

# the register

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Junior OJ Wilson who suffered from, but ultimately survived leukemia, realizes his dream of playing football.

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Select I.B. students get the opportunity to listen to guest speaker, Razia Jan, the founder of the Zabuli Girls School in Afghanistan. This school is being considered as a potential partnership school with Central High School.

Photo by Stephanie Paul / The Register

## Razia Jan, founder of Zabuli Girl's School, speaks to Central High

ELISSA WIENER

Staff Writer

A hero is defined as many things. Dictionary.com defines it as "a man of distinguished courage or ability, admired for his brave deeds, and noble qualities" while thefreedictionary.com explains a hero as "A person noted for feats of courage or nobility of purpose, especially one who has risked or sacrificed his or her life." It doesn't matter which definition is used, one of these two or the thousands of others in the world, Razia Jan should be considered a hero in every category.

For the past six years, CNN has chosen one special person to be the CNN hero of the year. This hero is chosen out of the top ten candidates that were picked from many more nominees to receive this award. Each extraordinary person has done something amazing to help others and CNN feels their cause deserves to be heard and funded. The top ten candidates each already received a \$50,000 grant for their efforts to improve others' lives. One exceptional nominee will rise above the others and will receive an additional \$250,000 grant to continue their work and be named the official "CNN Hero of the Year." The hero will be chosen during the televised show 'CNN Heroes: An All Star Tribute' hosted by Anderson Cooper.

One of these incredible people up for the

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## Continuing the Central Tradition of Excellence

The Central High School Alumni Association hosted the 14th Annual Hall of Fame Banquet and inducted 10 new members.



Dr. Keith Bigsby, principal of Central High School, shook the hands of each Hall of Fame inductee before giving a speech to start off the 2012 CHS Hall of Fame awards ceremony.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

### GISELLE TRAN

Business Editor

They're the best of the best. They're the greatest of the great. They are the newest inductees of the Central Hall of Fame.

On Thursday, Oct. 4, the Central High School Alumni Association presented the 14th Annual Hall of Fame Ceremony. The ceremony began at 6 p.m. with an elegant dinner, followed by the program at 7:30.

It is an honor to be inducted into the Central High Hall of Fame. According to Roy Katsaskee, the chairman of the selection committee, the former alumni chosen to receive this distinguished honor are "outstanding."

Each year, the selection committee meets to discuss the different nominees. During these meetings, certain criteria are established that will help determine who is to be inducted into the Hall of Fame from the nominees. Relatives, friends, and classmates are encouraged to nominate Central alumni for the Central High Hall of Fame by submitting résumés to the selection committee. A democratic selection committee of 12 votes on the 10 alumni believed to be outstanding in their professional and/or personal life. Last year, 10 alumni were chosen out of the 45 nominated. The committee is comprised of a faculty representative, foundation representative,

#### Frederick M. Bekins

Class of 1943

#### Mike Gottschalk

Honored Booster

#### Gerald A. Heeger

Class of 1961

#### Steve Marantz

Class of 1969

#### Aaron Marcus

Class of 1961

#### John "Pop" Schmidt

Honored Educator

#### Dr. Melvin Wade, Sr.

Class of 1962

#### Eric L. Whitner

Class of 1976

#### Myron P. Papadakis

Class of 1958

#### Leonard L. Rosen

Class of 1952

and alumni. The selection committee attempts to be as diverse as the population of Central. The selection committee achieves some diversity by attempting to have one alumnus from each decade. If a tie occurs, the committee reconvenes to revote or, in some cases, choose 11 instead of 10 Hall of Famers.

As Katsaskee said, "We are always very cognizant of the fact that we want to reflect Central's diversity." The committee is comprised of a faculty representative, a Central High School Foundation representative, and alumni from different graduating classes. The faculty representative commits to being on the committee for two years, and this year was Jay Ball's final year as the faculty representative.

Even with a year of experience, Ball commented, "It was very difficult to decide who we wanted to vote for." Choosing 10 out of only 45 nominees is easier said than done. According to Ball, every nominee is "very interesting and talented."

Katsaskee agrees with Ball, saying, "We had some very accomplished people in a lot of different fields."

The 2012 Hall of Famers are Frederick M. Bekins, J. Michael Gottschalk, Gerald A. Heeger, Steve Marantz, Aaron Marcus, Myron P. Papadakis, Leonard L. Rosen, John "Pop" Schmidt, Dr. Melvin Wade, Sr., and Eric L. Whitner.

Bekins graduated from Central High in 1943. His life epitomizes the ideal American citizen. After graduating, Bekins served in the Navy on aircraft

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## Central Math Team takes 2nd at Midland competition

EMILY BECK

Executive Editor-in-Chief

Central High's math team took 2nd place at the Midland University Math Contest on Thursday, Oct. 18.

The team went up against 16 other Nebraska schools, dominating every one except Lincoln East, a school which has long been stiff competition for Central.

North High took 3rd place, Duchesne took 4th and Fremont Bergan took 5th.

Michael Svolos took 2nd place in the freshman category, while Shannon Dillman took 4th place in the sophomore category.

Grant Fishburn and Ryan Goding took 4th and 3rd places in the junior category, and Avery Zaleski took 3rd in the senior category, while Marika Svolos took 2nd.

Students who participated took part in both an individual and a team test; the individual tests were different according to grade level, with 25 questions, while the team tests are taken in groups of six, with 10 questions.

Greg Sand, advanced math teacher, was not disappointed with the results, even though taking 2nd in the Midland competition meant a break in the math team's winning streak, which has been going strong since Feb. of last year.

Their victories include the North High Math Contest and the Doane Trimathlon, as well as individual victories—for example, Goding was the only student from Nebraska selected to take a national-level mathematics exam (only 250 students in the United States were chosen to take it).

According to Sand, it took him about nine hours and two school days, and he didn't get any right—but the fact that he was chosen to take part in it, according to Sand, was "an honor."

"Five years ago, [this] would have been unheard of for us," said Sand. But "for this group, it's a priority."

Sand admires the dedication exhibited by Central's current math students, particularly Goding, Marika Svolos, Zaleski and Ross Harding, who have all been involved in advanced math classes from early ages and tend to come out on top at competitions.

"For them, it's a priority," he said. They're willing to put in the extra time that it takes to refine their skills, understanding and strategy—and "That's really the difference with them," said Sand.

That is what sets them apart. And their presence, which makes Central well-known for its talented math students, attracts more students around the district who also find their strengths in the subject.

"Once you have a culture of kids pushing themselves," Sand said, "other kids come along."

These students from Central are clearly not the

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# Razia Jan, founder of Zabuli Girl's School, speaks to Central High

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title is Razia Jan. Some of Central's IB students received the opportunity to meet with Jan and learn why she was selected as a hero. Afterwards, she answered some of the students' questions about what she was doing, how it was being done, and why.

Jan has created a school for girls in rural Afghanistan. In 1996, the Taliban regime outlawed the education of girls and women. Even though the Taliban was overthrown in 2001 and the Afghan government attempted to rebuild the education system, many girls and women are still illiterate--and most boys are more educated than girls.

Jan was born in Afghanistan, but grew up here in the United States because there was a war happening in her homeland. Therefore, Jan went to school and received an education, unlike most girls in Afghanistan.

When Jan first talked about the horrible happenings, she compared them to Sept. 11.

"9/11 happened- I think you guys [IB students] at that time were babies...or didn't even know what it was," Jan said, "but you are growing up with 9/11 episode. Every day there is something bad happening in Afghanistan. And there are American soldiers killed, there are Afghans killed, there are women being burned... stoned...acid being put on students' faces.

"So you are not there, but you are growing up with [9/11]. I think you are more aware of it than any other country in the world, because you are directly involved in it."

It was important for Jan to make sure the students realized that the tragedy of 9/11, which is a huge deal here, can be a parallel to the everyday happenings in Afghanistan, just on a smaller scale. It happens so regularly there that nobody remembers each incident--they just move on.

"Every human being has a right in the world to live. And nobody has a right to take away that self-confidence, that freedom," said Jan. "In Afghanistan the women have been given no right... they have been deprived of...even thinking of themselves or imagining something [for themselves]."

Because of this, the women are treated terribly by men. Fathers and sons are in charge of their family households and can order around the women without consequence.

It is very common for a girl to be verbally and physically abused by her father or brother--and no one will stop this.

It is dangerous in some places for girls to walk down the street because they might be beaten at random. Because these girls are uneducated, they don't have much chance of changing the way things are done, or even of immigrating to a better country.

"I'm trying...to open a school in the area in Afghanistan [where] there were no girls schools ever," Jan explained to the Central students. "The women [aren't] taught, and the women [don't] have rights... they're used as property. If the father of a girl wants her to marry a seventy-year-old man, he will just give her away... the girls can't say 'I can't.' And then she suffers for the rest of her life."

In an effort to stop this, Jan created the Zabuli Education Center, an all-girls school set up in rural Afghanistan. Jan's school doesn't have any age limits for the student; they allow many girls and young women to come to learn at the school.

There is currently one 21 year-old woman attending fourth grade and learning along with the other ten-year-olds.

The school teaches children basic math, science, history, etc. They are receiving the same education as young children in the United States. The major difference in Jan's school's learning program and American schools is simply the fact that the Afghan girls use school as a way to get away from their families and learn about their rights. At school, all the students and teachers are equals--and are treated as such.

"I'm trying to put that seed in their mind, that they are human beings. They have a right...to say no when things are done wrong to them... I can see girls asking things, or questioning their parents when something wrong is done to them.

"So I think it's a school that's opening a door for these young girls that start from four years old to maybe sixteen, seventeen years old... I have given them the opportunity to learn about themselves... to learn

about the world in a very small way. We are seeing the success of it. I want to continue that," Jan stated about her school.

Right now the Zabuli Education Center is giving about 350 girls a chance to obtain an education. The teachers work with the students year-round with less than a month during the year.

The school continues throughout most of the year so that the girls are able to keep going. If the girls had a summer break, at the start of the next school year the fathers might see how much the girl has grown, and could decide that she is too old for school and that she should get married. If the girl is at school most of the day for almost the entire year, she doesn't see her father much; therefore he can't decide if she is too big for school. It's an ingenious plan that works quite well for all of the girls attending the school.

"We opened in 2008," Jan told about her school. "There are seven villages. We started with 108 girls. A lot of parents were against it, but there were some that wanted their kids to at least taste and see how it goes.

"And fortunately, this is the fifth year, and we have about 350 girls that are going to school. And they have exactly the same curriculum as you [IB students] have. They learn English... Dari... Pashto... Arabic. They have four languages that these girls learn. And they learn... physics and chemistry... algebra and geometry... so far we are very successful."

Jan came to Central with the hope that her students would be able to communicate with the IB students continuously. She wants Central and Zabuli to become sister schools.

The idea was that both groups of students would be able to email and write letters to each other. They would also take videos and send them to each other so then they would both be able to see the others' home.

"...I want to achieve a good friendship... something that my students will learn from yours, and you will learn from my students. And you will become really close friends. I think that is so important that my students will have a friend in the USA," Jan said.

This is the first year Central and Zabuli will be interacting with each other. The students selected from Central will have a chance to witness what it is like on the other side of the world, and vice versa.

It is a very unique opportunity for both the American and Afghan students.

"I hope to have a connection with your school somehow. I think you guys know much more than they know, and it could be such a great help for them to know somebody that can help... and open their eyes," Jan said, "and then tell them things that they might not even imagine... exist. So I'm very grateful to your principal, and to you all that are interested in something like this and listening to me, that what we are doing is really going to help those girls."

After Jan spoke, all the students had a chance to ask questions about the school. Their inquiries helped them to understand the way the girls in Afghanistan are treated, and it opened their eyes to how lucky they are to live in the United States.

Jan said that the biggest difference between Central and Zabuli "is that you have the freedom to speak, to really express your opinion, where those girls don't have that freedom...in the school they do have [but] they are very cautious. I hope one day they will be as bold as you are in asking these questions."

Being selected to be in the top ten for CNN Hero of the Year was a wonderful achievement for Jan.

"I think I received a call from the CNN person who's in charge, in Afghanistan. They called me on the telephone from New York and let me know that I was a candidate," Jan recalled from when she found out about the news.

"I felt great. I felt really very happy with my being nominated. The girls will have a chance to get a better education, and I will be a great help to them." When Jan told her girls about the nomination, "they [were] really very happy and they [were] very proud of me."

The nomination is a great thing for the school, not only because of the cash prizes, but because it raises global awareness of the school.

Even if Jan does not win the overall title, her school has gotten a lot of press, and people all over the world have heard about the school and the terrible happenings in Afghanistan. There will now be more donors to Jan's school. Regardless of money, Jan just wants benefits for the girls in her school, as well as all Afghan women.

After being selected as one of the top ten candidates for the CNN Hero of the Year, Jan is now in the running (between those select ten) for the top title. The winner will receive a \$250,000 grant to help fund his or her work.

Jan has nine other nominees to beat out before she can be considered the hero of the year. "I read about them and I think they all do great jobs," Jan commented. "I feel honored to be one of them. I think they all are doing great jobs. Everybody is doing something for what they [believe in]... but my mission is very unique. I have a great challenge to educate these girls, and I think that if I win this, it's not me--it's the girls who are going to win, and they are going to continue getting educated."

Now it is up to anyone who has access to CNN.com to choose the winner. Each day, one person can vote for his or her favorite hero up to ten times. On Dec. 2, Anderson Cooper will announce the all-around winner during "CNN Heroes: An All-Star Tribute." Everyone should seize this opportunity to vote every single day.

Jan's victory in this contest could change a multitude of girls' lives in Afghanistan and give them the chance to get the education they deserve.

Whether she ends up winning or not, Razia Jan will always be a hero for changing and bettering the lives of hundreds of girls by giving them an education and a chance at a future they deserve.

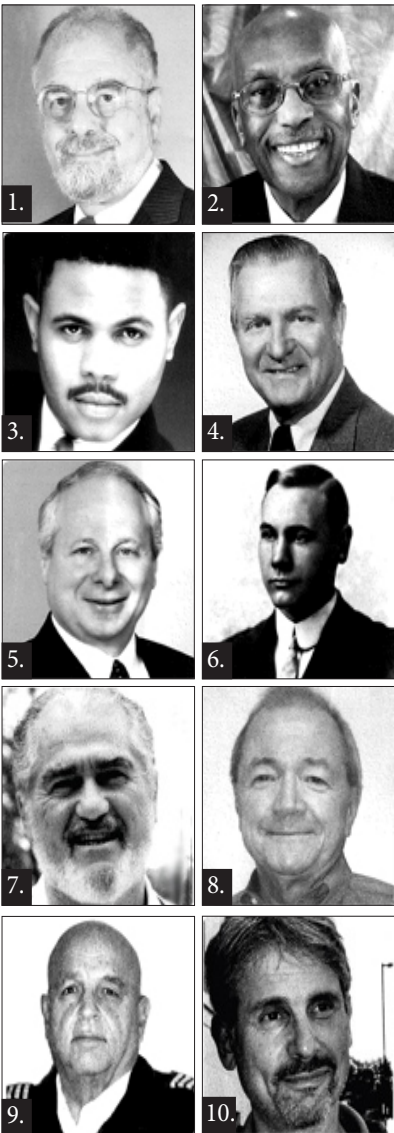


Razia Jan, creator of the Zabuli Girls' School in Afghanistan, speaks to Central students as part of the International Baccalaureate program.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

# Diverse, worthy group of new inductees bring variety to CHS Hall of Fame

Continued from 'FAME' on page 1



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CHS FOUNDATION

2012 CHS Hall of Fame Inductees, pictured above, are as follows:

1. Aaron Marcus 2. Dr. Melvin Wade Sr.
3. Eric L. Whitner 4. Frederick M. Bekins
5. Gerald A. Heeger 6. John "Pop" Schmidt
7. Leonard L. Rosen 8. Mike Gottschalk
9. Myron P. Papadakis 10. Steve Marantz

carriers in the South Pacific. The many commendations he received include the Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal with battle star, the Philippine Liberation Medal with battle star, and the WWII Victory Medal.

With his wife Sally, Bekins established the Bekins Foundation, which provides financial aid to many needy organizations. In addition to the Bekins Foundation, Bekins stayed active in the community through business and service throughout his life, including work with the downtown Rotary, the American Legion, the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, the Boy Scouts of America, the Omaha Home for Boys and the Church of the Cross.

Attorney Mike Gottschalk contributed greatly to the Central High School Foundation, Alumni Association, and the Hall of Fame.

A distinguished booster, Gottschalk's work allowed scholarship funds to be transferred from the school district to the Central High School Foundation. Because of Gottschalk's legal work, the Foundation can now use the funds to directly address the needs of Central students.

With an impressive academic history, Dr. Gerald A. Heeger dedicated his life to a career in higher education.

Having completed a B.A. (Cal-Berkeley) and an M.A. and Ph.D. (University of Chicago), Dr. Heeger focused on entrepreneurial opportunities in higher education.

Dr. Heeger was the organizing President of the Whitney International University System and served as the President of the American College Education.

The Whitney International University System enrolls more than 100,000 students in Latin America, and the American College Education works to provide graduate degrees to teachers.

Steven Marantz began as a journalist at Central, sports editor of The Register. Marantz went on to report and research for the Columbia Missourian, Kansas City Star, Trenton Times, Boston Globe, WD-HD-TV, Sporting News, Boston Herald, and ESPN.

His investigation into the corruption in the lending practices in Boston in the late 1980s led to home ownership for thousands of low-income families. Later in his life, Marantz found a passion for writing novels, including *The Rhythm Boys of Omaha Central: High School Basketball at the '68 Racial Divide*.

In this novel, Marantz sought to honor the teachers and students who had helped him grow and mature.

Aaron "Buddy" Marcus was the "superstar" of information-oriented graphic design, including its practical application to computer graphics. Educated at Princeton and Yale, Marcus' talent is illustrated

in the innovative designs produced by his company, Aaron Marcus and Associates (AM+A), setting the gold standard for others in the field. Large corporations, such as AOL, Microsoft, Samsung and Motorola, have drawn from the creativity and expertise of AM+A. Marcus has been honored by the Graphic Design Hall of Fame, the American Institute of Graphic Arts, and the CHI Academy (Computer Human-Interaction).

Despite being busy with graphic design, Marcus found time to publish six books and over 250 articles.

Few can match the successful career of Myron P. Papadakis in aviation and law. "Pappy" entered the Navy as an officer, served as a naval carrier pilot, and as a second tour R&D test pilot. After the Navy, Papadakis became a pilot for the Delta Airlines, during which Papadakis still found time to complete his law degree in 1974. With a background in aviation, Papadakis' trial law career focused on aircraft accidents. Papadakis is a Fellow of the International Society of Air Safety Investigators and has written two reference textbooks and published at least 50 articles on aviation safety, product liability and litigation.

Leonard L. Rosen graduated from the class of 1952 with honors in football, wrestling and track. Rosen has achieved a variety of accomplishments in all fields, including business and engineering. Rosen led integration and test programs for the first cruise missile guidance system, the first ICBM guidance system, the Polaris/Poseidon submarine guidance system and the first military miniaturized semiconductor digital computer.

During his residency at ITT, Rosen directed air traffic and other radar systems programs for the U.S. forces and over twenty other nations.

While Rosen effected change internationally, he was also a college MBA instructor, a councilor and seminar presenter for the Small Business Administration, and a high school weight coach.

John "Pop" Schmidt is known as a distinguished educator.

Spending 31 of his 40 years in education at Central, Schmidt taught physics, chemistry, biology, math and German.

But Schmidt also delved into athletics as well as academics, serving as the Head Football Coach (1921-1927) and Head Track Coach (1921-1945).

Schmidt was known for having a strong moral compass and genuine concern for his students and athletes.

Central High School Principal, J. Arthur Nelson, said "He was a man of kindly counsel, and he stood firmly by that which is right.

John Schmidt is a great part of that tradition which is Central..." An athlete noted, "New blood in the coaching line might bring more winning teams, but it cannot bring a team that has any better ideals of sportsmanship than the teams under the regime of

Coach Schmidt."

A graduate of the class of 1962, Dr. Melvin Wade, Sr. completed his undergraduate studies at Bishop College and his graduate studies at Perkins Theological Seminary.

Dr. Wade ultimately completed his M.A. and Doctor of Ministry degree at Faith Theological Seminary.

As Senior Pastor of the Mt. Moriah Baptist Church in Los Angeles, Dr. Wade worked to end gang violence and provide funding for housing for his community's senior citizens.

Dr. Wade was the President of the National Missionary Baptist Convention, and he has served on the Board of the World Baptist Alliance Executive Council, a position that has helped Dr. Wade reach out to the international community.

While accomplished in his academics and his professional life, Dr. Wade showed great strength in being a leukemia survivor.

An attorney of law, professor of law and community advocate, Eric L. Whitner has supported multiple communities, including Central High School, North Omaha neighborhoods and the greater metropolitan Omaha area.

Whitner graduated from Central at the younger age of 16, studying at UNO, UCLA and Emory University, achieving a B.A., J.D. and LL.M. (Master of Law).

As the President of the Midlands Bar Association, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Butler-Gast YMCA in North Omaha and a member of the Executive Committee of the Metropolitan Omaha/Council Bluffs YMCA, Whitner has focused on helping others, especially all of the communities in the metropolitan area.

Indeed, the Hall of Famers have taken their Central education and gone on to effect change worldwide. Faculty representative Ball said, "It's unbelievable the stories they have to tell."

Ball noted that the Central Hall of Famers are proud and thankful for all that Central has done for them. Ball commented, "It [Central experience] probably means more to them now than it did before."

Chairman Katsakee made the final point that the Hall of Fame Ceremony is the high point of the alumni association's yearly activities.

The Central High School Hall of Famers will forever remember their experience at Central and the difference it made in their lives. Katsakee hopes Central alumni will look back on their experience with fondness.

With a lasting note about the Hall of Fame, Katsakee said, "It's what everyone looks forward to. It's definitely a very prestigious award, and no one else in town does it quite like we do it. For a high school hall of fame, it's about as good as you are going to see anywhere."

# Justin Goes to China

Senior Justin Hatfield, a lover of the Chinese language and culture, got a chance this summer to experience the city of Shanghai while staying with a host family. During his six weeks there, Hatfield found himself immersed in new friends, food, scenery and experiences.



1.



3.



2.



4.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JUSTIN HATFIELD

1. Justin Hatfield, senior, sits with his host family. The family consisted of a 17-year-old boy named Qiu Yi Si, Hu Jie (his "mum"), and grandparents Hu and Hu. 2. The beautiful scenery Hatfield saw in China inspired him to have the desire to go back next summer, if possible. 3. A view from the Oriental Pearl Tower looking down on the Huang Pu River. 4. Zhong Shan Park, a 12-story mall, was located one subway stop from Hatfield's college.

CHEYENNE ALEXIS  
Staff Writer

## Language Interest

Most kids who study a language do it to get their language credit at the end of the year. Some kids will completely obliterate any speck of language that they learn and forget everything they learned. For senior Justin Hatfield, that is entirely not the case.

Hatfield has always loved the Chinese language. He had been studying Chinese since the eighth grade, and said he knew a decent amount before that. "[I'm] close to fluent," he said he takes a class at UNO which is, "like a college course," and is "more intense. Not my level." Hatfield went to a private school, St. Cecilia, which he claimed was closed-minded. "I wanted something new/better." He said he wanted to study the language because he was bored. He started out with the simple words like; Ni Hao (hello). Hatfield said the language can be difficult at times because of the grammar and the structure, but he claims that, "If you love something as much as I love Chinese, keep at it." Over time he grew to love the language.

Hatfield has always loved international languages, but most notably the culture. He said when he found out about the opportunity to take Chinese, "I jumped on it." He said his Chinese teachers, who have pushed him hard because they knew how much he wanted to learn the language, really helped him become fluent. He took Spanish before, but it did not benefit him. "I took Spanish for five years-learned squat." He said that after finding out about the opportunity to take Chinese, there was "no way I'd pass it up."

## Scholarship and Host Family

Hatfield went to Shanghai, China for six weeks over the summer after receiving a scholarship from the State Department's National Security Language Initiative for Youth Program. He signed up for this opportunity because of his love for the language. "I have always been interested in Chinese," he said. Hatfield said that the the opportunity let him stay with Chinese friends in Shanghai, and to be fully immersed in a whole new culture. He saw different towns and temples, and said that "they were really cool."

The process started out with him turning in an application and getting interviewed if the employers found him eligible. Hatfield said he had to wait until April to find out if he was able to earn the scholarship to go, and he was interviewed in December. He was assigned to study in Shanghai, along with 19 other kids. Hatfield said that there were 80 total students who went to China.

The plane ride started in Chicago, where the students went straight to Shanghai. The flight took about 14 hours. He stayed with a host family, which he claimed was, "the coolest host family ever." His family consisted of his host brother, 17-year-old Qiu Yi Si, whom Hatfield said loved America and was very outgoing. His host mother, who he said was very smart, is the principal at an international elementary school. He also had grandparents, who were the caretakers of the house. He said they were a very "different" Chinese family, as they were open to new ideas. His nickname was "Li Ang Ang" and he explained that his family shouted it halfway across the house.

Homesickness did overtake Hatfield while in Shanghai. "When I was there, obviously I missed family," he said, but also claimed that China is "more of a home than other people think it is." He said he loved it, and he didn't want to go home.

## Living in China

While in China he "borrowed" a military cap and also accidentally broke off a piece of a 1200-year-old palace. He still has the piece.

In Shanghai, Hatfield studied different aspects of China every day from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. He studied subjects such as language and grammar in the morning and culture in the afternoon, and took quizzes and tests every day. He described it as "very intense."

Hatfield said that he used Chinese 90 percent of the time. He said it was a good opportunity because if he were to board on a bus, he could have a random conversation with them. He also said he learned more Chinese from his host family and he, in return, taught them English.

In China the teachers are very different from those in America. Hatfield said they "Cater to us as American students... [they are] very different, very Chinese, very lenient than others-which is very strict."

According to Hatfield, China is different "in almost every way, shape and form." Everything was different for him: the culture, the society, and the heritage. He did, however, mention that Shanghai is very modern. "[It's] massive compared to the U.S. However, it didn't bother me." Hatfield said the people in China are genuinely friendly, "Depending on the time and place... in Shanghai they are open and understand culture...they will talk back and get to know you. If you're nice to them, they are interested in you."

He had an experience when riding a subway, which he rode every day. He offered a woman a seat when no other was available and she told him no one had ever done that for her before, and they started a conversation.

He made lots of friends in China. "So many to the point that I'd go to a shop and they'd point at me," he said. Many people would instantly recognize him, which made him feel more at home.

## Afterwards

After the Shanghai experience, Hatfield feels he has grown up and changed, "I have matured a lot with experiences with Chinese people... being around a different culture... seeing on a personal level about what they do." He also has matured by "connecting on a different level" by being "an open person."

In the future, Hatfield hopes to benefit from learning Chinese. He plans to use his knowledge to help both Americans and the Chinese people. "I hope to further relations in China and the U.S. for the better." He feels that in the new decade, things are moving faster in China and the U.S. He feels people need to "pay attention to the social aspect," and he wants to work for to influence the governments of both countries. His goal is to be an international relations officer.

Hatfield definitely recommends this opportunity to anyone who wants to focus on a language. "Go to a country, it'll help you out [with] culture, daily life... Lots of kids at Central should apply for it."

He plans on returning to China soon. "If I can," he said, "next summer I will go back."

