories, but I would also like my daughter's first bedtime story to be one in which the damsel in distress got herself out of the mess.



ITS ALL UNCOMMON
A Column by Giselle Tran

Corporations and Gay Rights Can Mix

The Register feels corporate heads have the right to donate money where they please.



GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK/ THE REGISTER

Iconic corporations from the food industry to retail have donated chunks of their profits to organizations, movements and stereotypically “good Samaritan” causes. Many of these donations are going to warm, fuzzy, feel-good movements like the Ronald McDonald House Charities or homeless shelters; creating a selfless, good-natured feel deviating away from the strictly business-goal mindset that follows around businesses.

But the red flags are immediately raised when things begin to involve political agendas and controversial topics, say, the Gay Rights Movement for example. While many businesses donate to these causes, the tendency of those against have a trend of being unaffiliated with the business done through private transactions.

Though when Chik-fil-A president Dan Cathy released to the Baptist Press that he was “guilty as charged” in standing concrete on what he dubs the biblical definition of a family – all hell seemed to break loose.

Chicago Alderman Joe Moreno was one of the first to react to this release of political opinion from the Chik-fil-A president, stating that he would not allow the corporation to open the first free-standing restaurant in his city unless they decided to produce a written anti-discrimination policy. The domino effect took place in Boston as well when mayor Thomas Menino proposed blocking Chik-fil-A from opening a restaurant in the city.

Mayors, city men, businesses everywhere have expressed a very similar discontent for Chik-fil-A preceding Cathy’s statement. According to CBS News Menino sent a letter to the food chain that was also posted on the Boston City Facebook page saying, “your company says you are backing out of the same-sex marriage debate. I urge you to back out of your plans to locate in Boston...I was angry to learn on the heels of your prejudiced statements about your search for a site to locate in Boston. There is no place for discrimination on Boston’s Freedom Trail and no place for your company alongside it.”

Other East coast city individuals boycotted Chik-fil-A by resisting purchasing a chicken and waffle fry meal from the food chain, everyone played

their part.

While many gay rights activists sat chowing down on other restaurant’s foods, they are bound to have been shopping at Best Buy, Free People, Target, Exxon Mobil, Anthropologie or Urban Outfitters – all who have openly opposed gay rights or have donated money to candidates and organizations that are right-wing.

What makes Chik-fil-A stick out like a sore thumb with the president’s biblical view on homosexuality? What happened to freedom of speech?

Strongly worded statements from politicians degrading and in opposition of Chik-fil-A seem incredibly hypocritical if politicians are to be the ones upholding the First Amendment’s promise of freedom of speech.

To abstain from purchases, association and monetary support of businesses like these who are not in favor of the gay rights movement is simply hypocrisy and absurdity. I have yet to encounter a large boycott or lack of sales from companies like technology giant Apple, bookstore Barnes & Noble or any other of the “Pro-Homosexual giants” out there from those who are not in agreement with their views.

There is in no way an upper hand or logistic reason for gay rights movement activists to put their feet in the door and stop trafficking businesses who don’t agree with their views.

If everyone avoided those with opposing views and felt the need to argue over these differences than stepping out into the public scene wouldn’t be worth it. Whether over-zealous or somewhat ambiguous the gay rights movement seems to put the spotlight on those that aren’t all in on their cause, even though as citizens, involved in corporation monsters or not, have the right to express an open opinion.

If anything, the gay rights movement’s motives and actions need to be called into question if they continue to patronize the opinions of those whose opinions don’t align with theirs.

If not, there will no longer exist room for anti-“mainstream” thoughts.

**In the
OPINION
of the
REGISTER**

Central faces low results

■ **FAIL:** Continued from Page 16

alone. A school’s academic and athletic programs, the attitude of its student body, its staff’s ability to teach students, and the available extracurricular activities are other criteria that determine whether or not a high school is “good.”

The Register has had the opportunity to interview students who are proud to be Central Eagles. Honors students eagerly describe the benefits that students derive from the teachers and classes Central offers. Student athletes share their experiences, including the support of an encouraging coach. Every student is a witness to Central’s contributions to society, which range far wider than mere numbers.

Central’s stellar academic program addresses the individual needs of its students. Innovative courses are designed so that high-achievers can excel. Last school year, Advanced Topics was a class created to teach students graduate-level math topics. Marika Svolos, a rising senior at Central who scored perfects on both the ACT and SAT, commented, “My math teacher, Mr. Sand [...] created new math classes for us. You don’t get that at a lot of schools.”

Bryce Gollobit, a 2012 Central graduate and rising freshman at the University of Chicago, said, “I wouldn’t even have considered going to [...] University of Chicago without having teachers like Mr. Frerichs and Jesse Busse and Larson who introduced me to [...] the idea.”

Furthermore, Central pushes all of its students to succeed, whether that means getting a job right out of high school or attending elite colleges and universities. Brita Sjogren, a varsity soccer player for Central, felt that she had received a well-rounded education from Central, noting, “Academically, yes, I feel extremely prepared. But also beyond that, for life in general. It [Central] teaches you [...] before you get out in the world.”

But Central also focuses on the students with disabilities and those who learned English as a second language, two student populations that have contributed to Central’s status as a PLAS. For the underprivileged, the NeSA tests pose difficulties. Unlike other standardized tests, NeSA tests do not take into consideration students’ limitations, refusing to adjust time constraints. Svolos maintains, “When you take kids with disabilities or other disadvantages [...] kids whose families haven’t gone to college [...] these students will probably not help raise your test scores. [But] that doesn’t mean that there isn’t any value in helping them and including them in your school community.”

But perhaps more important than Central’s emphasis on academic excellence is its focus on the other factors that contribute to the education of a young adult. Having won six of the last seven basketball championships, Central has reigned in boys’ basketball, winning the last three titles. Stereotypes surround Central as an “inner-city school,” but Dr. Bigsby and students have been working to change those labels. Central promotes citizenship by actively participating in the annual Downtown Clean-up and Relay for Life. Additionally, a novel system has been introduced at Central to promote honesty and responsibility. Students who discover lost items return them to the main office and hear their good deeds acknowledged on the intercom. Stories travel about iPhones and iPods being returned to their rightful owners.

Along with participating students are enthusiastic teachers. This year, Connie Kellen, a special education teacher at Central, won the coveted Alice Buffet Outstanding Teacher Award. A colleague of Kellen wrote, “She consistently models positive behavior for these special children, helping each of them to maximize their potential.” Central teachers reach out to all members of its student body, not only the high-achievers.

It is these many factors that have led to the positive attitude of Central’s student body. Dr. Bigsby said, “This is who we are.” Sjogren affirmed this belief, saying, “We had to turn away almost 300 students this year. Clearly, there is a draw to Central. And I don’t think the failing attitude is in the school [...] You talk to people in the halls. They’re not embarrassed to go to Central. They’re proud.”

Graduation rates illustrate one side of the story, but the numerous contributions Central has made to its community and the society city tell another version. Despite the label of “persistently low-achieving,” Central will continue as a pillar of academic achievement, responsible global citizenship, and enduring scholarship.



GRAPHIC BY SAN JUANA PARAMO/ THE REGISTER

Rosenblatt Stadium: an icon for the world, a memory for many, will be missed by Omaha

Up until the sixth grade, I remember my favorite school field trip was to the iconic Rosenblatt stadium. As a kid I remember dreading the long walk it took, but the rewarding sensation one got from watching the games close to the field was worth it.

Unfortunately, I fear no more memories will be made since the demolition to the historic stadium is closer to the end.

It is sad to see a place where many of my fondest memories and those of others is being torn down. There will always be an empty space where it once stood, whatever new construction takes its place.

The arched “Rosenblatt Stadium” sign that rested on the top of the scoreboard, once so familiar, will be missed.

The fireworks that lit the sky whenever a game was played will never light up summer nights ever again. The College World Series fans that walked around my neighborhood from all over the states will be gone. The excitement I felt walking in and enjoying a game will be no more.

All that’s left for now is the rubble that once held all the memories I made with friends, family, and classmates, memories that will always stay with me, even if the stadium is gone for good.

Though it’s sad to know that the stadium is gone, I prefer to think of all the happy days and delirious joy the old ballpark gave to fans and young players over the decades that came to play and watch college baseball.

Rosenblatt will forever live on the way it should in our memories.

Though the memory of Rosenblatt will live on, we have a new stadium and new memories to make. TD Ameritrade Park will be a new start to many new

fans and players. It’ll be a new experience to fans that have enjoyed games since they were young.

Even though TD Ameritrade Park will take the place of Rosenblatt, it will never be the same.

I’ll always remember my first game at Rosenblatt, the first ever field trip that led to my passion for college baseball.

No more field trips are in my future, but the chance to attend a game in the new ballpark is.

The opportunity to have new experiences, and make new memories will be a new start. I look forward to spending as much time there as I did in Rosenblatt, and see a new generation of fans emerge.

The stadium itself will be gone, but in its place a commemorative park will hold its history.

The zoo will construct Johnny’s Rosenblatt’s Infield on the site of what had been the stadium’s infield. Parts of the stadium, including the arched sign, will be incorporated resembling a smaller-scale baseball field.