# Knickrehm acts as advocate for children at Casa De Elizabeth, orphanage

SYDNEY HALONEN  
Staff Writer

It's hard to find a high school student who can juggle cheerleading, pageants, mission trips and maintaining a place on the honor roll. Meet Mary Knickrehm, a Central High School sophomore who has a lot on her plate, to say the least.

Knickrehm has started a fundraiser for an orphanage in Mexico, named Casa De Elizabeth (which translates to Elizabeth's House). She hopes to raise \$10,000 for the orphanage by July 23, 2013, which is when her current title as Miss Junior National Teenager will come to an end. She will be holding many fundraisers throughout the community this year in order to raise the money.

"One of the ways I will be raising money is by speaking to various schools, usually Catholic Schools," said Knickrehm. "Right now many of these schools are really trying to emphasize on community service by the kids."

In exchange for Knickrehm coming to speak, the schools will have a dress-down day, usually a big deal for Catholic school students. They will be allowed to get out of wearing their uniforms for a day in exchange for a \$1 payment.

Each speech that Mary gives generally raises about \$1,000, depending on the size of the school. Knickrehm has also decided to do a fundraiser at Central; it will be held from Nov. 5 until Nov. 22. "Students from various clubs at Central and I will be selling cookie dough to raise money for the orphanage," she said.

Clubs participating include the Student Council, Key Club and Latino Leaders. Knickrehm's mission work started with her sister 10 or 11 years ago; the mission trips she goes on are conducted by an organization called Serving Good Kids. This organization gathers groups of people throughout the community together to make a trip; the destinations for the trips often vary, sometimes taking place locally or nationally, and sometimes internationally. Regardless of where the volunteers travel, all of the trips are centered around service work.

"My sister has been going on the mission trips to help this organization for years," Knickrehm said. "She

goes multiple times a year. Some are in the summer, a lot during Thanksgiving and then before and after New Year's."

Knickrehm went to Casa De Elizabeth through a mission trip with Serving Good Kids, and fell in love with the place. She immensely enjoyed helping the children, and that trip gave her the desire to help give children better opportunities with education.

Knickrehm's mission work intertwines with her pageant work as well; she has been participating in pageants for around a year now, and loves every minute of it.

"I started pageants because I had a lot of self confidence issues," the sophomore said. "After I overcame those issues, I saw pageants as a way to highlight my platform, which is the orphanage."

Knickrehm's current title is Miss Junior National Teenager, which she earned this past summer (she will be able to keep the title until July 23, 2013). Possessing this title requires a lot of traveling for Knickrehm. She is required to go on various out-of-state trips and one large parade throughout her reign.

While some may be intimidated by these requirements, Knickrehm has gone above and beyond them already.

"For the first month or so of school I was traveling every weekend," she said.

She has no trouble keeping up with other school-related and social activities, making time to finish her homework on plane trips and during down time while she is away from Omaha.

"I was skeptical about pageants at first, and had a horrible case of stage fright, but after I overcame that I absolutely fell in love with it," said Knickrehm. "The America's National Teenager pageant that I'm in is different from many pageants, because we don't participate in swimsuit. It is also unique because we factor in grades and community service."

The interview is the main component factored into the pageant. The contestants also participate in evening wear.

Knickrehm is ready to work hard to meet the goals of this fundraiser and continue with pageants as time goes on.

"I am planning in competing on Miss Teen USA sometime before I finish high school," she said. "My goal is to be Miss USA one day."

## Student Council plans newest school tradition

**EMILY BECK**  
Executive Editor-in-Chief

The Central High Student Council is hard at work planning an event the student body has yet to experience, set to take place this coming Feb.: a winter formal.

On Friday, Feb. 5, 2013, from 8:30 to 11:30 p.m., the Student Council will sponsor a Sweetheart Dance at Field Club of Omaha.

Right now, the council is busy planning—and so is Candi Kadar, Student Council Advisor. “We will be putting down a deposit for Field Club and reserving the date for the event,” she said. Members of the Council provided input regarding ticket price, the date, the theme and the location, collectively deciding as a group about each aspect of the event.

The dance will be off-campus, held at Field Club of Omaha (a country club). The space, according to Kadar, is very classy, and there will be servers waiting on students. A dessert bar and drinks will also be available to students—these amenities will be included in the admission price, which is slightly higher than admission to other dances (tickets will be \$20 each).

Although the price may scare some students away, Kadar is certain that this is a good deal.

“For homecoming, your ticket is \$14. You get nothing. You get to dance—that’s about it,” she said. At the winter formal, students will gain admission to the dance as well as access to a dessert bar, drinks and a chance to win door prizes and giveaways. “You get something for your money—not just dancing.”

Essentially, “it’s not homecoming and it’s not prom,” according to Kadar. “We’re trying to make it separate.”

This is a major mission that Student Council is trying to carry out—creating an event entirely disparate from other school-sponsored events that students will be able to truly enjoy.

Another mission that Student Council is trying to carry out: providing students with an experience that they may otherwise never come across.

“Not all the students have the opportunity to go out and experience things that other students may get to experience,” said Kadar, largely referring to fancy, particularly ritzy black-tie events.

Kadar believes that this event will be beneficial to students because it will give them some real-world experience. They’ll know how to dress and act at other swanky occasions, such as Military Balls or black-tie college events.

Student Council members have been brainstorming activities for the student body to take part in since Aug., and this will be their first big event.

They made a point of figuring out a fun activity to keep members of the student body breathing during the cold winter months.

“We have a dance in the fall and we have a dance in the spring,” said Kadar. “There aren’t a lot of things for students to do in the winter... so we came up with a winter formal.”

The winter formal sprang from an idea put forth by members of the council during a meeting earlier in the year. Originally, students thought that holding a dance in the winter would be a good way to raise funds for various projects.

But Kadar was concerned—how would holding something like this be any different than the other dances held at Central, namely homecoming and prom?

With this thought in mind, Kadar and the council began brainstorming further. And with the help of Assistant Principal Dionne Kirksey, they were able to make this idea into a definite future event.

Other OPS, Millard and private schools have been able to sponsor successful winter formals, so why can’t Central? The student council asked itself this question, and from there the idea bloomed.

Several objectives will ideally be accomplished by the council—one of them is beginning an annual event that will continue even after all of Central’s current students have walked the graduation stage.

“We thought that [the formal] could be something new—and we want to start a new tradition,” said Kadar. And Dr. Keith Bigsby, Central High School’s principal, embraced the idea when it was brought to his attention.

“Dr. Bigsby is all about starting traditions,” Kadar said.

He wants to give students the opportunity to create lasting memories during their time at Central—and what better way to create memories than to conceive something that has never been done at Central before?



1. One student, Nick, rides on a horse with volunteers leading the way to make sure he does not fall off. 2. Another student, Adam, receives a high five from Ganzel for doing a wonderful job riding the horse. 3. Another student rides a horse on her own around Ganzel’s house. 4. Two of Ganzel’s students stroke the head of one of the horses carefully.

## LEARNING THE ROPES

After engaging in volunteer work at therapeutic horseriding summer camps, Central teacher Linda Ganzel decides to begin her own program.

**SAN JUANA PARAMO**  
Staff Writer

Linda Ganzel first heard of therapeutic riding when she worked at a youth outdoor camp in Wyoming during the summers. Before that, she didn’t even know it existed.

When a camper’s mother inquired as to if her disabled daughter, who was in a wheelchair, could receive a riding lesson, Ganzel thought that it wasn’t going to be possible.

The mother explained that her daughter was taking therapeutic riding lessons. They had a system where the mother would ride in front while her daughter rode behind, and two people would walk beside her daughter and the horse, and they would help support her.

Ganzel was instantly intrigued, and upon returning to Nebraska, she began to research information about therapeutic riding. “I couldn’t find anything about it, except for a program called HETRA in Valley, Neb.,” Ganzel said.

That same winter, Ganzel volunteered at HETRA without really knowing what the program was. “After I volunteered there for a short period of time, I was hooked, and I had to do this—I loved it,” Ganzel said.

Growing up on a dairy farm, her love for horses began at a young age. When she was five, Ganzel begged for a horse, but didn’t get one until five years later. “I think he [her dad] got tired of me pestering him. It was an old, pathetic horse, but I loved that thing,” Ganzel said.

Since 1998, Ganzel has been working with horses in therapeutic riding. After talking to the mother of the handicapped daughter in Wyoming she started to volunteer at HETRA in the fall. “I really wanted to do it; it made me happy,” she said.

Ganzel’s hard work, which consisted of required riding lessons, tests of all sorts and learning how to accommodate the riding to different types of disabilities, finally paid off. She became a certified riding instructor through PATH International, and completed a required internship at Power of the Spirit Program at camp Carol Joy Holling in Ashland, Neb.

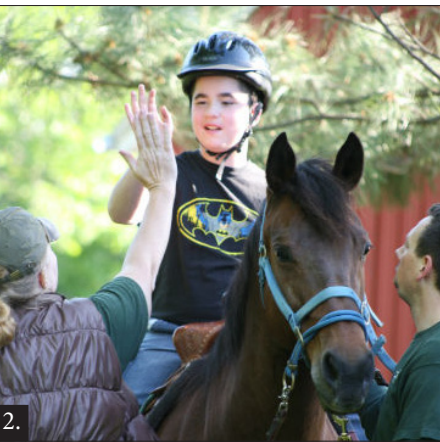
“When I first started, it overwhelmed me,” Ganzel said. When she was first learning to become a riding instructor, there weren’t many people who were able to instruct others. Carol Rae Holling, owner of and instructor at Carol Joy Holling camp, took her as a student teacher. “It was fun, but frustrating at first,” Ganzel said.

Starting her own program was very difficult. The paperwork, finding proper fencing and insurance, and being able to find a good horse overwhelmed her.

Being discouraged by many people (even her own financial assistant, who told her that her program was ridiculous and dumb), Ganzel kept her head high and didn’t give up. “If she only knew the hoops I jumped through to get to where I am at,” Ganzel said.

In her heart, though, she knew that she could accomplish her dream. “I’ve had a lot of people roll their eyes when I tell them what I do,” Ganzel said.

In her first year of learning to become an instructor, Ganzel gained a lot of knowledge to help her start her own program. “It was a great experience because they had a variety of people with different disabilities, so it gave me a base of information that I wouldn’t have gotten anywhere else,”



PHOTOS COURTESY OF LINDA GANZEL

she said.

When Ganzel finally started instructing, it was everything she had hoped for and more—something she hadn’t expected.

“When I started doing it on my own it was very overwhelming, there were little obstacles that were road blocks,” Ganzel said.

In August of 2012 Ganzel was able to start her own program. Christina Gottschall, founder of Windsong, a therapeutic horseback riding program for which Ganzel volunteered, helped her to get her first horse—and from there the program was up and running. “It’s because of her that I’m teaching my own lessons,” Ganzel said.

At Windsong, “our goal is always to work up to as much independence as the person has the capacity to,” she said.

“Some students start up with side walkers and end up being independent riders.” Ganzel firmly believes that therapeutic riding can change a person’s life.

Sometimes tasks that normally take one or two steps for an average person require ten or more for a person who is disabled, even riding a horse. But the challenge that this presents is worth it.

Ganzel recommends this program to just about anyone, from kids or adults who have cerebral palsy to wounded soldiers, or kids who have fears or anger issues. But especially for children who have autism.

“It’s amazing what it does to them, it can give them hope,” Ganzel said.

Ganzel can very well put herself in her student’s shoes; she knows just how scary it is to ride a horse. Even though she is a riding instructor and has been around horses since a young age, Ganzel is scared when it comes to riding one specific horse.

Two years ago, Ganzel wanted to train her first horse. She started out with a small baby colt that got massive as he grew. When he was old enough to be trained, he grew bigger than what Ganzel had expected. “He very much intimidated me,” Ganzel said.

She had trained him to lead and put a saddle on him, but when she was about to ride him, he bucked her off twice. “I actually developed a fear of that horse which was embarrassing for me to admit because I work with them,” Ganzel said. After seeking help from a trainer, Ganzel was finally able to ride him again. “I still had to give myself a small pep talk,” she said.

“When I look at my students, I can see myself in them. I now know how scared, maybe not to the extent that they are, but I know scary it is, and how embarrassing it is to tell someone,” she said, “and how much you appreciate it when someone doesn’t laugh at you, and when someone helps you overcome your fears.”

“I would like to have more students,” Ganzel said.

She hopes to have students almost every day when her program is open in the summer. “They say that if it’s something in your heart that you really want to do, you shouldn’t let anyone or thing bring you down,” Ganzel said. And she certainly has not allowed anyone to discourage her.

She plans to keep the program going for as long as she can, while still volunteering at her other programs. With more horses and volunteers to help her, Ganzel is planning to take the program one step at a time.

## New Weight Watchers Club begins at Central

**ELISSA WIENER**  
Staff Writer

“It’s not a diet; it’s a lifestyle change,” said Laurie Boyd about Central’s Weight Watchers Club. Boyd is a Weight Watcher leader, which means that she became a lifetime member. She is in charge of the Weight Watchers club that meets every Wed. The club is a fairly recent addition to Central’s long list of clubs and after school activities. Boyd leads weekly a meeting in 037 for all of the members of the club.

Diet.com defines Weight Watchers as “the largest commercial weight-loss program in the world. The diet is based on calorie and portion control while eating regular food, exercise and behavior modification.”

Boyd said that “[Weight Watchers] is a weight loss program, but you could even call it a good health program because it’s not a diet; it’s a lifestyle change.

“We tell people you’re getting your Master’s and Doctorate degrees in health because you become so smart. And basically, it teaches people how to eat healthy and be active, and make better choices overall, not just with food.”

One of the things that makes Weight Watchers so unique is the point system the program uses.

Points are either eaten or saved to be eaten. Exercising earns points that can then be used, or consumed, at a later point. “It’s like counting calories, only breaking it down into their components,” Boyd said, “so the points are derived according to how much protein and how much fiber...how much fat and carbs are in every [food]...You’re keeping track of what you’re taking in. Also with activity, you earn points... so it motivates you to be active and have more awareness of what you’re eating... [Once you earn the points] You can eat them if you’d like to. It’s very personalized to the person who’s doing it—and it works.”

There are regular Weight Watchers meetings for members all over the country. The purpose of the club is to make losing weight and staying on a healthy diet easier for people because it is accessible to them.

“It helps people to reach weight loss goals and good health goals for a lifetime,” said Boyd.

In the past few years the club has been introduced to Central in a hopeful effort to help people achieve goals.

“My boss talked with Lisa Studer and there was a lot of interest,” Boyd explained about how the club started. “A lot of teachers wanted to be involved at Central. So if it’s right here they don’t have to drive anywhere else. And they know each other, and the support from each other is great.”

Before every meeting, Boyd sets up a display of healthy snacks for a small cost. At the beginning of each meeting, the members get a small pouch of crackers, worth only three points, to munch on throughout the meeting.

Each member also has the opportunity to buy the boxes of treats that are only worth a few points each. After all the treats are bought and crackers consumed, the real meeting begins.

Boyd explained that if the club continues, future meetings will be spent weighing in and seeing how much progress has been made from week to week, and how each member is doing in correspondence to his or her weight goal.

They will spend the rest of the time discussing new and fun exercises, which will help each person move closer to achieving his or her goals.

The only issue with the club is the lack of members. Currently, there are only a few members. In order for the club to continue, there have to be 15 people willing to join. “I hope [more people come].... If I had my way I’d have everybody join just ‘cause it’s so good,” Boyd said.

According to Boyd, this club benefits “every single person that joins and their families. Because they are learning... a Weight Watcher member will learn the importance of healthy eating and balanced eating. And then they take those ideas home, they take their recipes and dining-out ideas home to their family, and their kids/[siblings] start to see that they’re starting to look better and feel better.”

Weight Watchers club is an easily accessible way to get in shape and feel good about the way you look. “Coming to meetings... when you know each other and...motivate each other... the meetings are very inspirational because everybody helps each other along,” Boyd said. “I’m working for Weight Watchers because it works and it’s terrific... It improves your quality of life, it really does. Everybody... [just] join.”

## Newest change to grading scale aims to eliminate slacking, increase student effort

**MAYA DURFEE O’BRIEN**  
Staff Writer

The students at Central High School, as well as the rest of OPS, are in for another change: it has recently been decided that the grading scale will once again be altered, starting second semester.

“Grades are going to be calculated differently, but as for the scale— that’s going to remain the same,” said Tom Wagner, Data Administrator for OPS. Students and teachers are frustrated by this, because it is the fifth time it has been changed in the last four years. Wagner, along with fellow administrators, students and teachers, are hopeful it will stick. One of the main problems with, standard based grading right now is that the tool used for grades (Infinite Campus) does

not have the proper technology to deal with trending.

“We would like for Infinite Campus to be able to calculate [grades] for us, but right now that’s not possible,” Wagner said. Teachers are spending hours just trying to figure out how trending works. They are taking time that could be used to plan for class or write tests and quizzes.

Another issue seen with trend scoring is that, since Life Skills are no longer factored into grades, many kids are not doing their homework.

Wagner said that students don’t understand what the point of completing homework is if it doesn’t count toward a final grade—but they’re missing the point. Although homework isn’t graded in most classes, it’s still necessary to do well on it—because essentially, it is practice for written exams.

“If I look at three or four pieces of evidence I may think it’s this; if another teacher looks at three or four pieces of evidence that teacher may think it’s that,” said Wagner. Trending is being eliminated because it is not as uniform as it should be. Despite this change, standards-based grading will stay...sort of. “The grade book will now be cut up into two things: summative and formative,” Wagner said. The summative folder will contain all unit tests and final exams in it—basically anything that students take after they are done with a unit or chapter.

The formative folder will contain quizzes and graded practice.

In this folder, included is anything that students take before a unit is over.

A lot of times students decide to slack off in be-

ginning of the quarter, starting to work hard at the end; they can do this because of trend scoring. Student can get 1s or 2s throughout a quarter, but if they do well on their final or unit tests, that can boost their grades to 3s or 4s.

The newest grading scale “is going to force them to do all their work,” according to Wagner. Since the summative folder grade is 65% of the final grade and the formative folder grade is 35%, students will be forced to work hard and to do well on all of their tests.

“65% may seem like a lot, especially for those who are bad test takers—but it is not enough for someone to fail,” said Wagner. “It is going to take some time to accept this.”

While this may elicit concern, there is no need; if students always work hard, there are no worries.

# Girls Rock Club conducts successful toy drive for local cancer patients



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PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICK RICHARDS

1. Members of the families, who helped deliver toys, line up in front of all of the collected toys in the lobby of Children's Hospital. 2. Rick Richard's grandson, Ryder, paints a picture while in the hospital during the summer of 2011. The toy drive, started by Ryder's mother (Robin Richards), was created in his memory. 3. Helping out with the cause, a young girl places a toy in one of the collection boxes on the front porch of Robin Richards' house.

## SAN JUANA PARAMO Staff Writer

The Girls Rock club teamed up with Rick Richards, a Central counselor, to collect toys in memory of Ryder Richards, Richards' grandson.

Ryder would have been four on October 15; it would have been his first birthday since he passed away. "We were kind of dreading the day in a way and we were trying to do something other than just feel sad," Richards said.

Richards' oldest daughter, Ryder's aunt, came up with the idea to run a toy drive for Children's Hospital and his youngest daughter organized the whole event.

"Everyone in the family tried to get their place of employment involved, their churches; we had three or four churches in town that got involved," Richards said.

The toy drive ran from Thursday October 11th to Thursday October 18. "I think it was a success," said Lisa Donahoe, Girls Rock sponsor, and Central counselor.

Only new toys were accepted. Students and teachers both contributed to donating toys.

With the help from Girls Rock club they collect 1,400 new toys. "We made it a fast and furious toy drive, said Donahoe "because of that

we weren't really well organized." The toy drive was the club's first service project of the year. They liked the idea to start a toy drive and were even more encouraged when they found out it was to help a staff member. "When we found out it was to support a staff member, it was more meaningful," Donahoe said.

After the toys were collected, club members gave them to Richards, who, along with his family, delivered the toys to Children's Hospital. "I certainly think that projects like this remind us to be a community and be there for each other," Donahoe said. "It brought awareness that cancer is a disease that even young children have. Many times we think that adults are the only ones who battle cancer," Donahoe added.

"We generally think of cancer being an adult disease, but it's definitely not, Ryder was just a little over two when he was first diagnosed," Richards said.

Though the girls didn't personally deliver toys, "I think it makes them feel good," Donahoe said. Girls Rock and they plan to do more service projects in the future.

"It was very heartwarming. It made me feel good, it's nice to know that something that's so important to me would be important to somebody else, we were really lucky to have clubs here like the girls rock climbing club get involved," Richards said upon learning that girls rock wanted to help him and his family collect.

His family was very excited, especially Ryder's father, Richards' oldest son. "It really made him feel good that there were kids at Central that cared," Richards said. "It was a whole family thing."

When Richards would visit his grandson in the hospital, one of the things Ryder enjoyed was to play in the hospital's playroom.

"We would play with the toys and it was one of the things that helped him spend and pass that time in the hospital," Richards said. Ryder was in the hospital on and off for a year.

"I can't even imagine being two years old and sitting in a hospital room all day," Richards said. For Ryder having the toy room and having those toys was an important part of his life for one whole year. "I like to think, Monday, when we pulled up to the hospital with 1,400 toys he was smiling down on us," Richards said.

The Richards family plans on doing another toy drive again next year. "There are a lot of people in Omaha that know about this little boy named Ryder, and I think yearly that's going to happen," Richards said.

Next year the family will get help from Merto Transit to help spread the word about the toy drive.

"Metro transit has volunteered to put up billboards on the side of their busses to get the word about next year's toy drive," Richards said. Adding that the family is "really excited about doing it again next year and seeing how many toys they can collect."

## Greg Sand and students pleased with results of Midland Math competition; students perform well individually

Continued from 'MATH' on page 1

only Nebraskans who are talented at math, although they do sit at the top. Walking into a competition, "everyone is super talented" according to Sand, which lends to the excitement—no one knows who will win, because everyone has an equal shot at coming out on top.

When it comes to the rivalry between Lincoln East and Central, winning is "merely a case of who has the better day," according to Sand.

Central has had the upper hand at the last two competitions in which the two schools encountered each other, triumphing against East, but the team fell short at Midland.

Midland University, after a several-year hiatus,

began hosting the competition again two years ago as a part of its Adopt-A-School partnership with Central.

"It's a strong connection between Central High and Midland," said Sand, who contributes to it himself by writing questions for the competition.

Midland's math contest is a chance for kids from smaller schools around Nebraska to get a taste of the competition, while meeting peers from different cities with similar interests.

Members of Central's Math Team look forward to future competitions.

Everyone is confident in the ability of the students on the team, especially Sand.

"It's been great to continue to...be a part of a long-time tradition of excellence," he said.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

Courtney Thelander, senior, focuses on drawing a person's pale face with her pastels in her drawing pad.

## CHS student takes part in prestigious art program

### STEPHANIE PAUL Visuals Editor

The Maire Wall-Sharp Foundation has been helping younger generations with an art program held for juniors. The program was held at Colorado College in Colorado Springs, Colo. This past summer senior Courtney Thelander was chosen to go to the Wall-Sharp's foundations art program.

Thelander was chosen out of 1,000 plus applicants who wished to go to the two week art program. Only 20 other students were in the program with Thelander. She was selected to go to the art program by her art portfolio she put on a CD and sent to the foundation.

"The Marie Wall-Sharp Foundation is worth the application process," said Thelander, "I encourage any juniors this year to apply for the program. It is so cool."

During the program in the mornings the students worked with the artist David Cap who they received drawing lessons from. In the afternoons the students worked with Suzann Coffee [also an artist] painting on canvases.

Thelander said during the evening the students enjoyed special visitors that came to the college and

spoke to them about art and how it is not all visual. It can also be spoken like poetry.

On the one weekend that the program went through, the students headed up to the Segre Mountains in Colorado and painted the sunset.

"The experience of going to the program is once and a life time and I will never forget it," she said. Thelander has always enjoyed art since her father is an art teacher. At Central she started to take art classes as a sophomore.

Other than art Thelander is in Power Lifting, Concert Choir, and JROTC. Thelander just joined Power Lifting her junior year and thinks she will continue it this year. She just started JROTC this year and she loves it.

She started JROTC her senior year because she has decided on joining the military after she graduates this spring. Thelander has many family members in the military branches. "It [the military] seems like a good support system in my life," she said.

After the military she plans to go to University of Nebraska in Omaha and join their Pre-Med. At first Thelander thought she will become a graphic artist but she said "I will always love art but I think if I made it my job I will hate it." Thelander also says "I will keep art as my hobby."



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2.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

1. FBLA member Teresa Stastny stands in the senior parking lot, telling student drivers to stop in check of seat belt wearing and phone usage while driving. Drivers either received a smartie or dum-dum. 2. Senior Jessica Vorthmann receives a smartie for her excellent focus on the road while driving.

## FBLA students reward safe driving

### SETH ARTER Staff Writer

"Click it or ticket," a common phrase law enforcement uses promote safe driving.

This year at Central, the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) club did their own "Click it Campaign."

As Central students drove into the junior and senior parking lots on Oct. 9th and 10th, they received Smarties if they were fully focused and wearing their seat belts.

If they were not wearing a seat belt or distracted, then they received a Dum Dum. "We were trying to promote safety with our students and the community," said FBLA director Dennise Powers, "We wanted them to wear their seat belts, not text, and reward them by giving them Smarties."

"We had a student last year that graduated and he was the one who was trying to promote it and we didn't take the time to dedicate to his idea until we lost Victor Rojas in the spring," said Powers.

While Powers was excited about the campaign, she was not the only one, her FBLA students were also. "FBLA students were very passionate about it," said Powers. There was a total of 17 FBLA students who participated, and were at school ready to promote safe driving by 6:30 in the morning. "It was very cold out and they were ready to make sure that they promoted their feeling," Powers said.

With having 17 helping hands, making the posters and preparing for the "click it" campaign wasn't a lengthy process. "It took maybe an hour to create the posters with so many students participating," Powers said.

As time went by during the two days of the click it campaign, Powers and her FBLA students quickly realized that not everyone had positive reactions. "Definitely had mixed feelings, we had some people that didn't want to roll their window down because they saw on Central's web page that we were putting on the campaign and knew that they didn't make the right choice," Powers said.

Although Powers and her FBLA students received some negative reactions from student drivers, it wasn't the only kind of reaction they received.

"We had others that were thankful that we were getting the word out to others," Powers said. Powers and FBLA certainly understand why the thankful students were so thankful.

"There's many students that talked about the fact that they've had many friends who have been in accidents and they want to make sure that they get to see their friends in their lifetime," Powers said.

While some student drivers received Dum Dums, Powers was pleased to discover that more student drivers received Smarties. "We definitely gave out more Smarties and we did give out some Dum Dums, but by far more Smarties," Powers said, "It's good to know that people are making the right choice," Powers also said.

Although some students didn't roll down their windows, Powers knows that this first-time campaign was successful and plans to promote it again next year. "We hope to do it again in the spring also," Powers said.

Even though Powers and her FBLA students found multiple types of offenses from student drivers, there were some that were repeated more than others. "The seat belts were the biggest offence," said Powers. Among them, texting and changing the song in the student's car were a few other common errors while.

Not only did Powers and her FBLA students get the attention of Central, but they also received attention from the entire community as the WOWT channel 6 news station came to interview FBLA about the campaign.

"I was excited because we wanted to get this out to the Omaha Central community, and it was great because I also got it out to the Omaha Metro community," said Powers.

Senior Skyler Motykowski of Central's FBLA club understands the importance of promoting safety to high school students.

"It felt good to know that we were promoting a good cause to keep students safe," Motykowski said.

As Powers and her FBLA students look forward to putting on the campaign again in the spring, they won't soon forget the importance of safe driving.

"If people rely on their common sense, then distractions behind the wheel can be eliminated," Powers said.

# FRIGHT NIGHT

Omaha's favorite Halloween attractions, such as Scary Acres, crawl forward this season, bringing you the best in chills and thrills.

**RAINA BEHRENS**  
Staff Writer

Scary Acres is one of the most popular haunted houses in Omaha, and this attraction has tons of good attributes that make it popular.

Although the prices may seem a little steep, the experience is well worth the money. Within Scary Acres, there are three different attractions: the House on the Hill, the Haunted Woods and the Master's Castle.

There are also four large bonfires to hang around and warm one's hands at, and a concession stand in case one gets hungry. All the different options on the grounds makes Scary Acres an easy place to spend your whole Saturday night of terror.

My favorite attraction was the House on the Hill. Right as you walk in, you have to crouch down and walk into a fireplace, which is actually a revolving door that takes you inside the house. As you travel through, the climax slowly escalates as you draw near to the scariest rooms at the end. Costumed phenomenon walk through the tiny halls from room to room. Many people end up running out of the house and down the hill, screaming. If you are easily startled or scared of chainsaws, you will probably be one of those individuals.

Contrary to the usual boring, long waits to get into the haunted houses, the lines at Scary Acres seem to go by quickly. There are various employees scattered across the grounds, working just to scare people as they are waiting in line. So even as you wait to enter the haunted houses, you are in constant fear.

The Haunted Woods are probably equally as scary as the House on the Hill. However, the as-

pects inside each are very different. The Haunted Woods are much more open. After all, you are outside for the majority of it. There are more places where the workers can hide, waiting to jump out and startle the customers. Once you get through the last shack, however, there isn't much to worry about.

Finally, the main attraction is the Master's Castle. The line at this haunted house is always the longest. Waiting in line for half an hour at Scary Acres is worth it, however. Since this is the largest haunted house on Scary Acres' property, it has a variety of aspects about it that are unique, not found in the other haunted

The Master's Castle takes you more in-depth into each

of those areas, causing them to be even gorier than they are in the House on the Hill or the Haunted Woods.

After you finish going through each of the haunted houses, there are nice places you can go and relax. Many people grab hot chocolate from the concession stand or go over to one of the four bonfires. Those are the only places where the clowns and other employees walking around will leave you alone...so you can catch a breather from all of the screaming.

This Halloween season, *The Register* suggests that you stuff your weekends full of fun fright! That is why we have included a full list of Omaha-area haunted houses on page 7 complete with everything you need to know to make your Halloween the best yet!

Continue to 'FRIGHT' on page 7



PHOTO BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

## review [ HAUNTED HOUSE ]

SCARY ACRES



PHOTO COURTESY OF KEVIN WILLIAMS

In the Nebraska Shakespeare on Tour 2012 performance at Central High School, "Julius Caesar," Kevin Williams, who attended Central for three years before having to move out of state, plays Cassius. Within this scene the death of Caesar occurs.

## Eagle returns to Central to perform *Julius Caesar* as part of Nebraska Shakespeare on Tour 2012

Kevin Williams, Central 1980's attendee, is a successful performer. Although he moved before completing his Senior year at Central, he is still proud of his Eagle roots.

**SAN JUANA PARAMO**  
Staff Writer

All sophomore English students were invited to attend a special performance of *Julius Caesar* on Thurs. Sept. 27. Among the performers, a Central Alum was present. Kevin Williams, who graduated in 1982, showed off his knack for acting.

Though Williams did not specifically graduate from Central, he did attend three years (he and his mother left for Penn.) and he'll always be an Eagle at heart. Williams left by the end of 1981, just when the school put the dome on the top of the courtyard.

Williams was very active in his school; he was part of the Central High A Cappella Singers, he performed in the Roadshow and he played Junior Varsity football.

Surprisingly, Williams did not take drama as a student. "I grew into it, although I had done other plays before I came to Central," he said.

Instead, Williams took part in music. "My favorite subject was music. I am a musical actor," he said, "and I do musical theater, not just Shakespeare and drama."

Just like any other student that attended Central,

Williams enjoyed the time he had here. "I enjoyed it, I thought it was and think it is the best high school in Omaha," he said. He attended Central when the cafeteria was on the fourth floor, and remembers when girls and boys had separate stairs. "And football practices, used to be at Kellom Elementary," added Williams.

Among Williams's most memorable experiences was his junior year homecoming in 1980, along with when the dome was finished being put onto the courtyard.

"A Cappella sang "Salvation" underneath it for the first time," Williams said.

Both his mother and aunt attended Central, and for Williams it was a "cool experience" to attend as well. He likes that Central has the most intelligent young people, probably his favorite thing about Central. "We had (and have) the smartest young people in the city," Williams said. "I think we have the smartest ones with the most potential to do whatever they desire to do."

Since the last time Williams visited, Central has undergone some changes, big and small. But the school is still the same. "There are more computers, but still the as-

Continue to 'ALUM' on page 9

## Boring teenager fails to see fun in haunts

In mid-September the Halloween season commences. Drugstores begin to sell gads of candy, cheap rubbery masks and fake gravestones made of Styrofoam, and "haunted houses" open up their creepy doors.

These places are scattered throughout the Omaha metro, and have become popular haunts for adults and teenagers alike. The businesses feed off of the energy that emanates from the anticipation of Halloween. Kids begin planning the nights they will venture out in large groups, donning their warmest hoodies and working up the nerve to invite their respective honeys.

For some teenagers, it's about proving who the bravest one is or seeing who can scream the loudest, and for those middle school kids it's about getting an excuse to be as close to their love interests as possible. But for many, it's about the thrill of being terrified by realistic ghouls, creeps, clowns and supposed serial killers who could at any moment pop out, brandishing pickaxes thick with blood or chainsaws ready to rip through the flesh of the innocent.

Am I scaring you yet?

I used to be rather fond of these places, which many refer to as "haunted houses"—but I despise that title, because clearly none of them are haunted (although I'm sure the owners would love you to believe that). They are simply structures set up in parking lots once a year to reign in extra cash (Shadow's Edge), dilapidated buildings that are remodeled annually (Mystery Manor), or clusters of eerie rundown houses sitting on farm plots clear out on Giles Road (Scary Acres, Haunted Hallow).

These places make a profit by putting out ridiculous radio and billboard advertisements that entice kids to venture out and spend way too much money on admission in order to be chased around by makeup-caked actors dressed in shabby costumes.

Sorry if I'm ruining your fun.

I understand why this can be entertaining—I used to find fun in it. But during a jaunt to Mystery Manor last year with a group of friends (for the third year in a row), I realized how pointless it all was. The night was freezing, the line was long, I think it was drizzling rain and groups of younger teenagers kept running around shrieking

or standing about in nervous bundles. I failed to find anything scary that night; both in the building and out. Groups of people are led into the house, stripped of their money and shown into a room where a burly bearded man rehearses the history of the house that everyone already knows by heart from the radio ads (which try way too hard to scare listeners) and the website (because you know all those preteens checked it before showing up to try to get an upper hand by seeming knowledgeable).

From there the "victims" venture through the house as various characters attempt to leap from shadows and cause a few screams, learn more of the history (which involves the tale of William Hall supposedly going insane and chopping up his wife on Oct. 23, 1929, after losing his fortune in

the stock market crash, and then being murdered himself by his vengeful brother-in-law, whose body was later found with an ax embedded in its skull—whew!) and take a tumble down two different slides, the first of which is about one story in length.

At this point I may seem like a total party-pooper for not thinking of this as fun...but my first visit to Mystery Manor occurred when I was in the seventh grade, and I've been back every year since. I've also visited Shadow's Edge twice and Haunted Hallow and Scary Acres once. I would say that I was pretty obsessed with going to these places while in middle school—which is one of the reasons I can't find fun in them now. Basically, I'm burned out on them. I've experienced really all that there is to experience. To put it into a clichéd form: been there, done that.

I've just grown out of this sort of thing. Fumbling through the dark confining hallways of various metro "haunts," being screamed at by young women decked out in blood-splattered dresses and surrounded by wall-fuls of creepy dolls, squeezing through smoky rooms while stout blubbery men in greasy butcher attire eye me, and trying to come up with witty comebacks in response to the threats of the actors—that's not how I want to spend my Saturday nights in October. Sorry.

Continue to 'HAUNTS' on page 8



**I MADE THIS FOR YOU**  
A Column by Emily Beck

### Young Artist on the Rise

Sophomore Frances Joyner wows gallery-goers with her unique artwork at The Kent Bellows Studio & Center for Visual Arts.

See Inside, Page 8



### Omaha's Best Coffee

The Register reviews four Omaha-area coffee shops in anticipation of the coming cool weather.

See Inside, Page 10



### And How Are Your Feet?

The Central Marching Band outdoes itself at the Omaha Marching Exhibition.

See Inside, Page 9



# House at the End of the Street is thrilling, not ideal for those seeking a real fright

JENNIFER ROONEY  
Editor-in-Chief

A concept touched upon in the film *House at the End of the Street* is the fact that "Sometimes people can't be fixed."

*House at the End of the Street* was released on Sept. 21, 2012, and was directed by Mark Tonderai. Jennifer Lawrence, known from *The Hunger Games*, played Elissa. Elizabeth Shue played Sarah, Elissa's mother. And Max Thieriot played Ryan, the brother of the problem. *House at the End of the Street* was rated PG-13 for some elements of horror.

The movie starts off in the middle of the night in an upscale rural town, where a young girl, with her hair in her face and her eyes darkened, steps in front of the stairs to go up to her parent's room. She walks with a limp and pushes a lamp down; it shatters on the floor with a big bang.

Then her parents wake up. They decide that the mother should go down and see what caused the noise. She walks down the stairs, relieved that it's only her daughter, Carrie Anne. As Carrie Anne's mother tells her to go back to bed, she doesn't listen. Carrie Anne attacks her, killing her right there in her own house.

Carrie Anne then walks up the stairs to find her father. He is now terribly afraid because he knows his wife is not okay, but he still lies in bed, watching the door as footsteps arrive at it.

Then all of a sudden Carrie Anne slams the door open and attacks her father as well, killing him right there in his own bedroom.

The movie then fast forwards to years later, where Elissa and her mother move into the house down the street from the location of the deaths. The neighbors tell them the story of the house, adding that Carrie Anne was not found after the murder.

Elissa and her mother finally figure out that Ryan, Carrie Anne's brother, lives in the house. They also find out that nobody

in the town respects him because they think that he's crazy, just like the family.

Elissa finally comes face to face with Ryan--and she really starts to like him. She even starts going to his house every day...but what she doesn't know is that he is hiding something terrible right in his basement, a secret nobody could ever expect.

Soon Elissa and Ryan start falling for each other--but Elissa's mother does not approve. Elissa doesn't care though; a typical teenage girl, she still runs off with him.

This is when trouble arises. Elissa discovers his secret and tries to be okay with it. She wants to save him and she wants to love him, but she can't love him the way he wants to love her. It's Carrie Ann or Elissa; he can only have one, but will that change who he is? And is Carrie Ann really Carrie Ann, or did she actually die?

I think that overall, it was a good movie because of the final questions answered and the thriller of what might happen next. I also like that the horror in it (although not much) wasn't mindless--there was an actual storyline and somewhat plausible plot. The movie, to me, was not scary at all. It may have made me flinch a few times, but never did I feel the need to run out of the movie theater screaming in terror. Usually music can contribute to making a horror movie scary, but there was really only once that there was even a bit of music terrifying, and that was a joke at the end. I could also tell that this movie could never be a true story. There are too many things that make the story unbelievable and crazy, although there are some crazy people in the world these days with sick minds.

I suggest that if you like horror movies, don't waste your money. But if you get terrified easily (quite like myself), then you may like this movie.

All of your questions will be answered in *House at the End of the Street*. Trust me, everything comes together at the end. The perfect twist, you will definitely be surprised at what you find out.



1. A grimy Jennifer Lawrence holds back tears while a threat looms from behind. 2. Lawrence (right), Elisabeth Shue (center) and Max Thieriot (left) have dinner together.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FILMATION ENTERTAINMENT

## Local ice cream parlor eCreamery competes on Shark Tank

JENNIFER ROONEY  
Editor-in-Chief

A small business on a nationwide television show. A corner store ice cream shop investing in an offer from popular entrepreneurs to seek over \$250 million for production. Its eCreamery on the hit television show *Shark Tank*.

A one location in the country, the ice cream shop is right here in Omaha, on 5001 Underwood Ave. eCreamery Ice Cream and Gelato, made an appearance on the ABC reality television show *Shark Tank* on Friday, Sept. 21. The co-owners, Abby Jordan, 34, and Becky App, 36, made an appearance on the hit show.

eCreamery Ice Cream and Gelato is a traditional ice cream shop, as well as an online ice cream sales shop. Customers may choose their own flavors, mix-ins, packaging and can even create their own ice cream name.

eCreamery usually has about 18 flavors available at all times to pick from in-store. There are three different sizes to choose, from costing from \$3-\$5. The in-store sales cost accounts for 40% of the actual business.

The online part of eCreamery Ice Cream and Gelato ships about 200 pints of ice cream twice a week. Customers may pick from three different types: gelato (Italian ice cream), regular ice cream, and sorbetto (dairy free). Then customers decide their flavors and size, and add their mix-in ingredients.

Someone may order a four pack of a half-gallon (four pints) which is \$49.99, or a full gallon (eight pints), which is \$89.99. Then that person can buy intermixed flavors. The second flavor is \$10 and each mix-in after that is \$5, with a limit of two (plus shipping and handling).

While the ice cream is being shipped, the customer will receive an

email when the order is shipped to let them know when it will arrive, unless special requested. The shipping frames were changed, though, due to the response on *Shark Tank*.

The four flavors aired on ABC's *Shark Tank* were "The Cubanero," a spicy dark chocolate sorbetto, "Delicious Dividends," a double vanilla ice cream with cashew brittle and caramel swirls, "Invest MINT Mix," a mint ice cream with Oreo pieces, and "Shark Bait," a sea salted caramel gelato with chocolate-covered pretzels.

*Shark Tank* is a show about entrepreneurs and business executives called "sharks," who consider offers from other entrepreneurs seeking investments for their businesses or products worldwide.

It stars Robert Herjaves, Kevin O'Leary, Barbara Corcoran, Doymond John and Mark Cuban.

Investor Mark Hasebrook offered a one-third stake in eCreamery in exchange for \$250,000 to build a protection facility, because the online sales are growing.

eCreamery pitched their eCommerce demanding business tycoons by making ice cream and gelato gifts to the "sharks" on the second episode. eCreamery was planning to seek a \$250,000 investment to build ice cream production and freezer space for business.

Jordan and App presented each "shark" with a personalized pint of ice cream. The "sharks" said that the ice cream had high overhead costs, and that eCreamery should just focus on the online gift business because competition could copy them, eliminating them from business.

eCreamery had a ten minute segment on *Shark Tank* for their investment, but they walked away with nothing.

"But, the store is here to stay," said Jordan and App, from the *Omaha World Herald*. "It ended as a best-case-scenario."



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SILICON PRAIRIE NEWS

Co-owners of eCreamery, Abby Jordan and Becky App, present their flavors of ice cream and discuss their \$250,000 investment.

## Childhood books bring forth smiles, but high schools books bring on the snores

My name is Junie B. Jones. The B stands for Beatrice, but I don't like Beatrice, I just like B and that's all; the iconic lines from my childhood reading. These lines, from my personal favorite children's novels *Junie B. Jones* became cemented in my head during my first and second grade years, when my teachers unlocked the beauty of literature to me.

It all began cross-legged, sitting on the floor in a conglomerated mess of my fellow second graders, breathless from the previous session of recess, anxious to hear about the adventures that the novels held that our teacher read to us. Whether it was *The Magic Tree House* or *Junie B. Jones*, we all listened intently, quietly absorbing all of the words, lines and quirky phrases that we each separately fell in love with as we read.

The dominating reason our attention spans were all held for such a long period of time was simply because our teacher had chosen books that we were all incredibly intrigued by. Unfortunately, as I've entered the world of high school English, my interest in reading has slowly declined -- at least in regards to class-required books.

My first disappointment came when the realization hit me that I would no longer be read to in school. I mean, granted I realized those days were coming to a close, but being read a novel provides so much ease and is so soothing that I personally believe all ages should be read books. That first disappointing blow was followed by the next one: the books assigned for high school English classes are pretty dang, well, bland.

My point is proven when I look back to Honors English my sophomore year, when I was struggling through the withered pages of *Silas Marner*, the story of a man

with an uncanny story of a small girl and wealth.

I still see myself sitting at home, attempting to turn another page and making great strides to not reread the same lines over and over...

I loathed the reading assignments.

Not only did this book leave my brain like a bowl of mushy oatmeal, but it also was just a huge literature turn-off.

Sure, some people will argue that it was a great book, but I for one, found it extremely difficult to form a liking towards.

Novel after novel, I began to wonder something: why don't teachers choose books more interest-minded to students?

I know there are lists teachers can select their yearly novels from, but I think it's time I put my foot down and demand a book that tickles my fancy and dances up my alley.

Whether historic, educational or just plain entertaining, I find that I perform much better if the novel is one I've thoroughly enjoyed. Not only do I show better grades on tests, the reading doesn't put me to sleep or result in rereading the same sentence about five times before I realize I've been doing so.

I can recall multiple instances where I've awoken suddenly with drool plastered on my cheek, forearm and an open English book sitting on my face...or my face buried in the book itself.

If a novel has the capabilities to do that...than what's the value of reading it?

In order to further progress the enjoyment of novels and perchance raise grades -- let's instill that vivacious lust for reading by installing something radical, something new...a better book.



THIS IS RANDOM BUT  
A Column by Mekenzie Kerr

## The tools you need for a frightfully fun Halloween

Included here is a complete list of the best haunted attractions in Omaha, courtesy of *the Register*. Use these to plan your next nighttime outing with friends...but make sure to always be safe, and to use this information carefully--for you never know what could be lurking in the shadows this Halloween.

Continued from 'FRIGHT' on page 6

### Scary Acres

Open until Oct. 31

17272 Giles Rd (402) 896-9666

Hours: Sun-Thurs 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
Fri & Sat: 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

\$10 Admission to the House on the Hill; \$8 Admission to The Haunted Woods; \$11 Admission to The Master's Castle

### Mystery Manor

Open until Oct. 31

716 North 18th St. (402) 346-2666

Hours: Sun-Thurs 7 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.  
Fri & Sat: 7 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.

\$10 Admission all Season

### Nightmare on Q St.

Open until Nov. 4

7003 Q Street (402) 331-8436

Hours: Sun-Thurs 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
Fri & Sat: 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

\$10 Admission to Raven's Nightmare  
\$10 Admission to Phobia

### The Shadow's Edge

Open until Oct. 31

3457 S. 84th St. (402) 391-6225

Hours: Sunday 7 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.  
Fri & Sat: 7 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Not Open during the week.  
\$10 Admission all Season

### Ranch of Terror

Open until Oct. 31

11001 S. 48th St. (in Papillion) (402) 331-5500

Hours: Fri & Sat: 7 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
Not Open during the week.

\$10 Admission all Season, including Haunted Hayrack

### Haunted Hollow

Open until Oct. 31

11001 S. 48th St. (in Papillion) (402) 331-5500

Hours: Fri & Sat: 7 p.m. to 11:00 p.m.  
Not Open during the week.

\$10 Admission all Season

## Technology: try going without!



**NEVER WOULD I EVER**  
A Column by Jennifer Rooney

“What’s the first thing you do when you wake up for the day?” a typical question asked by concerning individuals of this society. The answer? “I usually check my phone.”

Why is it that this is the first thing done for the day? Why is this complex piece of technology we call a cell phone such a big part of our society’s life?

Technology is something each and every one of us value in life. Most of us lean on these devices for life help. Come on, do you think you could even go a day without it? Think about it. Think long and hard. Nobody could possibly answer yes to this question.

Every second, someone is experimenting with a new form of technology and its workings.

People will never stop developing new pieces to add to our technology. All though the creator of Apple, Steve Jobs, is no longer with us, we will always find a way to create new devices that will make our life even “less stressful.”

But will our human society get worse with the technology? Will the outcomes be negative? I believe they might. People seem to only care about their cell phones, iPods or even their laptops these days. This is something we shouldn’t rely our whole life on.

I do, however, think these things are necessary for some circumstances. For example, how could you get things done for college and school without a laptop to make things easier and more organized for your own sake? That’s an exception, not being obsessed, using the production for good sake.

I know most peopple could never go a day without listening to music, but that doesn’t mean you have to have an iPod or even an iPhone with you at every moment.

People get all of their information from these devices, and rely on them a little too much.

It’s gone over the top and people should slow down. Yes, the iPhone was a great invention, but over five different types of them? Is that necessary? No, not at all.

Plus, to me, they aren’t even that different overall. The only differences I see in the iPhone 4s and iPhone 5 are a bigger screen and a better camera quality and more megapixels. Although there are more, they just aren’t that noticeable to anyone else.

There are even some seniors at Central High that have yet to buy a cell phone—but middle school students have iPhones of their very own, complete with a decorative case to go with it. What’s the deal with that?

And you know who pays for them: their parents, ready to spoil their child with everything they could ever want.

Meanwhile, some students at Central, including myself, struggle just to pay for an Android that all of my friends still make fun of because I’m really the only one without an iPhone.

To that, people would say well you better join the crowd with an iPhone. Well im perfectly okay with my so-called “silly” Android.

The Nook and iPad are also not essential. Couldn’t you just deal with a regular old-style book with the pages right in front of you? And the iPad, to me, is just a bigger version of an iPod touch. It makes no sense in my mind.

Even children are leaning more towards technology.

They’re learning their basic essentials from TV shows and videos instead of from their parents sitting down and reading out of basic hard covered books on the shelf.

In some places in the world, there isn’t such a thing as this kind of technology. What did we do before some of these things were created? That’s right, we survived.

Nobody these days even knows one thing about the people whose numbers are in their phones, because they’re just stored into their contacts. I even know of parents who don’t know their own child’s number. So it’s not just the younger generation of society at fault, it’s the adults too.

Maybe see how it is to go a little while without your cell phone. If you can’t, then just try cooling down on a few things for your own sake. What if, for some reason, you didn’t have these devices? How could you do anything? That’s right, you’d learn how to do things on your own.

We also don’t want other countries thinking that we rely on these manmade devices to control our world. Instead, make them realize how smart we can actually turn out to be without any artificial help.



1.



2.



3.



4.

1. Frances Joyner, sophomore, works on the wire part of a puppet for her stop-motion film. 2. The “spinning contraption” that Joyner collaborated to create with fellow artists at The Kent Bellows Studio. 3. One of Joyner’s first mugshots. 4. The series of six mug shots, which all sold the night of the gallery at The Kent Bellows Studio.

## FUTURE FILMMAKER

Frances Joyner, an aspiring filmmaker and practicing artist, wowed crowds at a gallery last spring with her impressive work at the Kent Bellows Studio.

**EMILY BECK**

Executive Editor-in-Chief

### Starting Out

Frances Joyner, sophomore, has always been a lover of art and film.

At a young age, she showed a creativity typical of kids, coloring with crayons and paint and trying to make different objects. But something changed in Joyner as she grew up and began watching her brother draw.

“My brother did sketches...he didn’t paint or anything...he was into anime stuff, and I wasn’t into that,” Joyner said, “but I was still so impressed with him.”

This elicited a determination in her, and one day she thought, “Okay, I’m gonna be better than him.” Luckily, this little brother-sister competitiveness in Joyner’s head never turned ugly. “I wouldn’t say I’m better than him,” she said, “but he doesn’t make art anymore.”

Throughout the years, Joyner’s interest in art matured. She fell in love with film and was eventually introduced to The Kent Bellows Studio & Center for Visual Arts, which allowed her to pursue her passion. When she discovered all of the different programs available, she didn’t have any specific projects in the works or in mind—but that was okay.

“I kind of took the opportunity to go into different types of art,” she said. And with that opportunity, her talent has taken off.

### The Kent Bellows Studio

The Kent Bellows Studio & Center for Visual Arts, located at 33rd and Leavenworth, is a non-profit organization that, according to its website, “serves as a gallery, classroom, studio and archived museum space.” The building is dedicated to the late Kent Bellows, an artist and Nebraska native, and carries on his memory and legacy while providing a place to help hone the skills of young Metro artists.

The space offers semester-long classes where students have a choice between different programs; they spend two days per week working in their own studio space, and each kid has a mentor, who is available to offer advice, opinions or help. But while this guidance is always accessible, Joyner said that being in the program is very independent.

According to Joyner, the programs are offered for “kids who want to make art, want to figure out what they want to do...just anybody that has any interest in art can do it.” One doesn’t have to be particularly talented or possess an impressive set of skills, or an extensive knowledge of art—it’s for anyone. Kids can go to The Kent Bellows Studio to pursue just about anything, from multimedia and film to ceramics, painting, sculpture and drawing.

### Projects

For her mug shot series, Joyner spent lots of time looking on the internet for old mug shot photos of “women with great hair” from cities across the United States. She focused on finding thought-provoking images that would elicit a wonder in viewers, causing them to imagine what the women could have possibly done to break the law. Joyner took a special interest in the history of the shots. “I tried to do research and email the police departments in the cities,” she said, “but I didn’t get any responses, and I really wanted to figure out what they did.”

The production of each piece took about a week and a half. Joyner began her creation by painting a background onto watercolor paper; she then projected an image onto the paper and free-hand traced the (very faint) projected image using India ink. “The hair had to be mostly free-handed, because it was so detailed...and the eyes,” Joyner said. “But you sort of got the shape of things. I kind of just used [the projector] to outline it, and then I went from there.”

While drawing these out, she tended to bury herself in a corner, often with a blanket engulfing both herself and the projector in order to get the best view of the image possible.

Creating the signs held by the women in the mug shots wasn’t as easy: she had to flip the images on the computer, print them out using a special kind of ink, and do an image transfer by using a type of marker to scrape the image onto the paper. It took a lot of force, and it was a lot of work.

But all of her work paid off; Joyner’s work was heavily praised

at the gallery held at Kent Bellows at the end of the semester. There, student work is put on display; some of it is even available for purchase. Despite reassurances that some of her pieces would sell, Joyner was dubious, especially since she didn’t think that all of them were perfect.

“There was this one piece that I didn’t even want to put in the show,” she said. “I thought ‘no, look at her fingers! They’re horrible, I messed up’...it was my least favorite out of all of them, but that one sold first!”

All six of the mug shots she had spent the semester working on sold before the night was over. “It’s a really special feeling,” Joyner said. “Most people don’t sell all of their pieces, and I had six, which was more than anyone else had.” There were about 50 people with pieces in the gallery.

This wasn’t Joyner’s first gallery. The young artist took part in a program at The Kent Bellows Studio for the first time in the summer of 2011 (right before she began at Central as a freshman); with a collaborative group she helped create a huge interactive wooden structure (a “spinning contraption” according to Joyner) with little holes drilled into it that people could look through. Inside was a variety of different “rooms,” created by Joyner and her group. In one of the rooms, they did an accordion fold that, as it was spun, displayed an image of an antique bicycle, followed by Jeffrey Dahmer as a child.