It’ll be small, but it’ll feel like home no less. The memories of the good ole’ times will come back and will show future generations what Rosenblatt meant to all those that ever attended. Rosenblatt will be gone, but will stay in the hearts of those who’ve made it their home.

Though I don’t have as many memories of the stadium’s early days, the ones I do will last for a lifetime.

The old stadium was a landmark. It was bigger than life. It was like walking back in time, and seeing a family member you haven’t seen in decades.

It will be missed, but the memory of Rosenblatt will forever live on.



HAKUNA MATATA
A Column by San Juana Paramo

Register Your Opinion

Freshman Corner

What’s your biggest fear in regards to starting high school?



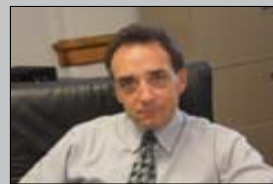
Kiersten Wendell

Finding a date for homecoming!



Aaron Borcyk

The hardest thing will be trying to keep up with all of the homework and getting it done the very next day.



Dr. Bigsby

Not knowing any of the ninth graders’ names.



Caitlyn Nelsen

Being late to class.



Kristin Sperzel

It’s awkward to not know anyone or where you’re going.



Yareny Gonzalez

Not being able to pass some classes because I head it’s all hard work.



Nekaya Payne

Seeing all of the upperclassmen.



Brandie Swoboda

Freshman kill day. I hear stories about freshman kill day where freshmen get pushed around.

Sleep deprivation leads to serious side effects for teens



RELEASE THE KRAKEN
A Column by Elissa Wiener

I quietly yawn into my hand as I get comfortable in my seat and listen to the teacher drone on and on about something completely unintelligible to me by this point.

Her speech becomes a soft murmur to me as my eyelids droop farther down and my head nods slowly. My head drops and I suddenly jerk back awake, snapping my head up and attempting to focus once more.

This is a typical routine for me in my 7:45 a.m. class that I drag myself into every morning.

The early bell leaves little time for sleeping in the morning and only on a good day do I get to sleep in past 5:30 before my alarm clock shrieks its obnoxious siren.

Having had to stay up until around midnight the previous night, I only get about five and a half hours of sleep which I've come to consider a full night's rest. The average teenager gets about 6.5 hours of sleep each night, while they should be getting about 9 hours.

But who's to say that the small amount of sleep I get is my doing? Why should I take the blame when it is truly a repercussion of my teachers giving me a monumental work load each and every night with an early starting time for school?

I usually get about an hour's worth of homework from most of my classes daily. Add in after school activities, jobs, and social life and it's an overload.

The four just don't add up to less than 24 hours. I usually have to throw the die to see which activities will be forgotten for the day and sleep during however much time is left over.

This way of life is not healthy.

Sleep deprivation is extremely harmful, both physically and academically. Studies have shown the typical teenage body needs more sleep than adults and if it doesn't have enough rest it may physically have trouble forcing itself to roll out of bed in the early morning. As children grow into adolescences their internal biological clock usually slows down.

Because of this, no matter how early they go to bed, they may still find themselves sighing and adjusting their pillows at 1 a.m. still not tired enough to fall asleep.

When they do finally get to sleep later in the night morning comes all too soon and having gotten so little sleep the night before, the body may physically have a hard time waking itself up.

Sleep deprivation can also damage memories and impair creativity, making it that much more difficult for sleep deprived students to learn.

While we are sleeping our brain collects all the absorbed information from the days and organizes it and connects it so it makes it easier to remember and understand the information the next day. Without those needed hours of rest the brain doesn't have a chance to make those connections and education becomes tougher.

So if my teachers assigned me homework in every class, plus three tests the next day, how am I supposed to finish all my assignments and cram for the tests while leaving time for an adequate night's sleep, keeping in mind my 5:30 a.m. wakeup call? With only 24 hours in a day, it's just not possible.

Even if I leave out one or two things on my day's to-do list, my evening is still packed with solving problems and reading chapters - not to mention choking some food down in order to rush back to my notes in time.

If school began at 8:30 a.m. instead of the crack of dawn, grades would go up, discipline rates would go down, and the general atmosphere of school would certainly improve.

Everyone would be happier because everyone would have gotten a decent night of sleep. Even if students kept busy with homework into the night, they would still be given several extra hours in the morning for shut-eye.