“It was cool,” she said, “but...we had to take it apart.”

### Future Filmmaker

Joyner draws most of her inspiration from artists like Alfred Hitchcock (her favorite), Orson Welles and Federico Fellini, all 20th century filmmakers. This semester at Kent Bellows she will be working on a stop-motion film; to do this, one must construct a movable object (Joyner is currently working on a puppet) that is moved in small increments between photographed frames. The object, if the frames are played in a quick succession, looks as if it is moving on its own. Animated movies such as Wallace and Gromit and A Town Called Panic are created using this technique (also sometimes called claymation). Joyner’s film will be around one minute in length, but will nevertheless require much painstaking work.

She received some of the inspiration for her stop-motion from last summer’s trip to Portland, Ore. There she completed an internship at Bent Image Lab, a production company and animation studio that was then working on a Christmas special. Tsui Ling Toomer, Head of Production at Bent, is a friend of the Joyner family and was able to help Joyner obtain the internship.

“For the first day I was there I kind of just went around and helped people with whatever they needed. I made a lot of coffee,” Joyner said. “But it was so cool! I got to go and see what they were doing and how they did it.”

Joyner loved the mood of the studio. “To see all these artists at work! ...It was a huge building and it was really dark, because there were all these curtains separating the different sets,” she said. “The second week I was there, I went to the art department where they made the puppets for the stop-motion. I actually made a puppet, and it was really cool.” Joyner is now using the techniques she learned in the art department at Bent to create a puppet for her own film.

### Plans for the Future

Joyner plans on pursuing a career in filmmaking, but she isn’t stopping there; the young artist is determined to experience and experiment with as many different forms of art as she can.

She has a desire to study film at either a school for the arts or a film school, but her plans are far from solid. The New York Film Academy and the Los Angeles Film School have caught her eye, but the thought of going into cities as big as those as an 18-year-old is intimidating to Joyner. “I’m sure there are other film schools in smaller places that are just as great,” she said. “I’m definitely going to be looking into it a lot more.”

Until then, Joyner will continue with programs at The Kent Bellows Studio, art classes at Central and experimenting with independent projects of her own. She will keep devouring films in her free time. Art is definitely her passion, and she hopes to one day become a successful filmmaker.

“I’ll probably make other kinds of art too,” she said, “but I want to be a director.”

## Omaha, a unique home for bands and great music



**BE TRUE BE YOU**  
A Column by Maya Durfee O’Brien

It’s not just music. It is life-altering music.

This is what comes to mind when I think about the types of music genres I listen to. Local bands, old-school indie bands, folk and everything in between inhabits my iTunes library.

You could say that my parents have cultured me in music. Some may even say that I have good music taste, but that is all based on your own opinion.

Ever since I was a little girl, my mom has played many of Omaha’s local bands’ albums in the car. I remember one of the very first bands I listened to: Bright Eyes. There was something about the meaningful lyrics and the quivering voice that intrigued me.

The songs made me feel something. They made me feel like I could do more than just exist, that I could somehow make a mark on the world.

An example of this would probably be in the song “At the Bottom of Everything.” The concept of this song is to just set everything in your life that bothers you free.

Some lyrics that speak to me are: “I’m happy just because I found out that I’m really no one.” While simple, these lyrics have a deep meaning to me. They are telling me that I don’t have to be someone, that I can just be happy because I am me.

My mom also helped me fall in love with another band: Tilly and the Wall. It all started when Neely Jenkins got a teaching position at the Omaha Home For Boys, where my mom worked.

The two of them became friends, and just like any friend, she supported her. My mom then heard about her up and coming band; she was so excited!

When their second studio album came out, I was amazed by how clear and sometimes unusual the vocals were. *Bottoms of Barrels* is the title of this album. I wouldn’t necessarily say that this has a definite theme to it, although the lyrics are very influential to me.

For example, in the song “The Freest Man,” some of the song lyrics are “Don’t drown yourself in all your old regrets ‘cause that heaviness will steal away your breath.”

It is telling you not to dwell on the past, to move forward and to change into something good.

What I like a lot about indie and local bands is the fact that their concerts are usually much cheaper than anything you would see at the Century Link Center or similar arenas.

The feel of the venues that they are they’re usually smaller than a big arena, which is nice—that way the atmosphere is more inviting; it feels like they made this all for you.

When I go to concerts like this, it seems as though the band members are singing directly to the audience. You feel close because you are close.

At huge concert halls and arenas, the action is taking place hundreds of feet away from the audience.

But at venues like the Slowdown, the Waiting Room and Sokol Underground, the action is happening right there in front of you, which is really great. It makes for an enjoyable experience.

Mosh pits also make for an enjoyable experience, although not everyone would agree.

I love the rush it gives me, though, to be surrounded by so many people sharing a love for the same music.

Undoubtedly, my favorite music venue in Omaha is the Slowdown. It’s clean, has an upscale feel and is overall a great place to see a show.

Overall, I commend Omaha for its talented bands and fantastic bands. I’m fortunate to have grown up here.

## Just a Halloweenie

Continued from  
‘HAUNT’ on page 6

I’m not trying to poke fun at, insult or insinuate those who are into this as immature—that isn’t my mission.

In truth I’m glad that teenagers can have fun at, get a thrill from and support these businesses, because they’re good locally run places. But that time in my life has passed; there are no thrills left for me...the actors, who I know cannot legally touch me, are simply trying to scare me. I know that they’re lurking around corners, and the reality of that is not frightening. My Halloween season will just have to consist of other adventures.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FRANCES JOYNER AND WALKER GREEN. PHOTO BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER





1. Drum Major Jake Reed conducts the drumline and band. Reed shares this responsibility with senior Maddie Pospisil. 2. Senior Bobby Gibbs plays the vibraphone during the performance. 3. Marching flute players step in unison.



PHOTOS BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

## Central's Marching Band Competes in Omaha Marching Exhibition

EMILY BECK  
Executive Editor-in-Chief

Oct. 5 marked the end of the season for Central High's marching band, whose members competed in the Omaha Marching Exhibition held at Northwest High School along with the six other OPS high schools.

The marching band played the Star Spangled Banner as well as the same show that they've been perfecting since the season began in late summer; this year it was called Rockin' the Decades, with modern songs as well as ones from the 60s, 70s, 80s and 90s.

The song list included *Message in a Bottle*, *Viva La Vida* and *Paint It Black*. The band has performed this during halftime shows at home football games and other competitions throughout the school year.

The event, called OME, is simply an annual exhibition of the talents of the seven high schools' marching bands.

Each band has a chance to display what it's been working on throughout the season.

"It was probably our most even and consistent show," said Jake Reed, senior and one of Central's Drum Majors.

"We typically try to have really good music shows that make people actually feel and listen to the music."

Reed also complimented the other OPS bands, particularly South High School's, whose show was about surviving a zombie apocalypse.

"South is always my favorite," he said. "They do really fun shows that entertain the crowd and get the audience involved."

For Central band members, this was the last big performance of the season.

According to senior Michael Griffin, Central's season ended early so that members of the Wind Ensemble could focus on honing their skills for their approaching performance at the annual Nebraska Music Educators Association (NMEA) Fall Convention.

A huge honor, the ensemble was selected via audition to perform for every music educator in Nebr.

Central's A Cappella Choir was also selected to perform at the convention. According to Lyn Bouma, A Cappella conductor and Central

music teacher, this is the fourth year since she's been at Central that A Cappella has been selected to perform. Judges chose theirs amongst all the other audition tapes sent in by various Nebr. high schools.

The performance will take place on Nov. 15.

Also known as the All-State Convention, the event is usually performed at by university music groups, although auditions are open to all levels.

Annah Shipman, a senior and member of the A Cappella Choir, is looking forward to attending.

While she will for sure get to perform for a mass crowd, the singer still hopes to be selected to sing with the All-State Choir.

Shipman was selected last year to be a part of the choir; she described performing with the large choir as "the best part" of the entire experience.

This is the first time that two ensembles have been chosen to perform at the convention from a single OPS high school. Both groups are sure to make Central proud, according to Bouma. "It is a special opportunity," she said.

## The never-ending cycle of boy bands: Why Korean groups knock other foreigners out

The new music in today's society varies from a wide range of genres and artists. Many people are quite drawn towards many, which is of course normal. Only I've noticed that most people are drawn mainly towards the good-looking artists singing the songs, and are oblivious to the way the music actually sounds. Yes, there are those very few exceptional songs that are quite catchy and don't... Well, suck. Only the deal with those is the fact that they are repetitive, and it's worse when the bad songs are repetitive.

But on to the whole point; what is the deal with this new boy band fad?

I'm not going to lie; I'm pretty keen on boy bands. In fact, I used to constantly listen to bands like N\*SYNC and the Backstreet Boys, and even now I will still have that vibe that makes me want to listen to them. But I've noticed a cycle in the old American boy bands that have already broken up.

First of all, the American boy bands usually come out fresh and young and have an awesome song and they will dance and they'll be pretty attractive. The

fans will scream for them and choose a favorite, and they'll pretty soon know all the words and start going to concerts and stalking their life.

Typical, it happens all the time.

But then a year or two later after a few more albums and hits, BOOM! The band breaks up.

But then after everyone has mourned, forgotten, and moved on, they magically get back together and perform a comeback concert or make a whole new album when they have already matured and became scruffy and old. But the thing is; the fans matured and became older, too. I figure they'd be mad at them for breaking up, and soon the grudge comes back when the band releases an album decades later.

But the main point is that no one cares if they release a new album, because, frankly, they're old news.

I think American boy bands have slackened and not many new ones are out anymore except the ones who made-up and comeback.

So the American boy bands disintegrate and everyone in 2012 moves to the next best thing; British

boy bands. It's pleasant, sure, to hear a British accent (who doesn't love them, seriously?). But one particular band out right now it really topping the charts and for what reason I have *no* idea. But, yes, I am talking about One Direction. I've heard two songs by this band, and I was not impressed at all.

I think that people are just focused mainly on the looks of the young men. Seriously, I heard the songs and I was brain dead for days. Here are just a few things I mainly don't like about this group.

First, I could write those lyrics, and I'm the world's worst lyricist. Secondly, I don't enjoy non-dancing boy bands, which is the one of the main concept of becoming a boy band. You cannot be a boy band if you're just standing there looking pretty. You have to dance and look pretty.

Third, I am not fond of their fans. Let's face it; their fans are psychotic. People think they are godly men with ripped abs and pleasant voices, but truthfully they're not. Most of them are about 20, but they appear to be 12.

I wouldn't drool over a guy that is really older than he looks. They're also too popular, and I hear their name way too much, which automatically brings

me hatred to any artist. I understand I don't know them and I shouldn't hate them, but they've given me no reason to not hate them.

Now for Korean boy bands. They're not as popular in America as they are in Asia, but they're my favorite. Here are some reasons why.

I like foreign pop music because it just sounds better in a different language. The members usually have different roles, such as singing, dancing, and rapping--they're not at all talentless wannabes. Usually the bands have many members, ranging from four to even 15, so I guess listeners can pick through many that they like. The songs are not all similar, and will not stay lodged in your brain the whole day. The members are usually very nice, good personality, and they are generally attractive. And lastly, they *dance*.

Alas, their die-hard fans can get annoying, though. To me it's okay because as I said, they're not popular in America so the fans aren't everywhere you turn and you wouldn't hear their songs play all day on the radio.

Boy bands: I'm fine with them coming back, but I feel that maybe the companies should try to actually come out with good bands.

## The Master: An exploration of fate and human nature

JAMES DE MOTT  
Contributing Writer

I lucked out and got to see *The Master* for free on student night (the first Monday of every month) at our very own local non-profit movie theater, Film Streams (located at 1340 Mike Fahey St.).

If you haven't checked this out, it's a really interesting experience; there are often discussions about the film afterwards, sometimes led by filmmakers or local public figures--attending something like that certainly beats studying for the night.

Written and directed by Paul Thomas Anderson, *The Master* is a visually striking and, at times, disturbing story involving a strange cult.

The film chronicles the drunken wanderings and escapades of Freddie Quell (Joaquin Phoenix), and the charismatic, manipulative and frightening nature of the actions of Lancaster Dodd (Philip Seymour Hoffman).

Being a pretty big fan of both Philip Seymour Hoffman and Joaquin Phoenix, the movie had been on my must-see list for quite a while, and I found neither actor to be a disappointment.

Hoffman, as always, is able to bring a slightly eccentric character to life, as he did amazingly with his role in *Capote*. Joaquin Phoenix' acting influences in the film are probably more interesting. Phoenix himself was partially raised in a cult and acted on the streets of Los Angeles.

At times in the movie, Phoenix appears to be like a wild animal who has stumbled into suburbia, acting confused and in a violent manner when he has difficulty with his situations.

Interestingly, Phoenix had researched videos of these exact phenomena for the movie: animals in urban areas and how wild they become when in an environment that they don't belong in.

The story is set as the struggle of the Second World War is ending, and an epoch of American history in which people are

becoming emancipated from traditional views is beginning. The movie openly discusses sexuality in a way that feels alien for the period; at times even I was surprised by the way characters approached the topic.

I realized that I may have had unrealistic, narrow-minded views of the peoples' attitudes at the time, assuming them to be more puritanical than is reasonable.

The very opening of the movie is almost assaultingly beautiful. We see Quell savagely beating a coconut in an attempt to open it and receive nourishment; although this violence in this case is logical, Quell's violent disposition is constantly thrust upon the audience as he wanders drunkenly throughout the film, illustrating the difficulties he has in his environment and how he uses alcohol as an escape from not fitting in.

Quell's character is a wanderer, unintelligent, uninspired and a slave to his vices, women and alcohol.

Dodd's character is unstable, assumed to be morally righteous and pragmatic.

Due to a strange series of events a scene arises where Quell is photographing Dodd at a department store, where the two get into a fight. Later, after another strange series of events, a drunken Quell stumbles onto Dodd's boat.

This drunken accident is the defining moment of the film, the point at which Dodd and Quell's lives become intertwined.

Quell is deeply disturbed by everything he is confronted with. He deals with substance abuse, is alienated by sex and is exceedingly violent. Dodd, though an extraordinarily suspicious character, is a stabilizing force for Quell, in some sense balancing him by often calming him down.

Regardless of whether or not you get the chance to see it on student night, *The Master* is definitely worth the hefty two and a half hour investment, even if it's just for Anderson's flawless style choices.



Phillip Seymour Hoffman and Amy Adams are among the stars of the film "The Master."

PHOTO COURTESY OF THE WEINSTEIN COMPANY

## Kevin Williams, who attended Central in the 1980s, was welcomed back after performing Julius Caesar

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same standards of excellence, and the stadium is new," he said.

### Career and College

Williams graduated from Duke University in 1986. He started off studying Marketing and Computer Systems, and then changed his major to strictly Marketing and Fine Arts. "There's a lot that I liked about college, I learned a lot about myself," he said.

It was in college when Williams found his love for acting and drama, though it really started when he was young (age 13 to be precise). He did his first musical play at the Community Playhouse. Then, in his sophomore year in college, he auditioned for the musical Jesus Christ Super Star, and even though he wasn't a drama major, he was cast in role of Jesus Christ.

"From that point I realized my dream to be in theater, and continued to do it regularly on and off throughout college," Williams said. His passion for acting went on hiatus after college, but when he moved back to Omaha in 1989 he started theater again. "The times that I've done the-

ater regularly I was happier than when I wasn't. It made me realized what I wanted to do," he said. He has been performing since 1989.

From small skits to choir events at his church, Williams went to the big stage in 1997 when he took the main stage at the Community Playhouse in the musical Shenandoah, his very first performance with the Nebraska Theater Caravan, the professional arm of the Playhouse.

Williams has been in an estimated amount of over 2,000 shows, with 18 years with the Community Playhouse. Altogether, he has been acting for more than 30 years.

Williams would recommend this career to young people, but warns that they do have to be very passionate about it and very dedicated. "The recommendation would be to be passionate because it is very time consuming; you have to do the hard work that comes along with it, and be dedicated even you don't feel like it," he said.

### Coming Back to Central

Williams has been back to Central many times, attending football games against North (both of his sons attended North), and came back for his 20th and 30th year reunion. This was his first time coming to

Central to show off his talent. "It was like I was home again, it was cool," he explained. As performers touring and presenting plays to different schools, they like to make known the fact that they're from the area.

It was a big heart pumping, mind blowing experience to Williams when the auditorium was in an uproar with excitement upon finding out that an Eagle has just performed.

The entire cast had the opportunity to conduct a workshop with drama students. "I really appreciate all the help and commitment and responsibility that the students had to offer," Williams said.

He would like for them to support the other departments of the school to gain a comradery instead of rivalry in order to help the school thrive. "I am very proud to have gone to Central," Williams said. He respects and appreciates what the institution offer in terms of education, and opportunities inside and out of the school. These were present not just for him, but the many students that have walked the halls of Central.

"The more you stay in a positive frame work, it repeats the negative. Leave the negative to the sorry joes," Williams said, "Respect yourself and then the rests falls into place." He will always be an Eagle at heart, and will be back sooner rather than later.

"Even though I bleed red," he said, "my heart bleeds purple."

# COOL BEANS

As the weather cools down, turn up the heat with these four local coffee shops.

STEPHANIE PAUL  
Visuals Editor

MEKENZIE KERR  
Copy Editor

## Starbucks

With over 15,000 locations around the globe, Starbucks is the iconic coffee shop that has found itself a home in cities big and small. Known for their green goddess and Pike's Peak coffee, Starbucks has become a high trafficked spot for java-addicts around the world. As soon as you enter a Starbucks, it's easy to recognize the deep brown and dark green hues of the emblem. These two colors, when blended together with the other colors in Starbucks, create a calming atmosphere—something that I would beg all coffee shops have. Starbucks makes itself a desirable place with vibes and drinks to warm yourself up with.

The menu seems infinite, and according to a Starbucks claim in 2006, over 87,000 options are available; the amount does seem pretty vast compared to a simpler coffee shop. Starbucks presents a menu of drinks ranging from iced (like a Frappuccino) to warm (which could be anything from a caramel macchiato to a chai tea latte).

While the drinks are delicious (and from Starbucks to Starbucks I've seen consistency in taste), the prices may make you rethink your quick coffee run or intimate java date. While Starbucks isn't the most expensive, it will still leave your pocket considerably lighter than when you came in. A plain, black coffee is the cheapest item, only costing a couple of dollars; as you climb up the intricacy ladder of coffee beverages, the prices climb as well; some iced drinks cost up to five dollars.

Taste is impressive, but prices are nothing to brag about. Though iconic and slightly cliché as a place of decent coffee beverages, Starbucks provides a range of options that only leads me to suggest something for your next visit: try something new, try something different — at Starbucks, that's encouraged.

## Double Shot

A cozy little coffee shop in the center of Omaha is a perfect place to read a book or do some homework. Double Shot is a small business located just north of Dodge on 50th Street. The shop has many different kind of drinks to offer, from smoothies to espresso to big, delicious muffins.

On a cold day they may suggest a hot chai tea latte, or a steaming cappucino. On the blended drinks menu, there are tons of different and unique choices; one can choose between flavors like cookies 'n' cream, s'mores and chunky monkey.

On cold days the coffee, which is brewed fresh daily, is always good. But as a specialty drink, "Spotted Cow" is the best coffee drink they have (in my opinion), with tons of different chocolate flavors all mixed into one delicious steaming cup.

The prices at Double Shot are altogether reasonable. I would say that they lie in the middle: not outrageous, but not dirt-cheap either.

The vibe of the shop is friendly and hip. With two sofa seats, a huge fish tank and three small tables inside, Double Shot has a completely down-to-earth atmosphere. The furniture is the perfect spot to hunker down and finish some homework. For warm and sunny days, Double Shot also has a large shaded patio with plenty of seats to relax in, complete with a charming fountain in the middle.

Double Shot may not be a big chain with thousands of locations in the United States, but the shop is a friendly, locally owned business with nice people, great drinks and a hip, earthy vibe.

## Blue Line

In the evenings, locally owned coffee shop Blue Line is quite busy, filled with college students and young adults relaxing after a long day. Located both on Underwood Street in Dundee and on Mike Fahey Street in North Downtown, Blue Line, is a fun place to grab a cup of joe with some friends.

In the early evenings, when Blue Line is the busiest, it's fun to hear people play their guitars or other instruments outside of the shop while drinking one of the many beverages Blue Line serves.

When it gets later in the night, though, Blue Line tends to calm down. On a cold winter night, it's the perfect place to sit in with a big cup of coffee and listen to jazz music that they typically play. Altogether, Blue Line is the host of a very laid-back atmosphere.

With many different vibes, some may say that the shop gives off a very "hipster" vibe—the location certainly contributes to this title (the shop is located in the heart of Dundee, home to many hip young folks), as does the interior of the shop (artwork, dark-paneled walls, jazz music and the thick-rimmed glasses-wearing regulars). Regardless of its supposedly hip vibe, the shop is located in the middle of a neighborhood teeming with friendly individuals who frequent the coffee shop.

Blue Line serves smoothies, which taste amazingly homemade, healthy and of course fruity. And when it's downright chilly out, the mocha drink that they offer can warm just about anyone up. A fun and lively community with delicious drinks and a fun atmosphere, Blue Line is a great place to warm up this coming winter.

## Scooters

Returning to the Midwest, Don and Linda Eckles took on the valiant task of opening their first drive-thru coffeeshop in Bellevue, Nebr. back in 1988; enter Scooter's Coffee.

While many might not be aware of it, Scooter's coffee is in fact a Nebr.-originated coffee venue. Scooter's Coffee has become successful outside of state-boundaries, expanding into seven other states and operating over 90 different stores. Scooters has recently been expanding into a shop that offers more than coffee; it has recently began serving frozen yogurt.

Scooter's coffee shops tend to show less consistency from venue to venue, although all possess their own little bits of character. Many Scooters are drive-thru buildings, where people cannot sit down and enjoy the blissful cup of joe they've purchased — something that can be inconvenient if you want a coffee date. The Scooters that are actually sit-down venues, such as the one in the Old Market, make up for the lack of invitation provided by the smaller buildings. They are modern and reminiscent of what an urban coffee shop would be.

The menu options are somewhat lackluster. While all of them are a grade A taste, the options provided are limited. The format of the menu itself doesn't look entirely appealing, although the option to have any drink mixed (or iced) is a twist on all drinks that make them each a little bit more enticing.

All in all, though originally local to the state, Scooters is a pricey, sub-par coffee shop stop in comparison to other chains and local places scattered around Omaha.

## New All-American Rejects album impresses listeners

STEPHANIE PAUL  
Visuals Editor

Since 1999 the All-American Rejects have been making music together. Over the course of the past 13 years, the band has come out with four studio albums. Their most recent album is titled *Kids in the Street*. There are two options when buying the album: a regular album that contains 11 songs, and a deluxe edition album that features four extra songs. This alternative-punk band has secured a solid fan base with their other albums. How well did they do on this one?

The first song that starts off the album is "Someday's Gone." It's a heartbreak song, yet is very upbeat and dance-worthy. It features female background vocals, which add depth to the song. Meanwhile, the very loud drums and guitar solo are fun to listen and dance to (while with friend or alone). The next song is called "Beekeeper's Daughter." While listening to the song it feels like a "player" song. But, that is fine with me; it has an awesome guitar solo that is a blast to listen to.

The upbeat punk rock songs continue—until you reach the fourth song in the album, where it slows down. But the song "Heartbeat Slowing Down" seems like a pure heartbreak and break up song. It still has the awesome

guitar playing and drumming beats the All-American Rejects are known for, though. It is nice to have a slower song that is easy to follow. I wasn't disappointed when the next couple songs were loud, fun and dance-worthy.

Looking back on the band's other albums, it seems like this one has been the best. A couple of songs after "Kids in the Street," the album gets slow again, with the songs "Gonzo," "Affection" and "I For You." The first two feature more loud guitar playing and drums—except for the song "I For You." The song is acoustic, featuring lyrics about loving that special person in life. It's the perfect song to listen to while trying to fall asleep.

It's awesome to see both the upbeat and slow side of The All-American Rejects' music, all in one album. It truly displays the talent they possess in making different kinds of music. After "I For You," the regular version of the album is over—unless you get the deluxe edition, which, as I mentioned before, contains four extra songs. Two out of those four songs are demos, which means that the songs are just the band playing the instruments and singing. These songs are basically the versions before all of the editing.

This album is worth listening to, whether you like upbeat or slow songs. Even if punk/ alternative music is not your favorite kind of music, it's worth checking out. All of the songs on the album are written by the band members themselves. Listen to the album *Kids in the Street* by the All-American Rejects: it's worth your time and money.



The All-American Rejects' brand new album displays the band's talent, as well as their ability to produce a variety of music.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALLAMERICANREJECTS.COM

## Here Comes Honey Boo Boo: The family is great, the show is not

Hated by many and loved by few, *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo* is back for another season filled with redneck glory, body guards and believe it or not, a pay raise!

She made her first ever television appearance on the controversial TLC series *Toddlers and Tiaras*. Honey Boo Boo (Alana Thompson) and her mother June Shannon were instantly the center of attention when a video of the child was uploaded on the internet, showing Honey Boo Boo on a massive sugar high.

The critics and concerned parents were quick to judge the parenting styles of Shannon and Mike Thompson.

From that moment on, I knew deep down that this child would one day have her own show and what do you know, here it is. Interview upon interview, the family became an overnight sensation. America judged by storm, and the negative feedback was relentless. But still, TLC made the Shannon/Thompson family into the next *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*... somewhat.

Rather than focusing on selfish, stuck up, spoiled adults who are always looking for attention, *Here Comes Honey Boo Boo* focuses on the rather soft, yet loving family of rednecks who live in a small town in central Georgia.

Yes, they are dysfunctional, and need to attend at least 24 hours of etiquette class, but I can honestly see the love the members of this family has for each other. For a family that has received so much negative feedback, to not let that affect them in any way is incredible.

Many reality television starts should take note (or

people in general, really). But the network seems to take a nasty turn towards this show; they don't portray a nice loving family trying to overcome obstacles.

This makes me hate the show; the network seems to take control of the family and make them do things that I'm pretty sure they wouldn't do. I find myself asking, what happened to the warm, loving family that was suppose to take center stage?

Instead, the show seems to exploit the family, especially Honey Boo Boo. It's just as bad as *Keeping Up with the Kardashians*, if not worse. If that doesn't give you an idea of how bad it really is, then I don't know what else to tell you. It is seriously the redneck version of the Kardashians, and believe me, they have noticed too.

I would have expected something classier and tasteful. Like maybe the network trying to help out the family financially, or giving them a new home, or even following Honey Boo Boo and her pageant career.

Not a show that makes fun of a family because of the way they live and giving their town a bad name. And in reality, the pay raise they recently received doesn't make that much of a difference if they are still going to be treated the same.

People should also stop making fun of them. I'm not saying you need to pity them, but grow up.

Most of the viewers of this show are grown adults, and they should definitely know better than to laugh and point.

Sure, they are different then us, and they are a

clear definition of what a redneck family is, but still... they don't deserve to be treated that way. It has led to the point where the family has to be escorted everywhere by bodyguards.

I've heard all of the redneck jokes, and I'm sure you have too.

This show has the word written all over it. From the Redneck Games to mud baths, this show has it all. And guess what? The family doesn't care about my opinion, much less yours.

This is why I love this family as much as I hate the show; they don't let any of the negativity bring them down. They went into this show knowing that many wouldn't agree with their lifestyle.

They knew that they were going to be judged by millions, and yet they still did it. They honestly don't care, and in a way that gives me hope that there are still people out there who are comfortable with themselves, and couldn't care less about anyone's opinion.

But let's face it: reality television shows aren't real at all, they are completely scripted—and I'm sure everyone has noticed. No one really wants to watch a family of rednecks on television doing nothing but sitting on the couch and eating the day away, unless they are doing something crazy.

The network has made them work, gotten them off the couch and made them do something...because if it were up to the family, they would have rather watched TV and eaten all day.

That's where my hope dies; I don't think they are



HAKUNA MATATA  
A Column by San Juana  
Paramo

Opinion



ARTWORK BY COURTNEY THELANDER

Just flush it: just one of Central's restroom woes



I MADE THIS FOR YOU A Column by Emily Beck

Picture yourself inching through the diminutive doorways of one of Central's bathrooms...

I don't think anyone likes the bathrooms here, to be perfectly honest.

They're tiny. They don't exactly smell like a field of fresh flowers. The lighting is anything but flattering...

It's almost impossible to get your hands washed half of the time because of the girls who are trying to apply makeup...

And it's kind of creepy using the extra-large handicap stall because of the paranoia-inducing half-inch wide gap in between the door and wall...

But! They are our bathrooms, and they're all we've got.

One of the things that I dislike most about using the girl's room at school: the low tolerance for, ahem, business that hasn't been "taken care of."

Females, you know what I mean: you walk into the bathroom and see five or six girls standing in line (half of them are probably waiting for a mirror anyway)...

Aha! There's a door standing open, beckoning to you! It must be your lucky day! But then you notice the two open mirrors, and figure that the girls are actually waiting for a stall...

Because somebody forgot to flush. It happens frequently: we all forget sometimes.

Continue to 'FLUSH' on page 12

Make Yourself Heard: Every Teen Should Vote

"You can vote now! Get registered. Quick," said nobody after an 18th birthday. Most teens in today's society don't give one thought to politics...

ing now as they are young, they tend to vote more often as they grow older. Similarly, if they care now about what happens in the government...

Sometimes you'll see few students posting things on social networking sites about politics and others have "statuses" such as, "I hate when people fight about politics on here because I just don't care."

The public overall is making it easier on teens. For example, you don't see a Romney t-shirt hung up on the wall at Spencers like an Obama t-shirt would be.

However, there are a few teens that override these statistics or standings. Some teens care on their own a lot about the government these days because they know they will have to care later and they care about their opinion greatly and want to be heard.

Every voice and vote matters. Young people (ages 18-29), make up 24 percent of the voting eligible population; 46 million "young" people are eligible to vote.

According to yda.org, the percentage of youths that do vote is trending towards the Democratic views. They are supporting a two-to-one margin towards the Democratic Party. 57 percent (according to the polls) of voting youths are Democrats because they support certain issues, for example the war in Iraq and gay marriage. You usually see this in the American Government classes at Central, taken when students are closer to voting age, when the teacher has discussed different opinions on the society that we may or may not start to be in support of. Central is a very diverse school, and respects each and every student's opinion even in these situations. The few things that actually get teens to even think about voting are registering, interactive contacting, new information given, and actually talking to them about it. This means that they should know who, what, when, where and why before actually stepping in front of the ballot. It is also a habit-forming development. If teens start vot-

In the OPINION of the REGISTER



New iPhone 5 not worth the hype or money

Diehard fans of Apple waited for months for the release of the iPhone 5, and then they waited overnight, standing in lines for hours at a time for the release on Sept. 21. The iPhone 5's release is the newest version of iPhone that has ever sold over 244 million units since 2006.

As Apple retail stores pushed open their doors Friday morning at 8 a.m., all iPhone fans amateur and experienced shuffled into stores to snag the newest phone on the market. As the hype has been growing since the announcement on Sept. 19, crowds have flocked to learn more and be able to do more with the use of their thinner, longer iPhones, while the iPhone 4's initial release back in June of 2010 seems to be left in the dust.

While everyone has been up in arms about the excitement of the latest and greatest iPhone, we at The Register don't believe in all of the hype. We don't feel that it's logical to spend \$200 on something that is both bigger and not all that 'state-of-the-art.'

One of the most significant differences between the iPhone 5 and iPhone 4s is that the iPhone 5 apparently runs twice as fast as the 4s, and about four times faster than the 4. The significant jump in speed and ease of access is useful, but not enough to sell us into a new purchase.

Another important difference between the 4s and the 5 is the camera. The iPhone 5, with an 8 megapixel camera that has the ability to simultaneously capture 1080p (that's high definition at its finest, folks) videos is better than the iPhone 4s. The 5 also captures panoramic pictures, stitching them flawlessly together in a few sweeps. In comparison to the iPhone 4, this is a 3 megapixel difference and about two levels up on the HD scale.

Although this fairly dramatic difference between the two is

extremely beneficial for those who use their phones in place of a camera, for the general public the extra camera features are not required - it is simply a thrown-in bonus. Dishing out the dough for an iPhone 5 is not worth it, especially with the simple, bare minimum camera upgrade.

Sleeker and thinner, the iPhone 5 is roughly 8.6 centimeters taller and 1.7 centimeters thinner than the iPhone 4s. This difference in size also means that it's lighter, 25 grams to be exact. While initially a more slender phone sounds like a great idea, why would someone want a phone that's longer?

The 4 and 4s already have bodies that are easy to hold, relatively thin and a length that is already a tad long. The 4 already sticks out of pockets, so an even longer phone just sounds like more of a lengthy hassle.

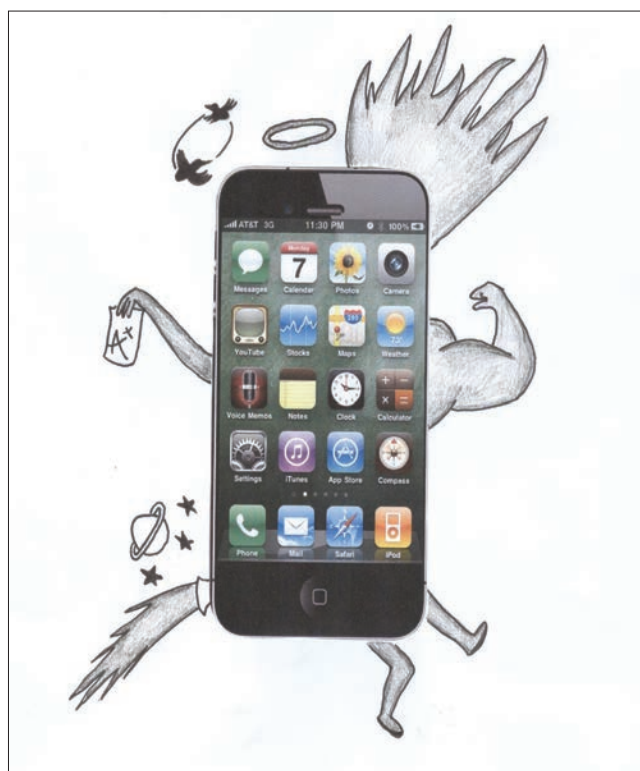
Increasing the length of the iPhone for the 5 is extraneous; many times lots of us already feel that our 4 and 4s are about ready to tumble out of our pockets due to the over-sized length.

The weight of an iPhone is not a "weighty" issue either, the 4 and 4s are light and easy to carry - and it would be a complete waste of money to go out just to buy the "latest and greatest" in Apple product due to dimension differences.

Another thing that makes the iPhone 5 seem less enticing, aside from the mellifluous increase in size, is the fact that the iOS6 update made available for the 4. This gives the 4s a Siri update and panoramic capabilities that the 5 has. While you may not have step-by-step navigation, the map app is just as easy to follow.

All-in-all, we at The Register want you to heed our words: think before you buy, is the extra couple of hundreds worth the sub-par upgrades?

In the OPINION of the REGISTER



GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

Teenagers influenced by internet may jump to misinformed conclusions about candidates

I'm the type of person that ends up liking something if I see it multiple times. Even if at first I hate it, the more I see it, the more I like it. Because of the internet and television nowadays, it makes it easier to influence my little mind. And that's true for many of us teenagers. We are easily influenced by our peers, and the things we see on a day-to-day basis.

With the internet and new social networking sites popping up everywhere, this has become a normal thing for us. For example, with the countless amounts of retweets on Twitter, the likes on Facebook and the reblogs on Tumblr, I'm surprised we aren't zombies yet - waiting to jump on the bandwagon when something new pops up out of the blue.

Speaking of bandwagoning, I admit it: I've jumped in a few times. I am a leader, not a follower... sometimes. But come on, we all have done it, so I'm not alone here. And it's people

of all ages too. Something that I've jumped onto the bandwagon for a couple of times was politics. I never really understood them, so when people sweet-talked me into liking a candidate, I went along with it, even if it wasn't the best choice. People really do that; they tend to like a candidate because other people like them. They do it impress their peers and show that they have common interests. Most of the time it's just to fit in and seem smart, though.

It has been a reoccurring phenomenon, people liking a certain candidate just because they've become popular, even if they don't share the same points of views. I've seen happen quite a lot, and with social networking sites it's become a daily thing. Because of this I've realized that our presidential candidates have also jumped onto the band wagon, but concerning something else.

I've seen Barack Obama on sites ranging from Facebook to even Instagram. Is this a new political strategy, or is our President becoming more involved with technology? Do he and his campaign workers realize that the majority of young voters spend most of their time on the internet, or are they just wanting their time like the majority of us?

I've come to the conclusion that all his new involvement in social networks has made him popular, and that doesn't take an IB student (like myself) to figure it out. The more of anything we see plastered all over the web, the more we tend to like it. As teenagers with still-developing minds, it is easier for us to be influenced by anything; peer pressure and trying to fit in adds to it too. And that's completely true when it comes to politics.

Through all this crazy chaos called life, not once have I seen Mitt Romney get close to any of his supporters. By that I mean that he and his

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HAKUNA MATATA A Column by San Juana Paramo

To Text or Not to Text? Does texting diminish the quality of human communication? The negative effect technology has on social relationships is explored. See Inside, Page 14

Stop the Mudslinging! The Register argues that politicians should not be able to put out advertisements bashing their rivals. See Inside, Page 13

Gotta Work for Your Meal! Should administrators start cracking down on students who are only attending school for free lunch? See Inside, Page 12



CARTOON BY HENRY GENTLE / CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

## Insensitive filmmaker should apologize

Clumsy, amateurish, and crude would best describe the film *Innocence of Muslims*. By film, I mean a 14 minute trailer that caused rage, and unleashed death threats to the United States and the creator of the film.

The controversial American-made trailer was supposed to be a preview of a two-hour feature film showing the life of Muslim prophet Muhammad.

“Crammed with breathtaking incompetence into a buffoonish production, and collection of obscene stereotypes that no serious film critic would keep a straight face calling it a feature film,” as the Jerusalem Post would describe it, lead to the deaths of four American citizens including, U.S. Ambassador to Libya J. Christopher Stevens.

An insult directed towards Muslims and non-Muslims alike, the filmed unleashed outrage throughout the Middle East and the Muslim world.

The fact is that the actors in this anti-Islam video had no idea what its actual purpose was. They went in believing that the script was for a movie about life in Egypt 2,000 years ago. The character “Muhammad” was referred as “Master George” onset.

Many of the references to Islam were overdubbed in postproduction, without the consent of the actors.

Nakoula Basseley Nakoula wrote and produced this film, using the pseudonym of Sam Bacile. Nakoula is neither Israeli nor Jewish, as reports claim. A man who identified himself to the Wall Street Journal as Bacile said that he produced this film to call attention to what he called the “hypocrisies” of Islam.

No one knows for sure what his motives were, because Nakoula went into hiding after the release of the trailer.

Nakoula disrespected the Islam religion, where Muhammad is believed to be a messenger of God, by portraying him as a fraud, womanizer and child molester.

Not only does this seem to be abusing the power of the First Amendment, but it is just also disrespectful to Muslims. No one should ever go to the lengths that this man did to disrespect a religion. So dozens of people have been killed because of his actions.

There is nothing that can be done; in America, free speech is a right that all humans have. Nakoula cannot be punished by law for what he did, but he can apologize for his actions.

The right of freedom of speech is not absolute in any country and is subjected to limitations. It is the political right to help communicate ones opinion. “In some extent, it’s not an issue of condemning America’s freedom of speech.

It’s become an issue, in the eyes of many Muslims, over where the lines are and why they are not protecting the feelings of Muslims,” said John Voll, associate director of the Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University in Washington.

Nakoula knew that the film would stir up trouble; he knew that many would be hurt by his actions, yet he made the film willingly. In doing so, he brought down innocent people along with him who don’t deserve to be punished for his actions.

In the opinion of the *Register* he should man up and take responsibility for his actions instead of hiding like a coward, watching people suffer because of his sorry excuse of a movie. They’re sitting back, watching as their actions take the lives of many innocent people who had

no connection to the movie what-so-ever. “Yet the production team and donors of the movie are living peacefully wherever they are and are least concerned about the people who are dying all across the world because of their acts,” pointed out Dawn .com .

There is nothing to console the families who have lost their loved ones. The damage the movie caused cannot be reversed, and the least that Nakoula should do is apologize.

There is always a line that is crossed, whether it is in a movie, book or television show. Someone ends up disrespecting a group of people or a religion, unintentionally or on purpose. Most of the time people don’t clearly know where that line is, that separates the okay from the offensive but usually when it is crossed they apologize.

Nakoula knew what he was doing; he kept it a secret from everyone by lying to many about what the movie was about. He knew the movie was going to stir up trouble among Muslims and non-Muslims alike.

This man not only deserves to be punished, but he needs to apologize.

He caused a war-stricken country to become even more hostile to the United States, though in reality the United States had no part in the movie. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said that U.S. authorities had nothing to do with the film, according to The Washington Post.

Punishing him would be the right thing to do. He deserves to be punished, but we have to realize that freedom of speech is an American right, and he technically didn’t do anything wrong.

If he cannot be punished, he should at least apologize. It wouldn’t be as satisfactory as a punishment would be, but it would be morally better. An apology mends many things, and can mean more than any punishment can. We have to teach people that this is the better thing to do sometimes an apology are all that is needed.

Either way, there would be a scandal with whatever decision that is made. Muslims may not clearly understand that what he did falls into freedom of speech and that he can’t be punished in America.

If Nakoula took responsibility for his actions, admitted that what he did was wrong and apologized, it would create relief for many.

He needs to realize that what he did was wrong, and that many Middle Eastern people will never forgive him. No one will forget what he did, and the deaths of many will forever lie on his conscience.

Not only does he need to apologize for making fun of a religion, but also for the lives that have been lost due to his ignorant actions.

No one can really understand why the motives behind his actions, or why he chose to show the film in the first place.

The film was hypocritical in many forms, “Whether in form, language, or content, the film made a mockery of basic standards of human decency, and historical discernment,” said the Jerusalem Post.

Something as small as a YouTube video and the ignorance of a few people started worldwide chaos, but something as equally as small (like an apology) could at least show the world that he is sorry and will be held accountable for his actions.

As Lynn Johnston said, “An apology is the super glue of life. It can repair just about anything.”

## Girls can save time, tears and torment by being brave, taking the initiative to flush

■ Continued from ‘FLUSH’ on page 11

No one is flawless.

Obviously no one wants to see, much less deal with, anyone else’s business. As girls, we’d like to forget that bodily functions even exist, and we often pretend that they don’t. Unfortunately, this tactic is definitely not foolproof.

This is because in reality bodily functions do exist, and the quicker we stop being so squeamish, the better.

Sometimes I wonder if girls turn away from the “gross” stalls because they’re trying to prove something to the other girls nearby—or perhaps they just don’t want to be seen as someone who would use a bathroom that hasn’t been rid of its business. Does flushing a toilet make you distasteful? But why are we trying to impress the strangers we pass by in the bathroom? Why do we care what they think?

The girl world is a strange world. Even I don’t understand it sometimes.

Chances are they we may never run into that girl checking her hair in the mirror again; the girl standing in line checking her phone probably isn’t paying you and attention.

I’m not saying that I’ve never turned away from a used stall. Trust me: I’ve done it more than once in my Central career.

I think people pass up the stalls that other girls have passed up because they feel obligated to: it’s definitely more comfortable to just follow the crowd and go with

the flow (no pun intended). No one wants to be the odd one out, especially when it comes to a small space full of girls who will judge you in a millisecond. Even if you’re doing something as simple and everyday as flushing a toilet.

Fortunately, in my time at Central I’ve realized a) how much of a time-waster this really is, and b) how pointless it is. In my opinion, the only time you should turn away from a stall is if it’s clogged.

You can tell when it is: the water is sitting dangerously high (like the brown waters of the sometimes very high Missouri River) and swirling slowly like those ominous-looking clouds do before a big storm.

I wouldn’t mess with that. No one wants to be responsible for the overflowing toilet. Even I’m not brave enough to deal with something like that.

But if it isn’t clogged, then you’re in the safe zone, and there’s no reason not to use that stall. Suck it up!

Yes, it seems a bit gross, but come on, ladies! Stop wasting your precious passing period time.

Walk right up to that hostile little toilet, stick your foot on the handle, close your eyes and flush it. Doing so doesn’t make you strange or disgusting or distasteful; on the contrary, it shows boldness. It’s not beneath you to flush the toilet, and you’re doing everyone else a favor (as well as yourself) by saving time.

And it shows that you don’t really care what anyone in that bathroom line thinks.

Plus it gives you a boost to the front of the line. Aw yeah!

## I am neurotic, and so are you

As I deleted an erroneous Tweet as fast as I could and fixed the typo, I started to wonder if people’s “pet peeves” or “idiosyncrasies” could be categorized as neuroses. Important to note: Neurotic is not an official medical diagnosis. It can’t be found in the “DSM” (“Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders”). But to most of us, it feels pretty real.

I sit here at my dining room table typing away on my laptop at 2:59 am, and it’s dawning on me that everyone might be little neurotic; they just don’t realize it.

For example, some people may round up to 3:00 a.m. I refuse to round. It was 2:59 a.m., and that is not 3:00 a.m. To me, rounding when I want specificity is equivalent to saying one equals two.

Some people have tendencies because they fear that the world will end if they don’t fix a certain something.

While I’m dramatizing, I’m not far from the truth. There are those who will staple their papers three times. Not the usual one, or even two to be safe. Three. They fear that the one staple may fall off and their papers will swirl in the air, lost in the abyss of human chaos.

I like having the strings aligned on my hooded sweat-shirts.

Oftentimes, I will check just to make they are equal. I go so far as to fix other people’s strings on their hooded sweatshirts.

This sometimes makes for awkward interactions. I resist fixing stranger’s sweatshirts, though. I limit myself to friends and family. But they still laugh.

Other people have beauty routines. Rachel Berry on “Glee” has a moisturizing routine that forces her to shower in secret absurdly early in the morning. If she failed to go through her moisturizing routine, I’m sure it would affect the rest of her day (but her character is supposed to be a little neurotic).

Because of all the children’s books that warn us about fires, I have a fear of leaving my lights, my oven, or any electric appliance turned on.

My fourth grade teacher once told me a story where a boy threw his dirty laundry over a vent in the winter, and his house burned down. The story justifies replaying my routine over and over in my head to confirm that I did indeed turn off all my lights and appliances.

The saddest and funniest tendency that I have heard is the need to check one’s glass of milk for a dead goldfish. A girl suspected that her mother had not flushed her dead pet goldfish down the toilet but had instead put it in her milk (I’m not sure from where this suspicious stems). She now checks her glass of milk for a dead goldfish before drinking.

When I go to fast-food restaurants and I order a beverage in a cup with a plastic lid, there are two ways in which I alter my beverage experience. First, I will pop the bubbles on the lid.

Sometimes it’s frustrating because the plastic is too thick and I end up smashing the lid in—I’m enjoying the eco-friendly lids, which are made of a thinner plastic and thus easier to pop.

Second, I will bite my straw. Some people like to chew because they have the puppy-like urge to simply chew. I bite my straw because I can better control the intake of my beverage.

I know people who get cute with their idiosyncrasies.

A few pretend they have superpowers in the elevator. They’ll wave their hands and/or make sound effects when the doors open and close. Same goes for automatic doors and car windows. I’m always impressed because I’ll imagine along with them.

If you were shocked to see you do any of the above, it doesn’t mean you’re crazy. You just like certain aspects of your life to be a certain way.

If you don’t do any of the above, don’t feel left out. I respect individuality, so idiosyncrasies make people special, as does the lack of idiosyncrasies.

Next time you decide to wake up at 6:37 a.m. instead of 6:40 a.m. (I dislike waking up at socially normal times; it makes me feel more tired), give yourself a pat on the back.



UNCOMMON NONSENSE  
A Column by Giselle Tran



GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

## There’s No Such Thing as a Free Lunch

“There are starving kids in Africa” is a common phrase that parents use on their children when they leave food on their plates.

They are trying to tell their kids to finish their food because they are fortunate enough to have it, while kids in third world countries aren’t as lucky.

Most children would then give their parents an “I-don’t-care-Africa-is-so-far-away” look and continue to ignore their unfinished food.

Other kids aren’t even fortunate enough to have food to waste in the first place. Unfortunately, Africa isn’t the only place where mouths are going unfed. Parents in places much closer to home have trouble keeping their kids’ stomachs full.

According to WorldHunger.org, “In 2010, [American] children were food insecure at times during the year in 9.8 percent of households with children (3.9 million households.) In one percent of households with children, one or more of the children experienced the most severe food-insecure condition...very low food security, in which meals were irregular and food intake was below levels considered adequate by caregivers.”

There is a program in OPS that was created for kids old enough to attend school, which carries a mission to feed children and teenagers that would not be able to afford meals regularly. This is known as the Free and Reduced-Lunch Program, and it includes both breakfast and lunch.

While breakfast is free in elementary through high school, lunch actually costs money.

With the lunch program, certain students whose families have low incomes can qualify to either have free lunch or lunch at a reduced cost. In OPS elementary schools, lunch costs \$1.45, but reduced lunch is only \$0.40. High school lunches cost \$1.75, but are reduced to \$0.40 also.

With this program, all students can have the nutrition they need at a cost they can afford. This becomes a great stress-reliever for parents and students alike.

“It’s just something that we’ve always had... we are in a situation where we have to provide. I mean that’s on eof those things that we’ve got to do,” says Ms. Kirksey about the program.

Getting your lunch each day is easy; the student just has to present his or her student ID number and the cost for lunch is automatically reduced.

This process is simple...so simple that some

students have discovered that they only need to show up for their lunch period in order to get enough food for the day.

Recently, several (if not many) students have been taking advantage of this program. They arrive at school just in time for their lunch, use their discount for a hot reduced meal and then leave.

Skipping classes is defined by Ms. Kirksey as “[If] they’re not in the assigned area, if their parent or guardian [has to] look for them... so then we don’t know where they’re at. That’s considered skipping.” Students don’t necessarily even have to leave the campus so it’s very easy for students to skip.

There are quite a few students that are skipping all or most of their classes, but still get to enjoy food at a low cost. We at the *Register* ask, is that fair? This could be considered cheating the free and reduced lunch program.

The program was built so that students can have a nutritional meal, even if they can’t afford it, and still be able to go to school.

Without the program, some students might have to go and find work instead of attending school in order to help feed their families. Now, though, they are able to both keep a healthy diet and continue to gain an education.

However, there are students who are taking advantage of the program instead of being thankful that is in place in the first place for them to enjoy.

These students should not be able to do this. If they want the food, then they should force themselves to attend classes to earn it.

Needing reduced lunch may be a hardship for some families, but it is also a privilege that shouldn’t be taken lightly. If students don’t think they should have to attend their classes, then they should not get their low-cost food. The program is something that should have to be earned.

By cheating the program, the students are not showing their appreciation for the people who have installed it in order to make life easier for the those with low incomes.

There is always a possibility that enough people will only attend school for the reduced lunch, and the program will become less of a help and more of a bother. It is important for those students to remember to be thankful for what they are being given, and not to forget that the assistance is something to be earned—not just taken.

## School uniforms detract from individuality



**TO INFINITY AND BEYOND**  
A Column by Elissa Wiener

I've finally finished all my hours of homework for the night and my eyes are barely staying open. I collapse on my bed and sleep immediately sweeps over me. It seems as though I've only been asleep for five seconds when my alarm starts blaring in my ear. Three snooze hits later I finally roll out of bed and begin rummaging through my clothes to find the outfit I want to wear for that day. That's the biggest choice of the day, my ensemble. An outfit can say everything with no words. It describes your personality and sometimes shows your likes and dislikes. It's extremely self expressive. So would it be better if school forced us to wear uniforms?

The immediate answer most students would shout out is a big fat "no." Many parents would agree with their children on this issue. So why is this question even being asked in the first place? Why do high schools ever choose to make their students wear uniforms?

There isn't just one reason for uniforms. The first and obvious reason is for religious purposes. If someone were to mention a Catholic school girl most people would picture the same thing. They would imagine a young girl with white knee high socks, a plaid knee length skirt and a white pressed collared shirt. Catholic high schools in Omaha such as Marian and Duchesne both require their students to have a variation of this type of uniform. They want to keep all their students looking the same in appropriate attire for a religious setting.

I went to a private religious elementary school for five and a half years. I had to wear a variation of the same uniform every day. The dress code was simple. You had to wear dark navy bottoms with a light blue or white collared top, or girls could wear a navy jumper as long as it had sleeves. If we came to school in something different we were forced to change even if it wasn't into our own clothing. They kept extra clothes just in case.

The students at my school hated the uniforms. We would often have petitions that everyone signed in order to revoke the uniforms but they never worked. We regularly questioned our teachers as to why we had to wear uniforms. Their answers never changed. They simply told us that that wanted to keep things appropriate for a religious school.

Of course, there were other reasons that also apply to secular schools. The religion-appropriate rule also goes for all other uniformed schools. They want to keep their student body modest.

Even if the Central dress code says one thing, it does not mean that the student body will follow the rule.

The handbook says that shorts have to reach the students fingertips but I often see shorts so small they're more like denim underwear than anything. With the use of uniforms the modesty can be controlled at all times.

One of the bigger issues of wearing uniforms deals with financial issues. People with less money certainly dress differently than people with more money.

There is a very clear difference between three time hand-me-downs or Goodwill versus Forever 21 and Younkers. When students choose their own clothing it is very simple to identify the people who are able to spend a lot of money on clothing as opposed to those whose families have less to spend on clothes. One look at the outfit and the student can easily be identified as rich or poor.

One of the goals of uniforms is to prevent this from happening. They are enforced partially to make sure that everyone looks the same and is wearing the same type of clothing. With the uniforms, there is no way to differentiate between the wealthy and poor simply by glancing at their outfits, a less reason for students to feel embarrassed or envious about clothes.

So if there are all these reasons why uniforms are helpful, then why doesn't every school enforce them?

I'm sure there are quite a few possible responses that will easily answer this question. However there is one answer that is the best and above all the most important. Self-expression. This is the reason why students hate uniforms the most. Choosing clothing for the day and accessories and altogether creating a look each day is how students express themselves.

The way someone dresses says a lot about their personality and their likes and dislikes. If uniforms were enforced then that self-expression would have nowhere to thrive and every student would be very much alike. That is the biggest and most important reason that having only a limited dress code is the best option in the students' opinion.

So instead of just being able to fall out of bed and throw on the same outfit each day I have to spend careful time picking out the perfect ensemble for the day.