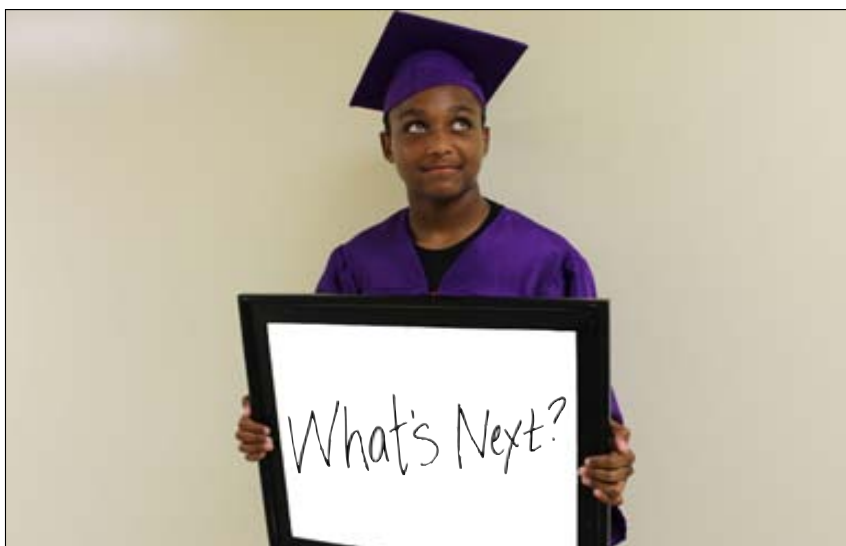
Can't you see the beauty of this? Imagine setting your alarm for 7:45 a.m. instead of 5:30 a.m.! What a beautiful thought. Alas, those days are over--gone are the years of elementary school when school commenced at 8:55 a.m.

If only they would return to us high schoolers, instead of being given to those third graders who don't appreciate them or know how good they've got it.

At least we have college to look to, when schedules will be more flexible and classes will (hopefully) not occur in the early hours of the morning.

Things will definitely improve for us sleep-deprived youngsters.

But for now, I'll keep juggling my academic and social life with my activities and jobs, and drag my worn-out body up the steps and into the classrooms at 7 a.m., stifling yawns with every step.



GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE PAUL/THE REGISTER

Dream Act gives hope to illegal minors

Immigrant children who were brought to this country by their parents face a hard reality when it comes to growing up. The Dream Act may make their future more attainable.

Development, Relief, and Education for Alien Minors, or better known as the DREAM Act, is a legislative proposal providing conditional permanent residency to certain illegal residents of good moral character who have graduated from U.S. high schools. Similar is the Deferred Action, a new policy developed by the Department of Homeland Security, allowing many young illegal immigrants to live and work legally in the U.S. (although, unlike the Dream Act, they wouldn't be eligible for citizenship).

The new policy states that children who were brought into the United States illegally did not break any immigration laws. Because they aren't responsible for what happened when they were young, there is no reason to punish them. They are still able to pursue a higher education and be able to work in the United States legally.

The new policy does not create an amnesty for law breakers, or encourage illegal immigration. For one, everyone applying for a qualification would have to undergo a background check, and have to have a clean record with no more than one or two misdemeanors. Those who think that this will shield criminals and help them to avoid deportation are misinformed.

Many young people are unsure if and when they should apply for the relief. The process involves presenting themselves to the government as illegal residents. And it's still unclear what would happen to them if a new president was to opt for reversing the policy. These people can't keep living a life full of fear, never knowing if they will ever be deported.

If we give them the opportunity to work and study, then they will be able to contribute to our economy and society. For all we know they could be great doctors, lawyers or even teachers, and being punished for being of illegal status could ruin not only their future but ours as well.

These are young people who are accomplished students and have volunteered to serve our country in the military or in the community.

They are in our country through no fault of their own; they can't be accountable for their par-

ent's decisions. This can serve as a building block toward the day when we can finally put the politics aside, solve the problem and reform a broken immigration system.

This could lead to a future where many students will be able to pursue their dreams without the fear of being deported, or looked down upon for their legal status. This plan will be able to shape future policies and create better well-rounded citizens.

A policy like the Deferred Act will give students the idea that they can accomplish a full education and focus more on that than involvement in crimes or gangs. It'll show them that working hard and attaining an education the right way will be worth it in the end.

Most don't have a say in whether they want to come to the United States or not. A lot of parents want what's best for their children, and don't really think about the consequences until it is too late. They want their children to have the opportunity to an education that they never had. Punishing them by not granting them the right to an education, which we all have, is not right.

They are Americans no less; they have all done something to make our country proud. They have strived to be in the top of their class and earn the chance to attend college. They have done plenty to not only make us proud, but those around the world. They are Americans in every shape and form except one; on paper.

One paper should not define your chances of working or getting an education. It should not be an obstacle that cannot be overcome; the only obstacle they should overcome is themselves. No one, especially a paper, should keep students from getting an education.

We all have the right to an education, the right to achieve our goals and the right to have a job. No one should be deprived of the chance to have either or, especially if s/he has worked so hard and sacrificed more than we can imagine.