Yes, it takes extra effort but when I compare it to the other option it really is worth it. Self-expression is everything. It's my body and my life so even though I get ten less minutes of sleeping time, the rewards far outweigh the disadvantages.



CARTOON BY HENRY GENTLE / CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

## Presidential trash talk, mudslinging should be outlawed

In the midst of the coming election, television channels are clogged with advertisements reeking of politics: deep booming voices, unflattering photos, often false accusations and quotes twisted out of context, all pointing to one thing: why the opposition is unfit to lead. Many ads even go so far as to call the other side names, making accusations of selfish motives with faulty logistics—but we at *The Register* aren't going to be fooled. We're tired of this negative candidate-on-candidate campaigning, and we believe that it should be outlawed for advertisements endorsed by presidents to bash (or even mention) the candidate they are running against.

The Democratic and Republican parties have had an ugly history, and mudslinging has been a part of American politics practically since the beginning. The election of 1800, a contest between John Quincy Adams and Andrew Jackson, was the first (and one of the ugliest) campaign run on partisan platforms. The two accused each other of all kinds of heinous deeds and beliefs (half of which were probably lies or ridiculous exaggerations) through handbills, cartoons and newspapers. Needless to say, modern politics have stemmed from the very roots of our country. Ever since that campaign, mudslinging has been a common campaigning tactic.

And it isn't just within the looming presidential election that this trash talking is occurring. It's also happening with local elections for positions within Congress and Senate.

At *The Register* we've had enough. Enough of the mudslinging, enough ridiculous advertisements and phone calls and gimmicky cards mailed to us, outlining the downfalls of the opposition. Because frankly, we don't care anymore—and we know we aren't the only ones.

It isn't that we don't care about the election. On the contrary, we believe that every American should concern him or herself with the election of the leaders of this country; but what we don't care about is a potential leader's ability to point out what is wrong with his or her opponent. Instead, we would like to be informed of what said potential leader can do for the country. Exposure of hypocrisies, shortcomings of the past, character flaws and projected negative outcomes if one is elected only point out the poor character of the candidate who is choosing to spend campaign money on such advertisements.

Why not focus on what you as a candidate can do, and how you're going to change America for the better, instead of concerning yourself with convincing the public that the other side is unfit to lead?

Unfortunately this mudslinging has become an ingrained part of American poli-

tics. It's easy to point out the mistakes of others in trying to convince the population that you are the best candidate for the job. But wouldn't a candidate wish for a crowd to vote for him or her out of approval for his or her standings? Why would you want someone's vote if it isn't actually a vote for you—just a vote against the other candidate? Is this what politics has really come down to?

Where's the honesty? Where is the foundation of integrity and honor that our nation was built upon? Has it simply been overtaken by corrupt old men who don't actually care about the people?

Much to our displeasure, the value in negative campaigning has been recognized amongst political parties. There is no denying that it's a tactic that can produce successful outcomes. It's one of the quickest ways to gain an advantage over one's opponent. Hey, as long as what you're putting into the media about who you're running against is true, where's the harm in it?

We at the Register certainly hope not—but as we are presented with endless presidential put-downs and propagandistic advertisements, our faith in politics is quickly running out.

We propose that a new law be instated: one that forbids any candidate running for any federal position to mention other running candidates in his or her advertisements, or through his or her campaigning. This would force those running to rely solely on themselves and what they are trying to accomplish within their desired position. This could result in tighter campaigns and plans with more thought put into them, because candidates would be forced to turn to introspection in order to convince the public that they deserve votes. Voters would also be forced to critically look at each candidate instead of being easily influenced by those booming voices they hear over the television speakers.

Unfortunately, outside sources would still be free to create propaganda bashing candidates—outlawing this would mean outlawing free speech, which, as we all know, is a no-no in American culture. And there is no getting around that. People with power and enough money to create ads are going to say what they think should be said. But at least these put-downs would not be coming from candidates—they would be coming from third parties. Despite these, the game that is American politics would increase in integrity and honesty. People like us would not be (so) disgusted by the twisted nature of politicians.

If this measure were taken, it would ensure that campaigning would become more honest. And in today's world, that would be a fresh concept.

## Identical twins: significantly more than just looking exactly alike

There are ups and downs when someone has a twin sibling, and since I do have a twin sister, I can clearly name the good, the bad and the ugly about being one.

Good things are limited; first of all, you always have someone to talk to. Even if my sister and I argue a lot, we know each other better than anyone else. I cannot talk to anyone easier than my sister, even though I have two other siblings. I can't relate to anyone but her, which is good for me, because I wouldn't have anyone to talk to if she wasn't there.

Second, we both agree on the same things. When we are mourning because we feel sad about something or are convinced that our mother only likes our other siblings, we can talk about it for hours, because we agree on it.

We listen to virtually the same music, so we can sit down and listen to music for hours and not get annoyed. Also, I like how we both agree that it's annoying when people mistake us.

Now, there are some good things, and those are really the only good things I can think of, but now here are the bad things about being a twin.

First, we get mistaken a lot. To her and I, we look nothing alike. I can name 10 physical differences off the top of my head. To me, I look more like my older sister and she looks more like my brother, but we don't look like each other. But there's always that one person from our group of friends or even in our family who will call me by my sister's name, and I hate correcting them. Plus, I hate being referred to as her, because we look nothing alike. Also, adding to that, people only seem interested in me because I have a twin, which upsets me. There is more to me than my other half.

Second, when you are a twin, people think that you are living a double life.

When I accomplish something, such as getting a good grade on a test, someone has to mention something that my sister did, so I never have that freedom that I want. I mean, come on now, I had to share a womb for 9 months with her and I'm convinced that she pushed me out of the way so she could be first, can someone cut me *any* slack?

Third, and the worst one yet, is that I have to share a room with her. When I was younger and my brother and sister were still living with us, my sister and I had to share a room. It was only until after they both moved out that, for about two years, I had the freedom of my own room, and it was liberating. When we moved, I not only was in a basement with spiders, which are my biggest fear, but I had to share a room with my sister.

Now, I still share a room with her, and it's not fun. It would be okay if we both agreed on things and we're able to keep it clean, but that's not the case. Our room is pretty much messy the whole year, and is only clean about once a month. On top of the horror of it all, she hogs *everything*. She hogs the closet and the space surrounding her huge bed, and it just makes me so irritated because I have to take risks to put my clothes in a dresser, and she gets an open closet and room for her shoes.

Plus, her bed is massive because she has boards surrounding it, and I took it upon myself to remove the boards around my bed, and she refuses to take them off as I did. I would rather share a room with a squid than her.

So, there are ups and downs about being a twin.

I'm sure it's just me who feels this way, but I wonder if other twins feel that way. Regardless of all the problems I have with being a twin, it is kind of okay, because you always have that one person who can always relate to you.



**BIG BOW STRIKES AGAIN**  
A Column by Cheyenne Alexis

## Venturing out-of-state for college may not be for everyone

To go or not to go out-of-state is the question.

In fact, that rip-off of a classic Shakespeare soliloquy has been ringing in my ears and causing me an unwanted amount of stress for the past three years of my life. I recall the talk of college beginning as a murmur that rippled as a far-off, distant possibility that began in my freshmen year.

Taking the EXPLORE exam was one of the initial steps in determining what areas of study I'd potentially flourish in, and from there the tests, the information and early seedlings of stress were planted within me.

As pre-ACT test and college planning became more of a reality as my junior year came to a close, I spent the following summer muddled on whether I wanted to stay in-state or out, what I wanted to major in, and the 'what ifs' of my future. Needless to say that with the inaugural day (that was also my somewhat sad, last first day of high school) of my senior year the real college business finally kicked in.

While deciding on what to major in is a huge aspect, and arguably the most significant and most often changed aspect of anyone's college career, the bigger question to me is simply: where in the heck do I go? Sure, deciding on what I am majoring in that will eventually become my cement career path in the future is daunting, but deciding on exactly where I will be solidifying that is even more frightening.

"The grass is always greener on the other side" is a phrase I often find myself repeating in my head, day in and day out. My freshmen year, as many freshmen think, I told myself, 'Never will I ever stay in Nebr., it stinks here,' followed by the equally as stereotypical, 'I'd like to attend school on the coast.' As I've received the opportunities to visit and learn more about colleges, I've come to the inner revelation that out-of-state isn't necessarily better, and that my driving force to attend any out of Nebr. school should never be based upon the fact that I'm bored of the seemingly stagnant life I've lead here in the Midwest.

Attending an out-of-state college is still, at times, intensely appealing – the feeling of being forced to adapt to a new culture, a new city, soaking in the new tastes and sights – it's all something that I lust over. But with those excitements also comes the cost – the big bucks that the out-of-state schools with no reciprocity have lingering over them: out-of-state fees.

In-state tuition at a Nebr. school is do-able, especially with the aid of scholarships and hard work to pay off. Out-of-state schools have the ever-sparkling idea of

a scholarship to go with it, but unless you score a flawless ACT or SAT score and/or can land a full-ride scholarship, good luck not going into debt or scraping up the bits of money required. The fees mean a lot to me, and the idea of being stressed in regards to the dollar signs flashing above my head while being able to attend the out-of-state school of my choice doesn't equate to a wise decision, but that's just me.

Another difficulty that was a realization like my life flashing before my eyes happened on the seven hour drive out to Columbia, Miss. to visit Mizzou – a school with a journalism department that kicks butt. As I sat in the backseat, the thought of out-of-state schools dancing in my head, I began to feel the strain of the drive from Omaha to Columbia; immediately I began to realize how utterly depressed and homesick I felt, and I was with my parents at the time! I began to imagine a year without my family, a year without the ease of driving home if I needed too, and the thoughts resulted in a hard knot in the pit of my stomach: I just couldn't do it.

Call me a baby, but the idea of being away from my family for a year without the convenience of driving home isn't just scary to me, it's deadly. It's pungent. It stings my eyes. It is something I never want to have to deal with, at least while I'm still under the title "student." Every time I replay that internal episode in the backseat, that feeling creeps right back up and sits itself in my stomach, a feeling I couldn't handle under any circumstance for a year.

And although these feelings were and are very real, I've also struggled with the notion that was somehow planted in my brain since I can remember: "kids who are less smart and less motivated stay in-state." Although this isn't true, and thank goodness for that. All these thoughts and processes that I've been working through have helped me narrow down my decision options and assisted in my prioritization of choices as well. My college choices are not a reflection of my intelligence, a reflection of my motivation and they honestly shouldn't and don't have to be about what others tell me they believe is right. While outside opinions are helpful and should be considered when given by reliable sources – it all falls on what you want and what suits you best, which I'd say is a pretty big relief.

As these realizations have become more of my reality, I've began to understand the process in planning for colleges. While the choices are vast and the locations here and there, you really have to do one thing, one simple little thing: what is right for you. (You owe it to yourself.)



**THIS IS RANDOM BUT**  
A Column by Mckenzie Kerr

# TALK TO ME

In a world dominated by texting, gaming and social networking, how can face-to-face interaction have a chance of competing?

In the 21st Century, everything is about speed. Laptops are faster, phones are 4G, not 3G, and e-mails, Tweets and texts are delivered seconds after they are sent. As a result, there is a superfluous amount of information available. The scariest concept: Nothing can be deleted. A text in cyberspace remains in existence forever, long after the "Delete" button is clicked.

With this idea in mind, the question of human intimacy arises, specifically in regards to texting. Does texting diminish the quality of communication? Certainly, one can carry a conversation rather conveniently over long periods of time and overrule a vast distance separation. However, what is lost in a text?

The two differences between texting and face-to-face communication are primarily voice tone and body language.

The human voice has nuances with varying tones and subtle distinctions.

Voice can make the difference between genuine happiness and sarcasm. In a text, sarcasm and cynicism are difficult to convey because there is no biting, acidic tone accompanying the words. The glee behind a victory is much more effectively exuded in a conversation than a text.

And exclamation points simply do not do human joy justice.

Most research agrees that body language makes up over half of overall communication, more than words and tone combined. Indifference and anger are easily expressed with body language. A text reading "whatever" from a girlfriend to her boyfriend has meanings that range from "all right, sounds good, see you later" to "everything is NOT okay, call me now."

However, miscommunication is not the only problem inherent in texting. There is that loss of closeness, of human interaction. People can spend all day in a closed-door office or a house with the shades perpetually drawn. These



GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

people lose the opportunity to enjoy the company of other human beings. While they may reduce their risk of disease or accidents, they also reduce their quality of life.

People in relationships have the chance to get to look past appearances and delve deeper. In an old-fashioned face-to-face conversation, the long stares or fleeting glances can add an element of intimacy to a relationship.

The famous three-letter phrase (I love you) is delivered much more successfully with rose petals strewn on the bed and an embrace (even if it is cliché) rather than a text reading, "Ily."

In fact, one can see how the lack of human interaction is detrimental. In prisons, solitary confinement is a punishment, not a reward. This idea stems from the fact that humans are social creatures; they yearn for companionship.

Perhaps the most grating feature of texting is its disregard for the stylis-

tic elements of writing. Namely, texting has butchered the English language. In classes, students learn the art of communication and the beauty of languages and words. For most phones, the 160-character limit is a nuisance. Thus, people are forced to curtail their thoughts and abbreviate every word. Grammar has become obsolescent in texting, a fact that is emphasized by the infamous "Let's eat, Grandma!" versus "Let's eat Grandma!"

People appreciate speed. Fast-food restaurants are useful because they are exactly that—fast food. Cars were designed with aerodynamics to reduce air resistance and improve speed.

However, in racing past Carmel of California, one misses out on the beautiful, ancient trees whose branches extend into the sky and the mesmerizing speckled blue and purple waves of the ocean. And in texting, one loses that element of human familiarity that differentiates humans from wild creatures. The world should strive for globalization but not at the expense of human intimacy.

## Adults should take their own advice when instructing teens on what not to do while driving

50 percent of teenage drivers end up getting into one car accident; here is no doubt that some of them can be reckless at times.

It is often recognized by older adults that that teenage drivers are much worse than everyone else on the road.

Even certain insurance companies will raise your bill if a teen driver is added to the insurance account.

One thing that individuals do not always think about is where teen drivers picked up these bad habits. Distracted driving for them was not a sudden thing, it was something they grew up around and were introduced to from a young age. And when this habit continued, it was perhaps not corrected by their driving instructor.

The largest influence of teenagers' driving ability is their parents, the people who have been driving them around since the day they were born.

Parents are the ones who introduced all of these other things that are available while behind the wheel. And when looking at the numbers, one can see why this may be a very important problem, and certainly something to take a closer look at:

SADD (Students Against Destructive Behavior) and Liberty Mutual Insurance conducted a study showing the unsafe driving habits of their parents. Teenagers reported: 91 percent of their parents talk on the phone, 88 percent speed, 59 percent text message, 47 percent don't wear seatbelts occasionally, and 27 percent drive under the influence.

To teenagers these things are normal because of what their parents do. Even though there are advertisements everywhere trying to show teens that these tasks are not safe to do while driving and that these things often times are the cause of accidents, they don't comprehend it. Especially when they not only have seen their parents do it, but they have seen their

parents get away with it as well.

Since they have grown up watching their parents do these reckless things, they figure that since nothing bad ever happened to their parents when they were doing it, nothing bad will happen to them if they also do it.

This, of course, is completely false. Texting and driving, speeding, and multitasking is a huge problem among teen drivers.

Even parents try to caution children to multitask while driving, to always wear their seatbelts, and to drive safely. These parents are hypocrites though, because they still continue to drive with all of these distractions.

Parents then also criticize the way their children drive, saying that they need to focus on the road completely. After all, 66 percent of teens reported that their parents live by different rules than the ones that they expect them to follow.

Adults tend to point their fingers at us for distracted driving. The next time they point their fingers at us they should pay attention to the three fingers pointing back at them.

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**BABY BEHRENS**  
A Column by Raina Behrens

## Scholarships not just for minority students

Scholarships are good opportunities for students to go to the college they desire for a reduced price, or for free. There are those kids who diligently work hard for them, and in return, further their education for a more successful life. There are also potential scholarships for people of a minority group, and nowadays, many colleges around the United States offer those scholarships. Most people will claim this as unfair, but that is entirely not true.

But what is a minority group?

Some people will confuse the word minority for race, but it's not the case for that. According to collegescholarships.org, some minority groups who qualify for scholarships include: African Americans, Hispanics, Native Americans, Asians, Women, Multi-racial or multi-cultural, and people of the LGBT community (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender). Not only are there the following above, but more scholarships mentioned for schools around America include Juniata College in Pennsylvania, who offers a scholarship for left-handed students, and Little People of America, who offer a scholarship for college-bound students 4'10" and under. Contrary to popular belief, it does not exclude Caucasian males.

The main goal for these minority scholarships is to embrace diversity. Again, even if someone is a Caucasian male, it does not mean they do not qualify for minority scholarships. Some "Caucasian Only" scholarships viewed on collegescholarships.org include Mississippi Valley State University, which covers a full tuition, and applicants must be "non-black." Another includes Jackson State University in Mississippi, which offers scholarships to Caucasian applicants "non-black," which is mainly due to the population of over 6,000 African American students and about 200 Caucasians.

Pretty much anyone can get a scholarship. Diversity is extremely important; living in America is like stepping into a field of wild flowers, and there are plenty of colors and different shapes and textures. Schools should definitely be like that, so that is why so many different minority scholarships are available.

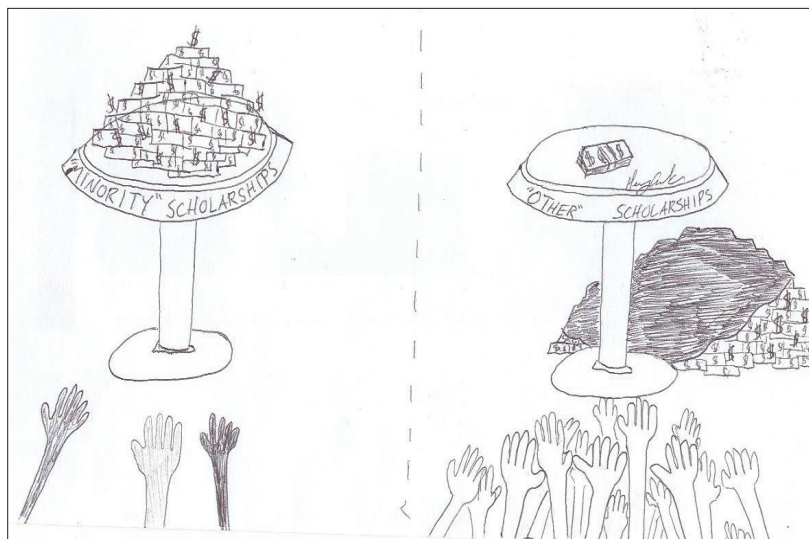
Counselor Bette Norton Ball says there are "plenty [of] designations for scholarships... some for race, some not."

But a new thought could occur; what if a hard-working student does not qualify for a scholarship because they are not in that certain minority group?

Yes, some of these can occur; that student that desires to go to a college they can't afford, but then they get turned down because some other kid got one. The reality is that if a student who does not care about school gets a minority scholarship, he or she will most likely fail. The kids who deserve the minority scholarships are the ones who are dedicated to school, or the ones who will not take the opportunity for granted. There are those people who will definitely underrepresent the scholarships offerings.

Ball says that Central really keeps track of their minority scholarship recipients. "We're [Central] very fortunate. We have very competitive students... Not only in school, but local, national. We have talented stu-

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CARTOON BY HENRY GENTLE / CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

dents." For the 2012 graduates, Central earned about \$7,000,000 in scholarships, and those numbers tend to rise every year.

There has been much controversy over these minority scholarships, and even more controversy over a "white's only" scholarship.

But the truth is that no one should be complaining about any type of scholarship. If there are people complaining about a "white's only" scholarship, they should realize that African Americans, Asians, women, and other minority groups have them, too. People should not be angry that a certain group of people have a scholarship, because everyone does.

So it is evident that there are some people that should not fret over scholarships for someone's race, because of course there will be consequences if they do not appreciate it enough, or there will be success for the ones who cherish it.

Scholarships, regardless of how one gets them, are an opportunity for everyone to shine through college and continue on with their studies for a better life, which is all everyone needs.

## Personal experience makes columnist sensitive to the harsh reality of animal cruelty

Animal cruelty is a bad thing in life; we all know this. But why do people think that this is okay, and why does it still happen in life? It's not--therefore it shouldn't.

Everything I see happening concerning animals getting hurt, I want to fix. I want to make them better, but how? How do I make them feel better? How do I make them happy again? I don't know, but I will try.

This may hurt me more than anybody out there. I have a life different than the others. My past is a different experience. My life was changed on June 30, 2011.

This was the day my dog died. I came home from a friend's house and I went where I had found my whole family chatting common family things. I saw one of my family dogs, but I didn't see the other one, the one that was considered mine rather than anybody else's. I asked where he was.

I remember thinking during the few seconds of silence from my family members of the worst--that he was gone.

See, before this, my family had always been telling me that he needed to go and get put to sleep. He was suffering. He couldn't walk that well because of the arthritis (a painful inflammation or stiffness in joints) in his hips.

He was also terribly afraid of loud noises. For example, during thunderstorms he would run around the house, through tight corners and around electrical wires (that may have electrocuted him). He would run until his nose bled by rubbing it against walls, thinking he could escape the noises.

Anyway, the time had come. I knew what it was when everybody looked around, asking each other if the truth had been mentioned yet. I was the only one not aware. Finally it came out, he was gone. All I did was think, not believe what had just happened and at the same time so angry at my family for even thinking that was okay with me.

My mom tried explaining to me why it had to happen. I didn't listen, but instead I ran to my room and just poured my heart out to anything who would come near me. I thought nothing could fix that. I thought that there was no way to make me okay again.

It's been over one year since I've lost him, and I still get very sad about the whole situation.

But I will always smile because of what he has done in my life to make me feel better. Every memory makes me smile, because it makes me think of how happy he was. I just hope he's waiting for me when I eventually go.

He's made me stronger than I ever thought I would be. At that point, I realized what it was like to get hurt, and I realized what it's like when your heart suffers.

This is the reason why I am terribly afraid of animal cruelty. No animal should be unhappy with its life.

Granted, I did already love animals before he came into my life. I always have, but after this, all I ever wanted to do was rescue ones in need.

Every living thing has a reason to live and a reason to be on this place we all call home. I consider animal cruelty like child abuse. You're

hurting something very close to you that you should love and put all of your love into.

At one point I've thought that I ran over an animal and so I became very upset and drove back to see if it was still okay. I never want to hurt somebody or something. It's not something that would agree with my lifestyle.

According to ASPCA, "You don't have to be a cop, a lawyer or a judge to fight animal cruelty. You just need to speak up for those who can't speak for themselves." I believe in this statement 200 percent.

It's something I plan to prove in the future. I don't know how, but I know I want to change the way people think about animal abuse and cruelty and prove to them it's something that matters--and that it's a real issue in the world.

There are laws that forbid animal cruelty, and those should stay intact. Neglecting a living creature is to me a slander against Earth itself, seeing as it created them as it created you too.

I believe that I will never love a living creature as I loved my dog, Baron. I can't even love my dog that I had and do right now as I did Baron.

It's not the same and it never will be. It doesn't come easy. But not having animal abuse in your nature does. Don't ever think it is okay to do it. Try saving a life instead.



**NEVER WOULD I EVER**  
A Column by Jennifer Rooney

## Required photo for SAT and SAT seems an invasion of one's privacy

In Nov. the presidential elections will take place. Anyone who is an American citizen over the age of 18 will be able to vote who the next president will be. When those people go into vote they do not have to show identification.

When a high school student walks in to take an ACT or SAT exam they have to show identification. How is this right that? That high school students get identified for testing and grow adults does not get identified to vote for leaders in this country.

This past March several dozen school students in Long Island, N.Y. got caught cheating on the SAT exam. The students signed up online to take the test in person. They paid other school students to go into the testing location according to Omaha.com.

The students that got paid to take the test were paid over \$3,500. Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice said that they were likely most than 50 student involved in the scheme. But the she only has evidence for 20 of them to arrest them.

After this has happened the security at the SAT and ACT exam testing site has gotten stricter since March. When a student goes on to the ACT site to register for the exam they have to upload a picture of themselves. Then on the testing day at the testing site there is a picture of the student when they check in.

Now it is understandable why high school student get identified for taking the exam. Still, why don't people that vote get identified? It could be so

simply to walk in and say a name of a random person and an address and vote isn't it?

When a person goes into vote they tell the people working the election their address and their name. That's it then they vote that they won't be the next president, governor, mayor or anything like that. The people running the voting area do not ask for ID.

But there is one time when people go vote get ID. When people vote early they have to show their drivers licenses and proof that they live in the United States and they also have proved they are an American citizen. That is the only time a person gets ID when they vote.

High school students get ID for taking a test but people voting for the next leaders for this nation. Not fair at all. Yes, students can cheat on a test so punish them. But, people running an office in Washington can cheat too. The people running can pay people to pose as other people to vote more than once an election.

Yet if candidates did pay people to vote for them hopefully they would get caught and not be able to help run Washington. They would be arrested and the people that helped them would be arrested as well.

It is quite sad people lie and cheat for something as simple as taking a test. So now everyone now taking the SAT and ACT will be uploading a pretty picture of themselves to the website. But people voting don't have to show ID, it is just wrong.

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GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER



## The perks of digging through secondhand clothing: trends, sales, savings

Picture yourself digging through clothes to try to find the cutest outfits and best deals, are you at the mall? No, you are at a thrift store. You probably think I'm gross for going into a thrift store since these happen to be used clothes. I used to think that way, but once I became a broke teenager I thought otherwise.

When I discovered that I could get an assortment of clothes for under \$20, I knew thrifting was for me. I got into this with the help of my lovely cousin, Maureen. I would always ask her where she got her clothes from and more often than not, she got her clothes from the local thrift shops.

Before school started this year, she took me with her to the Salvation Army thrift store in Council Bluffs. Although this thrift store was somewhat repulsive, it probably was the best one I have been to. Maureen helped me to pick out many items, which I reluctantly took to the dressing room.

The room was so disgusting, I almost threw up. There were stains on the walls, and looked like it hadn't been cleaned in years. Thankfully, I am glad I made the decision to try them on, the majority of them were perfect. I took them to the cashier, as she rung them up I was so happy



**BE TRUE BE YOU**  
A Column by Maya Durfee  
O'Brien

to see the price: only \$34.89. That is amazing seeing as I bought around 20 items. The items I purchased were quite unique. I got some 90s style shorts, which was rad. I mean they were selling this same stuff at the mall for \$40, and I got mine for \$2! It's things like that which make me feel happy about thrift store shopping. Also, in some cases you help those in need. They hire people that really are in need of jobs.

It is so fun for me because I occasionally will get into the trends. Sometimes even the trends that were popular in the 80s and 90s come back. When this happens, I will go to the thrift store and find all the items that are in-style. I really like finding vintage items like that; it makes me feel like I am living in a different era.

That is another thing I love about thrift stores. You get clothes that no one else has.

I personally really like that, because I like standing out. I mean, I wear weird clothes all the time. I think it's fun to be daring with fashion and clothing. Instead of wearing what society expects just wear whatever you would want. That is what I love about it.

There's a ton of options for thrifting in Omaha that may not be

obvious to the typical shopper. Of course there are the thrift stores scattered throughout the Metro, like the Salvation Army, the Saint Vincent DePaul thrift shop, Thrift World and Goodwill, but there are other hole-in-the-wall vintage stores that really aren't expensive at all. Thrifting with friends is awesome too. I love going with my friends to see what they pick out for me to buy.