Plenty of people come to the United States looking the 'American Dream,' not realizing that that dream had turned into a nightmare.

In the
OPINION
of the
REGISTER

Women in the Olympics: leaning toward the manly side

A few weeks following the 2012 Olympics, a Turkish columnist named Yüksel Aytuğ caused a stir on the internet over his report about the Olympics "killing womanhood." Aytuğ had the most criticism coming from Twitter, where he was declared a sexist and was talked about for quite a few hours. By the way, the man clearly deserves that title.

On *Harriyet Daily News's* website, the article focused on Aytuğ stated that he said the Olympic female swimmers are "broad-shouldered, flat-chested women with small hips; [they are] totally indistinguishable from men. Their breasts - the symbol of womanhood, motherhood - flattened into stubs as they were seen as mere hindrances to speed." He also bluntly stated that "I am not even talking about female javelin throwers, shot-put athletes, weightlifters, wrestlers and boxers." Talking about their overall appearance, he said it was "just pathetic."

Here is why he is wrong.

While it is apparent that Aytuğ felt that the Olympic Games was making the women turn more 'masculine,' his view is extremely demeaning. Not only does he obviously not understand the training and enduring effort these women had to go through to even be qualified for the Olympics, but he doesn't grasp the fact that these women cannot expose their femininity in the Olympics.

He may have said that women are all about skinny shoulders, full breasts, and curvy hips, but his point backfired when he hypocritically stated that, "...the manlier you look the more successful you are."

Ignorance truly is bliss.

Aytuğ claimed that the Olympic Games are responsible for "killing womanhood" and they overall force the women to change their appearances for a more masculine one to win--but more women have achieved world records than men throughout the Olympics. If the true desire of the Olympic was to turn women masculine, they would surely not even think to include women in the Olympics in the first place. The simple truth is that practice and endurance makes great athletes regardless of gender.

Just because women want to compete in a sport they love does not mean they want to be men, or do not think they can do it without being more masculine. Aytuğ may have thought that, but he still doesn't understand that the women go through the same training as the men in the Olympics, and it's during a course of four years, so of course they are going to become stronger and muscular.

He is assuming that women are all about appearance and men are all about muscles, but how is that a valid point when women compete in the Olympics? If women are supposedly all about appearance, then how could they compete just as hard in the Olympics as men do? How can people not be ignorant towards women who are firefighters, police women, or construction workers, but when it comes to sports, people think it's okay to degrade women?

These types of incidents have occurred way in the past, but it's 2012 already, and no woman should be treated so lowly, especially in comparison to men. Why should we care? Well, as mentioned, it is 2012 and everyone is supposed to be treated equally. If guys like Aytuğ come and

convince enough people that women are like that, then the whole cycle of degrading women and not treating them as equals will start all over again. With all the women doctors, scientists, teachers and CEOs in the world--how ridiculous would that be to convince people otherwise?

Fortunately many people opposed and made fun of Aytuğ and his article, but still, some columnists greatly show that they think they know more than others, and some of them have that power to convince others to believe what they say.

But think about it: something as simple as an airhead columnist could easily trigger one's thoughts to do the same thing, and the whole women's rights will be pushed out of the way and the degrading will commence. Something as little as an article strictly degrading women can turn into a worldwide convincing that it's okay to think that way.

Basically, Aytuğ is probably one of those lonely saps who has no love, so he succumbs to harassing women who did nothing but win medals. Luckily more people see past his idiocy, and more people are more into human rights and watching their favorite teams of women and men win, rather than analyzing women's femininity.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

Babysitting a test of patience for junior



BIG BOW STRIKES AGAIN
A Column by Cheyenne Alexis

While I enjoy babysitting and I love my niece and nephews, there are times where I just cannot stand them. My niece is almost, and when she was about six months she was awesome, a great baby. She never cried, she never whined, and she was always happy. But she's spoiled beyond all reason and that has finally gotten to her. Now she's one, still with a binky and a blanket, which she probably will never break from. My niece is good on some days, but when she's tired she's a monster, and some dark energy creeps up on her and she can't be stopped, no matter what anyone does.

She's extremely whiny, and she gets away with everything because, a) she's the only girl of three children, b) she's little and cute, which everyone focuses on and is blinded by her bad temper and attitude, and c) she cries a lot and no one can stand it when she has a fit.

She is smart, but being one she still can't talk very well. She understands what people say, but she doesn't respond. She's going to be two in October, and my nephew knew his alphabet by the time he was a year old, if not before. My nephew, speaking of which, is a whole other story.