I really like going with my friend Annie, even though we have different tastes. It would be logical for me to think that thrifting with her would be difficult, but because of our different style senses it helps us to step out of our comfort zones. One time I picked this cute vintage jacket that she would've never thought to pick out without my help.

Although thrift stores are great in my opinion, there are downsides. Sometimes you have to venture out and take a chance when it comes to thrifting - even if that means dirty changing rooms, greasy walls or no changing rooms at all.

A lot of the time, the smell of the clothes is not too pleasant. Picture a musty, old kind of stench. I can get over the smell, but other people cannot. It is not that big of a deal; I will wash them a couple of times and then they will be good as new.

Thrifting is a fun thing to do. It is not only inexpensive, but it is an overall enjoyable experience.

## As candidates turn to social networks, teens must wise up on what they choose to believe

Continued from 'CAMPAIGN' on page 11

campaign are not really getting involved and reaching out to young voters by getting their opinions and informing them of what's going on.

To be honest, I've seen the opposite: we can all agree that Mitt Romney is getting more hate on social networks, whereas Obama is getting all the love and support. What happened to all the Romney supporters, the ones who are supposed to be involved in every single platform, from social media to interacting with the supporters?

Just a few days ago when I was wasting my life away, like many do when they're on Tumblr, I came across a post saying 'Mitt Romney sucks pass it on!' That single post has more likes than Romney himself has on Facebook. Never in my short Tumblr life have I seen a post with over one million likes and reblogs...and it's still going!

Do people really hate Romney that much, or are we being brainwashed with all the positive Obama influence? And who is there to blame other than ourselves for being pulled into this influence thing that makes our brains explode because we don't really know how to react to it?

Growing up, we have all heard our parents and teachers say, "Whatever you post on the internet is there for everyone to see, nothing is really private." Not that any candidate has posted anything absurd, but their actions are closely watched. Any mistake, small or big that they make goes on the internet, for everyone to see. Their private lives aren't really that private. And for them being closely watched it's easy to get nervous and make a mistake once in a while.

We all know that even a microscopic mistake on the internet could start World War III, and we've all seen that Romney has made some mistakes. Ones that the lovely internet people won't let go of. And that's where all the hate is coming from, possibly because he's a Republican too, but it all counts.

In today's age of computers and stalker paparazzi, everything is caught on any device that can capture an image, and is then directly uploaded to countless sites on the internet. Everything Romney has been doing since he started to run, has been put on all those countless sites.

I don't know about you, but if my every movement was watched, I'd be pretty nervous, and I guess Romney is too. Let's face it, he has made some mistakes, and has said some things that aren't right. All of those mistakes are put up onto the internet for all to see, and it's up to us decide if we should let it slide or not.

It has become a daily ritual for me, so to speak, to go on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr, and all those sites everyday when I come home. They have become a crucial part of my life helping me keeping up with 'the real world' and losing touch to what is actually going on around me. The internet has become a great way to interact with young people and get them involved with campaigns and getting them connected with the candidates.

Everyone has taken notice (and advantage) of this, and they start to sort of brainwash us with their pretty ads and funny videos. And in the end, whether we like it or not, we give in. Because of the election season, campaigns have noticed too and are on every site that young voters happen to be on.

They let us see a new side of our candidates that we, as supporters, can't normally see. It makes us feel more connected to them, makes us feel like our opinion matters to them.

But not everything on the internet is seen through rose colored glasses. Most of the Twitter mentions Romney has are all about hate, and all the pictures I've seen portray him as an evil person.

Are we being brainwashed into believing that he is not a good man, and someday will take over the country and destroy us all? Probably not, but that's what it looks like to me. Because we are young, we tend to

believe everything we see and hear. Like it or not, we are pretty naïve.

We have become zombies; we waste our lives away on social networks, and because we are high schoolers, it is something we tend to do more than other age groups. We all want to know what's going on, what happened, and we want to get involved, and the internet helps us do all those things. And because of that, it makes it easier for our brains to be influenced by the internet.

Because of the internet and the thousands of people who are actively involved in it, we have been duped into believing that Romney is practically the worst human being ever.

We have been made to believe that all his little mistakes (that in the end no one will even remember) would make him a terrible president and would destroy our country, which would not happen. Both candidates are a good choice, and neither one will destroy our country. Stop following the crowd. Make your own decisions and stop being so easily influenced.

Even the governmental values of our upbringing makes a strong dent in our personal political values, we still need to give ourselves the freedom to establish our own personal opinions. While it is completely normal and fine to be in agreement with our parent's views, it is equally as important to begin to formulate our own beliefs for ourselves - even if it involves getting educated via some form of internet source, but make sure it is reliable.

So let me give you some advice for the future: next time you're wasting your life away on Facebook, Twitter, Tumblr or even MySpace, don't believe everything you see.

Not everything on the internet is true, and not everyone is honest. So don't get your panties in a bunch when you see something ridiculous. Spend some time outside, let some fresh air into that brain, and maybe just maybe, you won't become an internet zombie.

## Teens contribute heavily to consumer machine, fall prey to marketing

Americans love to shop. Many times when Americans shop they might purchase things they do not want due to the way it is portrayed in ads or on commercials.

The people who make these ads do this on purpose. They do this to try to get consumers to buy, buy, buy.

In many cases how they market things encourages the consumer to purchase that product. Marketing can help or hurt society.

Marketing is used to sell a product to in some cases a specific audience.

If they were advertising for a high fat burger they would be putting the wrong idea in people's heads. Sure it may look good, but that does not mean it is good for you.

Most people would know it is bad but because of the way it is marketed it would make the consumer want to purchase it.

It is good for the company, which is good for our economy, but it is bad for the person purchasing it. It is bad for them because they are consuming an unhealthy food item.

This marketing is not good for consumers. Some commercials and the way they are marketed also encourage bad behavior.

If a child sees a cigarette commercial that makes smoking look cool they would be more likely to engage in that kind of behavior. I personally do not think that promoting these types of advertising that can be seen as marketed to young children.

If a child or a teen sees an intriguing advertisement they would be more likely to do that in my opinion.

The American people are very big consumers. This is largely because of the way a product is marketed to a specific audience.

It is no secret that the United States as a whole is either obese or overweight. The marketing people use this to their advantage by making advertisements to adhere to these needs.

There are so many food advertisements that you see everyday. When people see these advertisements they in turn want to buy the product. That is how consumers work. If there is a new product that looks good the consumer would most likely want to buy it.

Marketing's plays a large role in society is quite a big one.

Count how many advertisements, commercials, billboards, and news ads that are seen each day, it is a large number.

Marketers do this because they want to sell their products, and by having multiple advertisements in the newspaper from the Internet.

They definitely get their point across.

This is good and bad for our modern society. Good in the sense that the economy would improve, because as it is known the economy has been suffering lately. Marketers know this and they will try to sell their product at any cost.

One effect on society from marketing is impulse buying. With stores like Costco and Sam's Club they encourage consumers to buy more for less.

The very large quantities are appealing to consumers. What they see is a large package for a very cheap price.

Costco is one of the clever stores that encourages shopping, but somehow does not at the same time. The setup is quite unique because in order to find what you are for looking you must scour the entire store.

Their products are not placed in an exact area every.

This encourages impulse buying because you never know where you will need to go to find the things you need. They also have samples all around the store. Being a consumer it would be nice to test these things out before the item is purchased. This is another great marketing tactic that Costco uses. They are very smart because they basically force their customers to impulse buy.

In the supermarkets it could be seen that they were carrying grocery lists, but with the success of marketing and advertisements they are not needed. With the advertisements on television it can help the consumer's decision based on how it is portrayed on the commercial etc.

Marketing has a big impact on the obesity rate in America. People really think that bigger is better. Bigger sized drinks at restaurants, and bigger quantities of food.

The marketers know this so it is their job to sell it to us.

If marketing companies tried to market healthier food options this obesity rate would hence go down. If marketing changes, then our society and everything would change. Maybe even for the better.

In the  
**OPINION**  
of the  
**REGISTER**

SPORTS

# Against All Odds

After having more than his fair share of health problems--including multiple comas and cancer--junior OJ Wilson has fulfilled his dream of playing football for Central.



**Olajuwon "OJ" Wilson plays on Centrals reserve team, a dream nobody thought imaginable years ago when he developed Acute Myeloid Leukemia. In his treatment he experienced a coma, many surgeries and two strokes, yet has still been fulfilled.**

**JENNIFER ROONEY**  
Editor-in-Chief

"I did it for the people," said 16-year-old junior Olajuwon "OJ" Wilson, talking about playing football--a dream he never thought could be possible for him just years ago.

At just 11 years old, Wilson was supposed to be on vacation for the summer in Phoenix, but he became very sick. He became very weak and could only sleep all day. So he left Phoenix and came back home.

His regular doctor was out of town in Hawaii and wouldn't pick up the phone, so a different doctor had to treat him. The doctor claimed that it was just strep throat. Finally, after about 10 calls, his regular doctor answered the phone and came home to treat him.

Wilson was then diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia, a blood cancer. It shut down his entire body, and he wasn't able to talk or barely even walk on his own. If he would even fall asleep, he would go into a coma within seconds. Wilson claimed he still didn't realize what was happening.

"When I first found out I was scared, and I was asking a lot of questions," said Wilson. "At the time, I was just trying to get home."

Later on he arrived at the hospital, but was unable to walk, so he was seated in a wheelchair. The last thing he heard was "lay on the bed until the doctor comes in," from one of the working doctors. And that was it. Wilson fell asleep and soon went into a coma.

Six weeks had gone by and he was finally awake, but still stuck in a hospital bed. He woke up with tubes going in and out of his body and he began going crazy because he had no idea what the situation was. He went so insane that he tried leaving the hospital.

Then something terrible went wrong again: Wilson had a stroke after his coma. He had two strokes throughout his whole treatment. The second stroke left him unable to walk or even move on his own.

He then started his four chemotherapies in two years, then had several surgeries and even a bone marrow transplant, a procedure done to replace the damaged bone stem cells with new healthy bone marrow stem cells.

He stayed in the hospital bed for another two years with intense care and treatment for the cancer, with his grandma there for every second of it. Wilson claims that he has been living with his grandma since he was just nine months old, and sees her as his actual mother. His grandma packed five

Continued to 'WILSON' on page 17

# The realities, truths about cheerleaders



**GOOD TO KNOW**  
A Column by Sydney Halonen

Being a cheerleader at Central High School can most easily be described as a privilege. Attending every game, not missing out on a single play, providing school spirit for every student and supporter at Central's events--what more could a girl ask for?

Growing up, being a high school cheerleader never seemed to cross my mind. I grew up trying to shine at every sport in the book (emphasis on the trying). From soccer to karate, I tried it all.

Until one day in 8th grade, when everything changed. I was on a tour at Omaha Central High School for my first time with a few other wide-eyed eighth graders from around the Omaha area. As the tour was coming to an end, we made the last stop of the day, the gym. The large wooden space was filled with various tables advertising Central sports, clubs and about every extracurricular activity that you could possibly think of.

As I made my way through the various displays, one seemed to stand out the most: cheerleading. Glitter, pom-poms, countless ribbons and awards lured me in to the table that would change my life forever. As I looked around, trying to take in all the sudden madness, a senior cheerleader came to my rescue.

"Hi, are you interested in trying out for cheer next year?" she said with overwhelming enthusiasm. "Ummm...mmm...yes," I stuttered, trying to get the words out of my mouth.

'Way to go, Sydney,' I thought to myself, 'You've said two words and you already look dumb.'

"Great!" she said with a huge smile, and proceeded to sign me up for tryouts.

After giving her my information and meeting some of the other cheerleaders, I knew cheer was something I wanted to pursue. After leaving Central that day, I instantly loved the idea of becoming a cheerleader. It was something new, and one of the few things I had never tried before. Tryouts were in the weeks after that fateful day--and soon enough, I was part of the squad.

From an outsider's point of view, cheerleading may seem something more like from the movie *Bring It On*, but trust me: at Central High, our cheer squad is closer than one would think. It's actually more like a sisterhood.

Cheerleading provides positive support as well as countless laughs for all of our members. It's a large and, at times, overwhelming commitment--a commitment all of us

Continued to 'CHEER' on page 19

PHOTO BY JENNIFER ROONEY / THE REGISTER

# Wrestler Ronald Wells expects big win at state this year

**SAN JUANA PARAMO**  
Staff Writer

At the age of six, senior Ronald Wells began wrestling and has not stopped since. He has been wrestling for Central since his freshman year, and has won two state titles. This year Wells will be competing for his third state title. "You don't have too many state champions from Central each year, so to be one of the few who can step up and win big matches means a lot," Wells said.

After an incident occurred after his match freshman year, Wells wasn't able to compete for a state title. "I said something after the match that was against the rules," Wells said.

"He should have won freshman year," Wells' wrestling Coach Jimmie Foster said. If he was allowed to compete this would have been the senior's fourth state title. "I was upset for a very, long time then I finally realized that I was the best wrestler in the state and I just had to keep my head up and just dominate everyone else." Though no one knew what happened, everyone was supportive of him. "They were telling me how I still had more chances to win state titles," Wells said.

This motivated him to try harder, not just in wrestling, but in school as well. "After that happened I became more of a leader," Wells said. Having par-

ents that are very supportive of him, but still push academics first, and his hard work is a clear example of all his success.

Preparing for a match can be tedious, working harder, getting in more practice and being prepared mentally just as well as physically. Keeping a relaxed mind and joking around helps him not to be nervous, something that he likes to keep in mind during all his matches.

Wells won his first title his sophomore year, though the pressure was high, due to the incident freshman year.

All in all, Wells handled the stress well.

Wells was also involved in football, but quit in order to practice for his first state title and focus more on wrestling. "We practiced harder than we've ever done before and more often, I knew I had to win," Wells said.

Training hard and getting pushed by his teammates, Wells was able to obtain his first state title against Connor Carsten from Lincoln Southwest. "Everyone just believed in me," Wells said. Having faced Carsten before, Wells knew what to expect. "I knew I was on another level than everyone else so I didn't think too much," Wells said.

Being his first state championship, nervousness was all Wells felt. "I was really nervous because it was all eyes on me, and in front of so many people," Wells said.

Continued to 'WELLS' on page 18



Ronald Wells (12) and wrestling coach Jimmie Foster celebrate Wells' first place win at the State Wrestling Competition.

PHOTO COURTESY OF JIMMIE FOSTER

# Senior bowler takes sixth place at tournament, thankful for stronger family ties

**MEKENZIE KERR**  
Copy Editor

An integral part of senior Shaleigh Karnik's life, bowling has played a significant role by creating stronger familial connections, being a fun way to spend time and even helping out monetarily for college. But at the Tom Kelley's Annual Bowling tournament, Karnik was able to see the importance of bowling in her life solidified with her sixth place win among the approximately 162 other bowlers.

The Tom Kelley's Annual Bowling tournament is a yearly event that serves as a sort of customer appreciation competition; each bowler pays a \$40 fee to sign-up and compete, with the looming chance to win more money if the bowler plays well.

Karnik's father, also her bowling companion, took the initiative to sign both himself and Karnik up for the competition.

Karnik participated in Squad One that played at about 9 a.m.; each squad is chosen by whatever time slot the players picked to play during.

Squad One had about 60 participants, each bowling three games on the first pair of assigned lanes. From there, the players would rotate a couple of sets of lanes down and stay in that same repetition.

The stars were aligned that day for Karnik, who brought in a sixth place win and a \$225 scholarship. Because she is under the age of 18, all money from tournaments such as this must be designated toward a scholarship fund, which is no bother for Karnik.

Karnik, a member of the Central bowling team, bowled in the Tom

Kelley's Annual Bowling Tournament independently, although she attributes a lot of her skill from extra practice to her involvement with Central's team. Karnik has been devotedly bowling for Central from the team's beginnings, which occurred during her sophomore year in 2010.

"With school, I bowl a lot more than I would if I was just in my league," said Karnik. "I bowl three extra times a week, and that has definitely helped me."

Under Coach James Jordan, Central's bowling team participates in a Monday league and extra tournaments on top of weekly practice -- something Karnik is thankful for. The extra practice she gets and the friends she has gained and bonded with over bowling have been very beneficial.

Bowling with Central's team has also helped her gain experience competing alongside different age groups, something that was particularly helpful in the Tom Kelley's Annual Bowling tournament.

The majority of the participants at the tournament were older men and very few women; Karnik noted herself as one of the youngest players there.

"It was kind of intimidating, because the guys that were bowling have been bowling since they were little kids," said Karnik, "therefore they take a lot more time to practice than I sometimes do."

Practice makes perfect, and Karnik has been practicing for years with one of her fellow opponents -- her father.

Karnik's interest in bowling began back during the course of her fifth grade year when she became involved in her first league; this involvement also sparked interest in her dad, who had previously been a bowler but

didn't stay actively in touch with the sport.

After both became more involved, they began joining more leagues together, and continue on today.

Karnik is currently involved with a league that competes and bowls together every Saturday, an enjoyable routine that is "very informal."

Together, father and daughter compete in an "adult and child" sort of league over the summer.

"It's really gotten me closer to my dad," said Karnik, "doing something each week together."

Bowling has played a significant role in her father's relationship with her, but also her family as a whole -- she also bowls with her mother on Saturdays.

"It started because my mom was pushing me to choose something to do to enjoy myself," said Karnik, "and it has definitely brought me closer to my family, and I continue to do it because of my mom and dad -- it's always fun."

Bowling is an activity that Karnik sees herself being cemented in for years to come, whether the college she attends has a bowling program or not. She has gotten so much out of it that she doubts she will ever quit bowling, whether it's competitive or not.

"Bowling has really pushed me out of my shell," she said.

Not only has bowling in big, competitive tournaments like Tom Kelley's strengthened Karnik's bowling skill and accuracy--it has also attributed to her growth and maturation as a person -- and for that, Karnik is grateful.



**The Lone Diver**  
Sophomore Meghan Peterson, the sole member of Central's diving team last year, looks forward to more teammates this year.  
**See Inside, Page 19**



**Brand New Record Breaker**  
Trae Deon Hollins breaks Central's football receiving record by 34 yards.  
**See Inside, Page 17**



**Fore!**  
Sophomore Emily Jezewski makes the Central golf team proud, tying for sixteenth place at the state tournament.  
**See Inside, Page 17**



# Football player battled leukemia, achieved goal of playing football

Continued from 'WILSON' on page 16

suitcases and quit her job just to stay right beside his bed every possible second.

Although he could barely walk (let alone move), he was still involved with school work. He received two tutors who came out on certain days to walk through the homework with him. His grandma would not let him quit. One of the tutors he had known since fifth grade, and the other since he was 12 years old.

Throughout years spend in and out of hospitals, several people visited him, including his biological mother, his two little brothers (who live with his biological mother) and his uncle. Some nights his mom would get tired, call his previous tutor and stay all night with him.

Most of the time in the hospital bed, Wilson would listen to music or watch television because he could not walk or move. He loved watching scary movies and cartoons. His grandma would even bring some movies from home for him. One of his favorite movies to watch was *Scream* because of the memory attached to it: that of his grandmother running out of the room, too scared to continue watching.

"I only hoped I could make it. At some point I felt like giving up, but I knew I couldn't. I had to keep going," said Wilson. "Only 30% of the kids make it. Watching the TV, seeing people talk about people like me and doing fundraisers for them made me not want to give up."

After two years, when Wilson was 13 years old, he went through therapy, where he learned how to sit up, walk and talk again. When he was strong enough, the doctors would let him go home for a few days, but most of the time that was highly unlikely.

His happiest moments, he remembered, were coming back from each surgery, especially since there was always the chance that he would never come back at all.

Finally, this was it: Wilson was going on 14 years old, and this was his last surgery. The junior remembers not being able to go to sleep because the doctors made him stay awake in case something horrible happened again. When he was out of the surgery, he received three things: a new headset, a cassette player and one wish from the Make-a-Wish Foundation.

As Wilson was walking out of the hospital room, everyone was cheering and clapping for him. He even received a celebratory party in his honor.

"I didn't know it was the last surgery until the doctor said I was cured," said Wilson.

"I had that good feeling inside of me," he said. "I was just happy and glad."

Wilson's wish was then to go to Disney World with all of his family. It was an experience he had never been able to have; his wish eventually came true. Wilson was picked up in a limo to ride to the airport from his house the day that his family left.

The trip included two plane rides, one to Ga. and the next to Fla. Despite some engine trouble on the flight, the family made it safely to

their destination.

Wilson stayed in a village made from the Make-a-Wish Foundation, called the Give Kids the World Village. He even received his own name on his house.

As Wilson and his family were at Disney World, he explored a lot of different things. There were a lot of different people he saw and met, and a plethora of different rides.

But Wilson became sick again, and this time it wasn't because of leukemia. He drank some water while at Disney World and immediately began to throw up. "It tasted like sewer water," he said. Even his uncle became sick from it. It just took a week for his uncle and him to gradually get better.

Wilson believes that the medical staff, faith from others, believing that he could pull through and all of the prayers cured the leukemia.

"My pastor and grandma say to this day that I am some sort of miracle boy, and that I'm here for a purpose," said Wilson. "They mention that I died twice. I don't remember that, but I do believe them."

Then came football, one of Wilson's dreams. With his height, people told him that he should play football or basketball. But since he didn't like basketball so much, he picked football.

"It's fun, a fun sport. It'll get rough, but it's something I wanted to accomplish and will do next year," said Wilson, "And finally my grandma let me play it."

Wilson chose Omaha Central as his school because his uncle went here; as a child, Wilson grew very close to him. He wanted to be like him and follow in his footsteps.

Wilson's first game this year on the Central's reserve team was played against Papillion South; Central won the game.

Football was just something he watched on TV and wanted to do. All he really wanted to do initially was to just beat Burke in a game and quit the team because he hated them, but that first game changed his mind. He now plays as #63 and is a right tackle, a guard and a linebacker.

"It was a great feeling. My family was in the stands cheering me on the whole time, keeping me going," he said.

He also thinks that he is different from the other players on the field, especially when it comes to strength, endurance and speed. He personally believes that if he never had cancer, he could do things very similarly to everybody else on the team.

"We walk and talk differently. There's a lot I can notice, but I don't let it get to me," said Wilson. "I know that I'm different, but it doesn't matter."

At first, some of the players looked at him differently, but eventually they found about his medical history, and that it was the reason for his differences. Wilson is simply happy that he is able to play, treating his team like family.

Later in life, Wilson wants to become a doctor and a lawyer.

While in the hospital, his doctors would come in and do machine work, and later told him how to do things on his own. He knew when to

My Pastor and Grandma say to this day that I am some sort of miracle boy and that I'm here for a purpose. They mention that I died twice. I don't remember that, but I do believe them.

OJ Wilson



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

OJ Wilson studies the field during a reserve football game at Central. The junior plays several positions.

take his own medicine, when to turn machines off and more. He believes that, since he went through it all and knows how to do some of the procedures, he would be a great doctor.

Now Wilson is in remission; once a year he goes back to his doctor to get a check-up. He has been able to get on with his life, but he still looks back sometimes to see what it was like. Yet he always manages to move on. He does what he needs to, and doesn't feel the need to spend a lot of time looking back.

"Someday I can talk to the kids at the hospital and tell them to keep going," said Wilson. "I tell them that I got through it, and that they can too."

## Tra-Deon Hollins breaks Central High School's receiving yards record



PHOTO BY SUSHMITA ADHIKARI / O-BOOK

Tra-Deon Hollins sets for his next play in the Bellevue East football game. Tra-Deon broke Central's football record for receiver yards ran in one game.

JENNIFER ROONEY  
Editor-in-Chief

Senior Tra-Deon Hollins, #4, broke Omaha Central High School's football record for receiver yards ran on Sept. 21 in a game against Bellevue East High School at Seeman Stadium. Hollins set the bar at the new record which is now 268 yards.

The previous record was 234 yards until Hollins beat it by 34 yards. He also holds the second highest total of yards in the class A division, just missing first place by six yards. In addition, Hollins was also off by three yards for holding the state record of yards ran in the state of Nebr.

The Sept. 21 varsity football game against Bellevue East was at home, held at Seeman Stadium. Omaha Central won 34 to 16. In that game, Hollins received six catches and two touchdowns.

The player had the idea that he broke the record while packing up his football gear at his locker after the game, about to head home.

Coach Jay Ball had approached him, stating that his runs might have beaten the record.

"I thought that I had achieved the state record, but I wasn't quite sure yet," said Hollins.

On his way home after the game, he began receiving text messages from his teammates; the next day the player finally learned that he had made it--he had broken the Omaha Central record for receiver yards ran.

"I got really excited, and there was a lot of yelling and cheering the next day that I saw all of my teammates," said Hollins. "I was speechless because there are a lot of players on the team, and I'm the one that did it. My coach just put me in all of the right places at the game. It just fell in my lap."

He thanks junior quarterback Cameron Dorsey, #11, the coaching staff and the linemen for blocking the opposing team for him for his achievement of the record.

Hollins has only been playing football since freshman year at Central. "I was always too small to play, they never gave me a chance," he said.

The reason that Hollins even started to play football was because of the fact that members of the freshmen team were able to get out of school early for their games--but then he really started enjoying playing, eventually becoming much more serious.

"It's a way to release anger build-up, and you can hurt someone you won't get into trouble with," said Hollins.

Central is the only football team Hollins has ever played on. He claims that football is "all emotions, and is so different."

Hollins also plays for the Omaha Central Varsity Boys Basketball team, which has won state basketball many years in the past. Hollins has been playing basketball since he was seven years old.

He claims that he will keep playing football and/or basketball in college. He has many colleges in mind, depending on the scholarships awarded to him for his achievements in athletics.

The choice between basketball and football in college also depends on the season this year, and which one he will enjoy more.

"It may be a great end to my high school career," said Hollins. "But it's not over yet."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BEST / OMAHA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Emily Jezewski drives the ball down the green. She has been golfing since age 9

## Dedicated golfer takes unexpected place

MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN  
Staff Writer

This year proved to be the year for sophomore Emily Jezewski, who was a qualifier for state golf.

Jezewski has recently returned from state golf. She is very proud of her improvements this season. Although Jezewski has been golfing since third grade, she only has been competing since seventh grade.

"Golf was a lot more fun for me once I started to compete," said Jezewski.

She also lives on a golf course in West Omaha, and her father is also a golfer.

Part of the reason the sophomore got involved golf was because of those reasons.

The golf season this year was wonderful for Jezewski. In a tournament in Lincoln, Jezewski placed second overall. She also was very pleased that she even qualified for state, because her score from last year changed so much. It got lower which in golf is what

Preparations for state did not require that much pressure. "I was just there to have fun," said Jezewski. Surprisingly there was not very much preparation for state. "Coach and I went and practiced by ourselves for two days, then I had some days to rest."

As is with any sport it is somewhat hard to juggle that activity with school, but Jezewski proves to be doing it very well.

"I have only missed 10 days of school so far all golf related, and the teachers understand--they know what you are doing, it just is hard to get caught up sometimes." It is a good thing that Jezewski is not doing any other activities at the moment, because golf seems to be

taking up a lot of her time. "During the school year I have practice every day after school, so there is not very much time for any other activities at the moment!"

During the off-season thankfully Jezewski will not have to practice as much.

"I plan to only practice once or twice a month, because when it starts to get cold I will have to stop," said Jezewski.

In the summer it is a little more strict. "I have practice usually every day in the summer, unless it is too hot or I just do not want to practice," said Jezewski.