He is smart, so smart he could probably pass off as a five-year-old and enter Kindergarten. He was speaking before he was one, and he can speak pretty fluently. He always asks questions, and he's even starting to read.

It's his temper that throws it off greatly. He cries so much, and he whines more than a dog.

He gets away with stuff too, by my mother mainly because, although she won't admit it, I believe she favors him more than the other two.

He can be good at times, too, but he can change his mood in an instant. Rather than building up to a bad mood, such as if he didn't get his way, he can be extremely happy one time and then in the blink of an eye, he explodes and becomes angry or mad.

I try not to spoil them and let them get their way, but it's everyone else that does. If they're being bad, I try to calmly ask them to stop, but everyone else will hug them or baby them, which bothers me, because how can kids learn if everyone around them is only focused on how cute they are?

I fear that they will always be spoiled, and that they will take it for granted when they are older, which I don't want to see in them.

I know they're young, and I know they're going to cry and whine and get spoiled, but to me the members in my family do it way too much, and it's no wonder why sometimes I don't like babysitting them.



CARTOON BY HENRY GENTILE

Senior reflects on past actions as she sees the end of her last year in sight

SENIOR: Continued from page 16

make that college life a little easier knowing you have some practice and knowledge on what's in front of you.

I also base things on mistakes I have already seen in the past, maybe from a graduated friend or a family member. For example, I will never take a year off after high school. I'm sorry, but that is one of the worst mistakes to make in your education and future decisions. Taking a year off will lead you to a big old disgusting couch in Nobody Ville, meaning you will most likely never go to college and you will regret it down the road.

I have also grown to notice that people either care more about school than they did before or they care way less. People and their actions in their lives usually are the ones to control these feelings. Special people in my life have made me care more because they did. They made everything look so appreciated and tremendous, and I wanted to be just like them. And I also, for some reason, wanted to be better than them, probably because I thought they were better than me at everything, but it worked in the end.

Some people think that the name "senior" also means we can relax and don't have to do anything. Yeah, I don't think so. Nobody said it was easy. It's the year of new beginnings. It includes achieving a decent-to-outstanding ACT score, filling out scholarships, and picking a school if you don't have one picked out for you already.

I don't know about you, but I know that's all I have ever heard throughout my high school career, but some people still don't get the message. About every teacher I've had has emphasized what day our graduation date is. We get it. It's May 22nd.

To tell you the truth, that is probably one of the hardest things this year, picking out where you belong. Do you belong home with your friends or do you belong where they have everything you want but there aren't any familiar faces? Biggest question of all, are you willing to give everything up for that number one place for you?

Last summer I said a lot of goodbyes to people that have touched my life in such special ways. Yet most of them went to places close, except for one, I still know things will be different. I saw it coming all along. If they are really meant to be in my life then they will stay there and nothing will be different. But I told myself, I'm not following them, I'm following my own path to where I belong. It's my life just like it's yours.

Senior year is not the year to nap; it's the year of many important decisions and important choices. Make the best of it because it will all come to an end shortly and we will soon be the ones posting on Facebook, "First night in the dorm" or "I finally don't have to wake up early for classes."

We are on top and let's be the role models of that. We are the kings and queens of the future and I dare you to move like you never have. Don't get "senioritis," don't be the one to fall, don't ever quit, and keep moving forward because soon it'll be the end. Like everyone says, time flies when you're having fun so don't let time control your life because you control it.

Finding Balance: Teenagers juggle school and jobs

With the summer drawing to a close and the school year beginning, teenagers who have procured jobs over the past season face the decision of either drastically cutting back hours or integrating them into their school schedules, or dropping them altogether.

And which is the better choice? Is it a good idea to maintain a job in the midst of the chaotic swirl of class, tests, homework, sports, clubs and friends? Or are you just asking for it?

We've been there—we have had jobs serving dinner at various venues, ringing up products and folding clothes. Because of our work schedules we usually end up home in the evening, by that time to tired to carry on with more work. This definitely takes a chunk out of my homework/relaxation time most find after school.

At the *Register* we think it's crucial to know your limits. Jobs aren't for everyone.

Jobs can be a major hassle, but at the same time a blessing. They're a good way to stay active during the week (depending on your job type), and sometimes provide a nice outlet from school. And no one is complaining about that extra dough in your pocket. But they can also be the source of extra stress and the cause of your social life's downfall.

The reality is that many teenagers choose to juggle weekend and after-school jobs in order to make bank—but where does that bank go? Are they saving it for college or a car, or spending it on clothes, food and electronics faster than they can make it?

We've all heard it from our parents before (you don't know the value of money!)—but is that true?

Halligan Kilroy, junior, has been working as a hostess at Dundee restaurant Agave since the beginning of summer. She likes what she does; her co-workers are friendly, the customers tip well, her work schedule isn't too demanding and the food is good. Kilroy is always sure to put at least 20 dollars of every paycheck she receives into her bank account for safekeeping—she's saving up for college, of course, and an iPhone.

She plans on keeping the weekend job despite the start-up of school.

Kilroy wasn't always so happy with work, though. Partway through

the summer she picked up a second job serving at a Chinese restaurant, and quickly became miserable.

At that point the junior had four jobs—she also babysat and taught Kindergarten and first graders at Dundee Elementary, and was feeling the effects of being stretched too thin.

She realized that she was doing too much, she said. So she dropped the relatively new Chinese job to save her sanity.

Kilroy is a living example of the fact that ambition is a good thing, but that too much of it can cause you to set yourself up for disaster. And not having a job doesn't mean that you're lazy—they definitely aren't for everyone, especially those who choose to enroll in AP classes, participate in sports and/or have lots of after school extracurriculars or volunteer obligations. I've found that sports often shoot down your opportunity for holding onto a job at all.

Senior Michael Griffin enjoys not having a job. He believes that it's better because there is less stress involved, and he has more time on his hands.

It's easier to focus on studying, homework, recreational stuff and hanging out with friends, he said. Griffin may have less extra cash lying around, but he's still able to finagle a small allowance from his mom. A jazz musician, he also gets paid for the occasional gig.

Griffin also pointed out that jobs help kids to learn responsibility and money management hands-on, which are both crucial lessons for living in the real world.

Many kids choose to be responsible with their money, putting away a little at a time for college or other wishlist items, but many also choose to spend it "willy-nilly." Here at the *Register* we think that frivolous spending can be alright, as long as a chunk of your income is going toward that future education or the car that you're going to need sooner or later.

When it comes to teenagers and jobs, the mix can be good or bad. You just have to figure out which side of the spectrum you're on and what works for you, whether that's a nightly fast food job, an occasional babysitting duty, a weekend spot as a cashier at a clothing store or no job at all.

In the
OPINION
of the
REGISTER

Frustrated seniors have juggled school, as well as four separate grading scales, in four years

GRADE: Continued from page 16

Sophomore year became the biggest change. It went from letters to numbers, from 5's to 1's, well actually .5. You only needed a 1.01 to pass something, which was a little too easy.

The decision was made by the Curriculum and Learning Department at the TAC building. Every high school has representatives on this committee. For example, some of Central's past representatives were Dr. Ed Bennett and Tom Wagner, Data Administrator. There are building and district representation in the committee as well.

Junior year, the scale once again changed. We thought it would be the last time, but nope, it was just the beginning. The F window became bigger, changing to 1.60. The D became smaller, but everything above it stayed the same.

Once again the committee reflected on their decisions, and once again, it was changed. "I don't envision the scale to change for a while now," said Wagner. They, as a committee, reflected on the question of what teachers should want students to know upon leaving the classroom in the spring. "It's not a difficult topic," said Wagner.

This year it has changed from a 5.0 scale to a 4.0 scale. There are no longer 0.5 scores and no longer a "Life Skills" score (where you could just show up and get some sort of grade, according to some students). It will work much better when it comes to corresponding with state testing, and it will make us begin to adjust to how colleges grade. There is a lot more educational research. And it now matches up to the proficiency scale. More schools are even accessing Standards Based Grading to their school as well.

A 4.0 is now an A and is parallel to last year's 5.0, meaning it is earned when you make in-depth connections. The 3.5 stands for an A-, meaning proficient and that you have extended applications with your answer. A 3.0 is now a B, meaning no major errors in what was taught or in processes. A 2.5 is a B-, implying that there are just no major errors and partial knowledge of complex ideas. A 2, meaning a C, now means Basic, no major errors. The lowest grade you get before you fail is now a 1, so you must have partial understanding of what was taught. Below that earns a zero, a failure in that class. It is now virtually impossible for students to pass without minimal effort.

"It's not about points anymore, its showing what you know," said Wagner. It is now easier for teachers and students to handle even if you don't think so. The way it all comes together determines your final grade in your class. The grading system will never affect your GPA either.

So all in all, Standard Based Grading is not that bad. Yes, we all hate change, but people always say change is a good thing. This is very unfortunate for all of us, especially seniors. We will just have to stick together this year and struggle together. While adults also think it's frustrating, students and teachers have no control over what the district decides.

"It's just getting around your paradigm, shifting to something new," said Wagner, "Standards-Based Grading is a good thing."

The change has been a good thing for us because it will help us in college. Yes, the constant changes, which have large effects on our futures, are frustrating. But we have all overcome them. You haven't given up yet, so don't give up now.