Her placement at state was nothing short of amazing. "I was the ninth lowest score, and tied for sixteenth, but I beat all the freshmen and sophomores that were there."

To the untrained eye golf may look like an individual sport, but it actually can be seen as a team sport as well. The team aspect of it has to do with cheering on your teammates.

If someone on your team is having a hard time it is nice to have friends to cheer them on. Also if your team qualifies for state that is a great honor and fun to share with others.

The individual aspect is that the person playing is essentially playing against his or her own self.

Unlike basketball and soccer, you do not have teammates to tell you what to do.

It is important that the person playing makes the right decision regarding that.

"My favorite thing about golf is the challenge," said Jezewski, "Not the physical challenge, but the mental challenge. It challenges your mind and you can never really do anything right because it keeps changing."

# Despite the chilly season, the Ultimate Frisbee Club takes off



PHOTO COURTESY OF PHOEBE PERRY

1. Avery Zaleski throws the frisbee while other players run toward where it's going to land. Chris Pospisil tosses the frisbee to his anticipating teammates.

## MEKENZIE KERR

Copy Editor

If you are strolling through Elmwood Park in the first half of a chilly Nov. on a Friday afternoon around 3 pm, you can expect to see a frisbee flying through the air. Most likely this air-bound frisbee will end up in the palms of a Central High School student who is participating in the weekly Ultimate Frisbee Club.

Founded by seniors Avery Zaleski and Ross Harding with help from teacher sponsor Greg Sand, playing ultimate Frisbee in Elmwood has become a Friday tradition. Alongside the 15 regular students, the ultimate Frisbee club has even recently welcomed around twenty students to toss the disc around.

Available to any grade-level student, the Ultimate Frisbee Club is, as Zaleski said, a place "that anyone can come play and have a good time, no matter what skill level they are."

Regardless of your level of accuracy in throwing the Frisbee or keeping it steady as you release it, you are a welcome candidate to join the club.

While there are rules to Ultimate Frisbee, the club spreads open arms to any student who is just interested in a "relaxed" way to "get to know people," said Zaleski.

Publicity has been given to the Ultimate Frisbee club through FaceBook, Twitter and text messages to anybody that either Harding or Zaleski thinks might show interest – and turn outs have been decent.

"My favorite part is just getting out there and playing with friends," said Zaleski, "it's always fun."

And the Ultimate Frisbee Club was started for just those reasons: fun and enjoyment. "We started it because we really enjoy playing and wanted to get more people involved," said Zaleski.

It all began with the mutual liking for Frisbee, and for Zaleski it began after the summer following his freshman year when he fell in love with Frisbee. Harding and Zaleski both shared the desire to get more people actively involved with something all-inclusive for students, and figured Frisbee was just the activity.

The Ultimate Frisbee Club goes beyond a simple hobby for co-founder Zaleski, but also as a way to fine tune and better his Frisbee skills.

Zaleski plans to play on a club or intramural team later, competing and playing games versus other teams within the same school.

As Harding and Zaleski plan to step further into their future education plans, they hope that the Ultimate Frisbee Team will stay alive in the years preceding their graduation.

"It would be great to have it continue in the future," said Zaleski.

But as of right now, the Frisbee participants are glancing at the future and the chilly weather it holds and its potential effects on a Frisbee Friday excursion.

"If it gets too cold then we won't [play]," said Zaleski, "but I remember playing over the Thanksgiving and winter breaks last year – so who knows!"

Only time will tell if the weather is permissible to keep up the Ultimate Frisbee Club and if the team will continue after the founders graduate, until then, the frisbee Fridays will continue through this year.

## Central Softball season ends with a satisfying run at the district tournament

### SYDNEY HALONEN

Staff Writer

The Omaha Central softball team ended their season last weekend with a run at the district tournament.

Playing three separate games, the Lady Eagles left the tournament with a 1-2 result.

The district tournament was held in North Platte this year, a two hour drive from the Eagle nest.

The softball team rode a charter bus to the tournament, showing up in style.

All the teams within each district are invited to the competition, yet each team within the district has to fight for a place in the state tournament.

The Eagles played Bellevue West, Kearney and North Platte during their time at the tournament.

"We played three games in the tournament. We played Bellevue West first there, and lost 9-1, then played Kearney and won 9-0, and last lost to North Platte 12-1," said junior Cierra Svagera.

The tournament was a bonding experience as well as a chance to get out of town and play other schools.

"In my opinion some of us are really close and we all get along really well," said Svagera

The varsity team has team dinners often and enjoys spending time around each other. Throughout the season many of the players open up and start to be more comfortable around each other explained Svagera.

"A majority of the team plays club softball during the summer" Svagera said

Clubs such as Echoes, Quakes, and the Shockers are some of the clubs Central has members on.

Many of the players have been playing for many years prior to Central, some are even planning to continue their careers in softball after high school is over.

Overall each win is a team effort, like various other team sports everyone on the team has to do their part to pull out each win.

This tournament ended the 2012 season for the Eagles with an ending record of ( )

Coach Ryan Neal was very satisfied with this season's record. With six freshman on the varsity squad, and three seniors leaving next year's prospect is looking better than ever.

"We had a great season," said Neel, "and our girls are already excited for the next."

## Ronald Wells goes for yet another state wrestling title, confident in ability

Continued from 'WELLS' on page 16

Wells said.

All the hard work and time Wells put in paid off. "It's all worth it," said Wells, because to him it felt like a boulder was off his chest.

Winning his first state title motivated him to work hard and try to obtain a second title. "I trained harder every single day," Wells said.

Knowing that all the hard work he put in would win him a second title, Wells won his second state title junior year, against Creighton Prep wrestler Dino Sacledo, this victory made him feel "unbeatable." "I didn't think I was going to win, I knew I was going to win because I put in that much work," Wells said.

Having wrestled Sacledo at the beginning of the season, he watched him and knew that "his style couldn't compare." Wells felt no pressure, though he felt like he had to win. "I felt like I had to win because everyone including myself expects nothing less," Wells said.

Having prior experience from his first and second title match, though it wasn't easier for Wells, he was much calmer. "I get more confidence after each title," Wells said. Keeping the same mentality as all his other matches, he went in and dominated with help from his coach. "I expected him to perform well sophomore year, as a junior I was just hoping he stayed healthy," Foster said.

Motivated by his first two wins, Wells is going in for his third state title on Feb. 18 at the Century Link Center.

Practicing harder everyday and staying relaxed, Wells expects to win this title too. "I'm mentally ahead of my opponents, and I really feel no pressure," Wells said. With help from his coach, Wells hopes to outshine his opponent in this match too. "I remind him that he should want to dominate the competition," Foster said, and making sure he "stays grounded."

"I think a healthy (and) confident Ronald Wells is very hard to beat," said Foster. "I look forward to watching one of Central's best wrestlers ever compete this season." Wells adds, "I believe and I feel like I could wrestle tomorrow and win the state title."

## Central High School senior volleyball player, Sydni Lee, dominates with 17 kills in one game



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOHN BEST

A focused hitter, Sydni Lee leaps to spike the ball.

### SETH ARTER

Staff Writer

Without any mercy, junior Sydni Lee had 17 kills at the Sept. 11 varsity volleyball game at Mercy High School. "My teammates were happy for me," she said. She left the court that night

with a successful win, but it was not her first. Lee has been playing volleyball since her freshman year.

Since Lee has been on varsity since 10th grade, it was definitely not the beginning of her volleyball career.

Lee began playing on her first volleyball team in her early years as a third grader at the YMCA.

Even though Lee is used to being a student and a varsity athlete at the same time, it's still no walk in the park for her, especially since she has joined the junior varsity cheerleading squad this year.

Although she is very busy with her academic and extracurricular activities, she still manages to get good grades.

"It's very hard to manage it all," Lee said, "I have cheer practice in the morning, volleyball practice in the afternoon, and team dinners after practice."

As many girls on the cheerleading squad are also very interested in the outfits, so is Lee.

The cheerleading uniforms initially got her interested in joining the squad.

Lee, cheering for her first time this year, knows that it's more than enough to make her mother proud.

"My mom was excited for me because she always wanted to be a cheerleader, but didn't make the team," said Lee.

Even though Lee has managed to successfully juggle school, volleyball, and cheerleading, she says she will "probably not" participate in cheerleading next year.

Like most people, Lee did have a setback in her volleyball career.

Two days before Lee's "killer" performance on the court against Mercy High, she sprained her ankle as she came down on an opponent's foot at the volleyball net.

## For the love of the Cardinals: it's hard to enjoy football games when a wonderful sport like baseball exists

As I walk down the hallway a figure rushes into my shoulder and swoops past me down the hall, calling out his friend's name. They greet each other and immediately start talking loudly enough for the entire world to hear.

"Hey, man, did you catch the game?"

"Nah, I had to work. What was the score?"

"63-38, them"

"Dang. We really need to work on defense."

"You're telling me. Some of those players really need to step up their game"

I listen to them as their voices fade, getting further and further away.

For one second I can almost convince myself they were talking about baseball, something I completely understand and love, but of course not...this is Nebr. Slowly I sigh and continue on to class, wishing they were talking about something I cared more about.

This is a common occurrence for me that happens almost every week now that football season is going on. The entire state of Nebr. has extreme Husker pride.

Missing a game is like a crime, and if you just don't like the Huskers, well, be careful who you tell.

For me, I just don't care that much about football. I've been to a few games, plenty of people have attempted to teach me the rules, and I've even played it a few times with friends but I could never fully grasp the concept.

I've never understood why people go so crazy for it.

Baseball has always been the sport for me. Ever since I was little I declared a favorite baseball team even if I didn't know anything about them.

I would still love them simply because of where they were from.

When I was younger and living in New

York, the Yankees were my obvious favorite team choice.

I didn't know much about them, I just knew that they played a sport I loved to watch and they were from my hometown, so what was not to love?

As I grew older I began to pick teams not only based on where they were from but based on the quality of their playing.

The St. Louis Cardinals soon became my favorite team.

A few years ago, my mom and dad surprised me with a trip to St. Louis over the weekend of July 4.

While we were there, of course, we went to see a baseball game.

It was the Cardinals versus the Kansas City Royals playing at Busch Stadium. The game was amazing! The score was close most of the game, but the Cardinals pulled ahead in the bottom of the ninth.

In the end, they won by four runs, but that wasn't the best part for me. I loved the greasy fries, ice cold drinks, bright and sugary cotton candy and all the other traditional baseball foods.

I lost my voice from shouting with the other Cards fans every time they scored a home run.

It was one of the loudest and most insane games I've ever been too, but it was one of the best. It also shaped my love for the Cardinals as the number one team.

My dad, on the other hand, loves his home team, the Cleveland Indians.

However, in my opinion, not winning or even coming that close to winning the World Series since 1948 doesn't exactly scream "best team material."

For me, the best team out there is the St. Louis Cardinals. In the beginning, I just liked them because they were from my birthplace, but after going to numerous games, watching them

on TV and finding out the players' averages, it's easy for me to see why they are the best in the league.

When they played the Texas Rangers, I was cheering with my family for David Freese to hit a homerun, and when they won the series I just went wild.

Baseball is an amazing sport, and I could watch it all day, depending on the quality of the team. Because of this, it is so hard for me to live in a Big Ten state.

During every in-town game day, the whole city is vacant.

All the Husker fans put on their red morph suits, red face paint, red wigs and red accessories, and head over to Memorial Stadium.

All the malls and shops are empty of shoppers, and there isn't a soul in sight. The game is always playing on a radio or TV screen.

"I love going shopping on game days because it's easy to get my errands done quickly," said one anonymous shopper. "There are no lines, except for the few people who are hanging out to listen to the game on the radio."

Even though I don't personally pay attention to the Husker schedule, it's very easy to tell when the game is on.

It's also hard for me to be in a football state simply because almost everyone here is a football fan.

Of course, there are other sports people like, but the majority prefers football.

In fact, if I ever mention baseball, most people immediately say that baseball is stupid or boring, and that it's nothing compared to football. For me, though, it's the complete opposite. Hopefully one day, Omaha will have a better baseball team than the Storm Chasers--one that I can actually cheer for and not feel embarrassed about after the game.

But until then, I'll have to settle for the invasion of football season and keep my love for baseball under wraps.



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND  
A Column by Elissa Wiener

# Out-of-the-blue job offer grants boys tennis team new leadership



New tennis coach Tracey Menten teaches her English 3-4 class. The teacher juggles a busy teaching schedule with after-school practices and matches. She had been interested in the position for a while.

**GISELLE TRAN**  
Business Editor

English teacher Tracey Menten was interrupted while vacationing in Hawaii by a phone call from Athletic Director Darin Williams. Menten recounted the events, "I was on vacation and I got a call from Mr. Williams. He left me a voicemail. And Mr. Williams never calls me, so I thought I might have gotten fired."

Menten's fear was quickly assuaged when Williams offered her the position of head coach of the Central boys' varsity tennis team.

But the excitement wasn't to end. After offering Menten the job spur-of-the-moment, Williams interviewed Menten on a Friday morning and offered her the job that very same afternoon. After accepting the job offer, Menten was told that practice would commence the following Monday.

Curiously enough, Menten has not had much experience in the coaching realm. While an eager player and avid follower of tennis, Menten had never coached a sports team before. But Menten was prepared to take on the challenge. Bob Tucker, the former head coach of the boys' and girls' varsity tennis teams, had recommended Menten to Williams, as Menten had expressed interest in being a volunteer coach for the boys' tennis team this fall. Menten is excited for the denouement of this season, but is also looking forward to next year. Focusing on developing the doubles teams, Menten said, "We want to get

them playing together to get that chemistry."

The team is optimistic thus far. Menten noted that "their willingness to get better" as the players' greatest attribute. While they might bond over a launching a dead tennis ball over the fence, the players also dedicate time and effort to the sport. After losing two matches, the team practice doubles on a Sunday. Menten is hopeful for her No. 1 singles player, Colin Buckley, and his chances at the State Tournament.

Even with an ankle and wrist injuries that inhibit him from playing at his full potential, Buckley has a winning record.

As a senior, Buckley realizes that this year is his last chance to win State Tennis. This has driven him to "work really hard [and] practice more." What Buckley hopes to take from this season is not only the good memories, but also a medal. When asked what his goal is for his final year, Buckley responded, "Having a medal put around my neck." Buckley has been inspired by his idol, saying, "Novak Djokovic is my favorite tennis player... I've loved him since I was a little kid."

Although Menten became head coach unexpectedly, the team believes it can go far under her direction.

Buckley commented that Menten cultivates a "fun atmosphere without letting things get too rambunctious."

Despite the pressure he faces, Buckley is still able to say that he loves tennis because "It's very peaceful... It clears your head out... being on a team is really fun." That's one of the things that makes the school year special."

## Dedicated swimmer turns to her passion: diving

**STEPHANIE PAUL**  
Visuals Editor

As the winter season starts, a handful of students will be playing in the snow with friends after school—but not sophomore Meghan Peterson. She will be taking a bus to Burke High School to practice for Central's diving team.

Last year Peterson was the only person on the team, so she had to commute to practice with the Burke diving team. This will be Peterson's second season diving competitively for the Central team; she has been diving and swimming since the summer of her fifth grade year, beginning with the Omaha Country Club.

Peterson knew she wanted to dive when she was younger when she saw the Olympics on television. "When I saw these people from China doing all these flips...that's when I knew I wanted to do that [dive]," she said.

Peterson remembers how she started her career in swimming. It was when her mom walked onto the diving board with Peterson in her arms when she was little, and dropped her in the swimming pool.

Peterson then splashed and swam in the pool all day long. "Everyone in my family loves to swim" she said.

Ever since she could remember, Peterson has been in swimming recreationally and on the swim team for Omaha Country Club. "I have always been swimming...I cannot imagine my life without it. Swimming is my life,"

she said.

While she thinks about her future, Peterson knows she wants to go to a university with a solid diving team.

She hopes that a school on the east coast will recruit her. High school diving students only have to dive from a one meter board, whereas in college diving, they dive from a three meter diving board. At Burke, where Peterson practices, they have both.

This season she will be practicing both the one and three meter diving boards to get ready for day-long diving meets, where Peterson will get to watch other people from around Omaha compete.

Even though she loves to swim, Peterson has other things she does throughout the school year.

She plays for Central's golf team and is trying out this year for tennis. Out of school, Peterson rides horses in competitions on the weekends during the school year.

Peterson loves playing sports for Central; one of her passions in life is swimming, but mostly diving. She hopes that she is not the only one at Central who loves diving. She wants more people to try out this year for the team. "I'm the only one on the bus... and it's kind of awkward," she said.

Through her whole life, she has been by the water. Swimming and diving is Peterson's passion in life, and she will continue to love the sport for the remainder of her life.



Meghan Peterson practices her dive techniques at a local pool.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MEGHAN PETERSON

## School-sponsored sports create spirit, unity

In most European school systems, there are no sports teams. If students want to be on a team or participate in any kind of sport, he or she has to join a club or some type of league.

This would be both an advantage and a disadvantage; it would be more expensive than just joining a school-sponsored team, but it may, on the other hand, allow more time for studies, thus creating a less stressful schedule. Trying to balance a full schedule and a sport is not easy in the slightest. I believe that all high school teams practice every day, usually right after school ends until 5:30 p.m. or 6. Regardless of how difficult the practices are, this is still incredibly time-consuming, leaving little time for nighttime activities such as doing homework, eating dinner, spending time with family or even relaxing.

This can be very taxing; it's difficult to finish a full night of homework after two grueling hours in a pool. And after you get home you have to take a shower and slather yourself in lotion so your skin doesn't start peeling off...and sometimes there are team dinners, which can last until 9:30 p.m. on a school night. Altogether, swimming and homework don't mix that well.

One may, however, have to sacrifice other things to be in a club sport; these things may also include sleep, sanity and free time. Both sports have their ups and downs, but ultimately I think that American schools are doing it right.

For me, it is a good thing that American high schools offer sports. One reason is because these are virtually free; while I do have to supply some money for things like equipment, this is remarkably cheaper than a club sport would be.

If I did club swimming, I would have to pay just to be on a team, as well as for the equipment required to participate. Some clubs, depending on the average skill level of its participants and how elite it's considered, can get very pricey—I think my sister has paid something like \$500 for a season of volleyball. And sometimes that price doesn't include traveling or equipment.

Another reason is the fact that you don't have to be ridiculously good to make a high school sports team; this is definitely beneficial because it gives everyone a chance to try a sport, even if he or she has never done it before.

Even if you don't make a junior varsity team, in some sports there are other options, such as being on a freshman or reserve team. And certain sports, like swimming and football, don't actually make cuts. And while quitting is something to be frowned upon, if you try out for a sport and decide you don't like it (or the team), you can quit at any time. This isn't really the case for club sports; chances are your parents aren't going to let you quit if they've already thrown a lot of money into the club just for you to play. High school sports also allow you to get into a sport and possibly pursue said sport through joining a club later on.

A third reason that it's good high schools offer sports: the fact that I barely have room in my schedule for participation in a sports team as it is. There's no way that I, personally, would be motivated enough to try out for a club and attend practices. With swimming, there are often meets every weekend, which I really couldn't deal with (I can barely handle the occasional weekend meets that we have anyway).

School sports allow participants to meet other individuals with similar interests, thus helping kids to make new friends. Many teams become families, creating a comfortable niche for everyone; finding this niche is especially nice when one is a freshman or new to a school, because it creates a feeling of safety.

Lastly, school sports create school pride. You don't see kids in European countries in stands or bleachers with painted faces screaming for their school's sports teams because there are none. Yes, they may do that for a national or local team, but that kind of school spirit is missing from the school system.

For us, school isn't just a place for learning; it's an institution of which we are a part, and it's something to take pride in. I'm glad that OPS has sports. If it weren't for my friends in middle school, I never would have gotten into swimming because I never would have had the nerve or the ability to join a club; my school's team, however, wasn't so intimidating to try out for and join.

In swimming, you can vie for a place on a State competition team, or you can be content with trying for your personal best.

All in all, sports allow kids to not only exercise, but to take pride in themselves, their school and each other. We're fortunate to go to school in a district that supports sports teams.

## Central cheerleader takes pride in her school

Continued from 'CHEER' on page 16

at times, overwhelming commitment—a commitment all of us girls are willing to take on.

Friday night football has to be the best thing about cheerleading for me. Every Friday night under the lights, the football players ready to demolish another team, the screaming stands filled with students, parents and countless other supporters.

Being an Eagle is something I wouldn't trade for the world, the sheer pride that pours out of Central is something undeniable to any-

one that is a part of Central High. From our teachers to our students to our alumni the tradition will live on forever.

I will never forget my first home game at Central High School: Seemann Stadium sure was alive that warm end of summer night, it is an image in my mind that I will always cherish. After that game I knew I could never leave the Central experience for another school. Being a cheerleader at Omaha Central High School is something that I take great pride in.

C'mon, who wouldn't want to cheer for the best high school around?

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# Gym class woes: thank goodness for volleyball!



**BIG BOW STRIKES AGAIN**  
A Column by Cheyenne Alexis

I played volleyball in elementary and middle school, and I can honestly say that I was pretty good at it, and I still am okay. No, I cannot dive or spike like the other monstrously good volleyball players, but I can say that I'm better at volleyball than any other sport.

But I really cannot play any sports except volleyball.

The sport I'm the worst at is badminton. Now, it's not too big of a sport, and the only time I played it was during freshman year in gym, but that's not the point. First of all, you can't even see the birdie coming at you, so basically, instead of keeping my eye on it, I'd swing until my racket hit something, which may or may not have been a birdie.

Oh gosh, and when we had "tournaments" during that period of gym, I could see it in my partner's eyes that they hated me and they just wanted me to go sit down.

Once in gym class my teacher announced to the class that we were starting badminton, and I didn't really know what to think. I thought that I might be good at it, since it's like volleyball, only with rackets.

I was so wrong. As soon as I was passed a birdie from the other side of the net, I swung and missed by a landslide. I felt horrible because all throughout the badminton unit, I was causing my other teammates to lose; granted, it wasn't for a trophy, but I still couldn't try harder.

Another sport I'm bad at is bowling, and it's probably as bad as badminton. I used to go bowling a lot, since my mom was on a team, and I couldn't even begin to explain how bad I am. First of all, normal people hold the bowling ball with their middle finger and ring finger in the hole, but that's too uncomfortable for me, so I hold it with my index and middle finger.

I usually wait a few seconds to bowl, and that's usually the time I take to zone in and think about not looking stupid and messing up, but then it all ends miserably as I get a gutter ball from the first swing. By the time the frames are done, I hardly even come close to 100, and sometimes less than 50, and that's just... so bad.

There was only once where I cracked 100 points, and that was because I was calm and I was hardly even trying, really.

Basically, if it wasn't for my mom or my coaches for my three years of volleyball, I would never be able to say that I was good at any sport.

I play with my mom and my sister all the time, and I can serve, spike, and bump the volleyball. As long as I'm not in a sporting gym class, everyone is safe from my talentless skills.

While I may suffer from my lack of abilities in most sports areas, perhaps others benefit from the laugh they get.



PHOTO BY GISELLE TRAN / THE REGISTER

Senior Colin Buckley has always been confident in his serve. In the trophy pose, Buckley prepares to serve out a game at practice. Buckley has verbally committed to UNO tennis.

## Buckley makes quarterfinals, signs with UNO

Although Central's State Tennis team fell to schools like Creighton Prep and Lincoln Southeast, the tournament ended with player Colin Buckley's verbal commitment to UNO's tennis team.

**GISELLE TRAN**  
Business Editor

For Central High, the Class A Boy's State Tennis Tournament wasn't picture-perfect. But with No. 1 singles player Colin Buckley signing with the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), things are looking up.

This year was Buckley's last chance to win State Tennis. To his disappointment, Buckley was injured before the season even began. In reference to his 24-8 record going into State, Buckley commented, "Getting hurt before the season, that's kind of what I expected to have."

At State, Buckley hoped to receive a seeding that would help him make it to the state finals. Unexpected losses toward the end of his season, however, gave Buckley the eighth seed. Buckley said, "I had a few losses at Metro that I didn't expect to have. I've had the eighth seed three years in a row."

As the eighth seed, Buckley was destined to meet the top seed in the quarterfinals, an obstacle for Buckley's chances of making the state finals or even the second day of the tournament (reserved for semifinal, final and third place matches). And after winning his first two matches 6-0, 6-0 and 6-1, 6-0, Buckley lost to the number one seed 6-1, 6-0. Buckley felt that his seeding worked against him, commenting, "I thought the seeding was unfair and did not give the opportunity I feel like I earned to make the state final."

Even with his disappointment at only making the quarterfinals of the State Tournament, Buckley is excited to sign with the UNO tennis team, coached by Michael Saniuk. During the week of Oct. 14, Buckley verbally committed to UNO.

As for the rest of State Tennis, nothing came as a surprise. While Central High may reign in basketball, Creighton Prep leads in Class A boy's tennis. Winning 10 of the last 12 Boy's State Tennis Titles, Creighton Prep captured the 2012 team championship on Friday, Oct. 11 by one point over Lincoln Southeast. David Liu from Millard North successfully defended his No. 1 singles title, as Creighton Prep senior Niko Piperis and Michael Koch did their No. 1 doubles title.

Throughout his two-year high school tennis career, Liu did not drop even one set.

However, in the beginning of the finals match, it looked like top-seeded Liu might be challenged when Gardner opened the match by holding serve. Liu quickly

dismissed those thoughts, closing out his second state title against Omaha Westside senior Trent Gardner 6-2, 6-0.

His freshman year, junior Liu trained at the competitive John Newcombe Tennis Academy in Texas. Now with two state titles under his belt, Liu aspires to play in the Junior U.S. Open next year.

Liu noted, "I'll try to get into the junior U.S. Open, but if I can't get into that I'll play high school for sure. Hopefully both."

Creighton Prep's Piperis and Koch struggled in the finals. The doubles team closed out the first set 6-4 but dropped the second, where they seemed to lose focus. Regrouping, the No. 1 doubles team regrouped, breaking serve four times to handily win the third set 6-1 for a 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 victory, clinching the team championship by a single point.

"We started to play aggressively again," Koch said. "We were not aggressive in the second set and kind of let our foot off the gas."

Top-seeded Lincoln Southeast senior Bobby Curry defeated former champion, Lincoln East sophomore Jacob Wenger, in the No. 2 singles final. Curry returned from losing the first set with a 2-6, 6-2, 6-0 comeback victory.

In No. 2 doubles, the top seeded team, Lincoln Southwest Max Cuppens and Nick Wimmer, achieved a tough win against second-seeded Creighton Prep Peter Furlow and Stavros Piperis 6-4, 7-6 (5).

In Class B, the Elkhorn South team cruised to its second straight team title with Nikita Fomichev winning the No. 1 singles state title. Fomichev finished his high school tennis career with a 31-1 record—his only loss was to Class A No. 1 singles champion Liu. Last year, Fomichev was undefeated when he won the No. 2 singles state title. Fomichev noted that this year's win was more enjoyable than his first.

"No. 1 singles is a more prestigious award, and I'm just honored to have it," Fomichev said. "To represent my school at the No. 1 spot is good enough, but to win it is just kind of surreal."

The No. 2 singles state title was won by Elkhorn South sophomore Zahler Zandt, who fought back from losing the first set 7-5 to defeat York's Jared Miller 5-7, 7-5, 6-0.

All-in-all, the turn-out of this year's boy's state tennis tournament, both Class A and Class B, came as a surprise to few. With many seniors leaving, players will have to work hard to fill the empty positions and strengthen each team.



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