Patience is a virtue. It'll all work out in the end—we will all walk across that stage with our diplomas...proud of each other, but mostly ourselves.

Turmoil, uncertainty about a family member's health puts own life into perspective

COUSIN: Continued from page 16

when he hugged you, and I desperately wanted it to go away and for him to feel normal again.

I also knew that he was tired all of the time and had frequent stomach troubles, spending a lot of time on the couch (more than was normal, despite his couch-potato ways) looking miserable.

It was discovered in Feb. of this year that Matt would need a liver transplant as well as colon removal. A board had to review and approve him for the liver transplant list, and his insurance would also have to approve him.

When you're waiting for a liver transplant, you have very backwards thinking. Everything depends on your MELD score, which is a scoring system that determines one's prioritization for a transplant as well as one's position on the list of transplant hopefuls. Your score needs to be bad, at least a 15 for you to have any real chance of getting a new liver, so you want your test results to come out negatively. However, it isn't in your nature to ill-wish yourself—but the reality is that in order to get better, you have to get much, much worse.

This was scary for me to hear.

Matt's score did worsen. He underwent a procedure where a shunt was put into the vein system within his liver, improving blood flow and preventing fluid buildup; this procedure was called TIPS and I was informed that death was very possible within the first 30 days after

it. For the first time I really faced the possibility of Matt's death. Despite all of the unpleasanties he had been through (that I really was unaware of until several weeks ago) and the seriousness of his condition, I never imagined that he could leave this world. That thought was too heavy to bear.

Matt was completely grounded. He couldn't be more than four hours away from the Indianapolis hospital in case a liver became available, most likely from a car crash victim who was also an organ donor. Finally in July, while I was standing in the spice section at Hy-Vee trying to find dill weed, I received a text informing me that a liver had become available and that Matt would be prepped to receive it. He and his parents were going to the hospital in Indianapolis, and I was filled with immense relief.

Throughout the day I received updates from my other cousin, who lives in Houston. Nothing was really occurring—Matt and my aunt/uncle were basically just sitting and waiting. The organs were finally harvested late that night and the next morning Matt went in for surgery. He got his liver without any problems.

He had begun losing weight months before, and had dropped all the way to 115 pounds at six feet, three inches. My mom said that he looked like a concentration camp victim—she went to visit him about a week after the transplant, spending four straight days at the hospital. He was released soon after, only to be re-admitted a few days later because of yet more

complications.

Things had finally been looking up—I believed that Matt would begin a slow and steady uphill march (his projected recovery time was 6 months), but then I received the news that he was back in a hospital bed.

I cried all the way home from work, sobbing into my steering wheel as I listened to uplifting Christian music on the radio. Things felt so unfair, and I just wanted everything to be easy for Matt. I wanted him to heal.

Luckily he has since been discharged from the hospital and is beginning his recovery. I try to talk to him via technology often, but sometimes he doesn't have the strength or the will to reply—something for which I cannot blame him.

Situations like these really put life into perspective for you. What has happened in Matt's life has made me realize the following:

Sometimes death can be a good thing. If that car crash hadn't happened, my cousin could still be lying in a bed somewhere dying slowly. Death creates life, and that is never truer than when it comes to organ donors.

Every day is a struggle for someone, and good health should not be taken for granted. I've never been hospitalized in my life, much less suffered hernias, hemorrhaging, liver failure or any of the other horrifying things Matt has experienced. That isn't something to be taken lightly. While it isn't possible to share your good health with someone who needs it, you can be there to support and love him or her, even if it's

something as small as sending texts that say "I love you" every once in a while.

Modern medicine is truly a miraculous thing. Many may be weary of doctors and hospitals and shots and all that but we are so blessed to be within reach of all of those things. The mere fact that a part of someone's body can be taken out and hooked up into another's body and actually function as if it were there all along blows my mind. Sure, you have to take medication every day for the rest of your life so that your body won't reject the organ, but that's a small price to pay to live.

Everyone has the power to save someone. Checking that little "Y" next to the organ donor section on your driver's license paperwork won't kill you. In fact, it has the power to do the opposite—give life to someone else.

Now Matt begins the six-month journey of recovery. Every part of me hopes that it will be as easy and painless as possible, but in the back of my mind I know that it won't be that simple. There will be more doctor visits, more blood drawn, endless tests, and possibly more hospital stays. I prefer not to think about how difficult the next year will be for him and his parents.

But I know that I will be there, in spirit if not in person. And sometimes my mind wanders to the future, where I pray he will be completely healthy, happy and prosperous—maybe with a wife and children—and he will be able to look back on this time of his life and be glad about the strong person that it molded him into.

I love you, Matt.