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Finals Schedule

Tues., Dec. 18th

- Zero Hour
- 2nd Hour
- 5th Hour
- 9th Hour

Wed., Dec. 19th

- 1st Hour
- 4th Hour
- 7th Hour

Thurs., Dec. 18th

- 3rd Hour
- 6th Hour
- 8th Hour



Winter Sports Preview

Get educated about each of the six winter sports teams.

Pages 14-15

“I grew up knowing three things: school was my friend, my mom loved me and I needed a Thunderston to evolve my Pikachu.”

Giselle Tran, page 9

Middle School Math Competition runs smoothly and efficiently, overall a success

EMILY BECK

Executive Editor-in-Chief

The 72nd Middle School Math Contest was hosted by Enrichment Math students after school at Central High on Nov. 27; approximately 26 area middle schools from Nebraska and the surrounding community attended for an afternoon of fun and challenging competition. Each school was allowed to bring up to two teams, with six kids on each team—resulting in about 180 kids.

The top four schools (in order) were Lux Middle School (from Lincoln), Buffett Magnet Middle School, Lewis and Clark Middle School and McMillan Magnet Middle School.

The approximately 120 Central students involved were given an array of jobs to ensure that the competition

went smoothly for the middle schoolers; each team was given a Central student as a guide, and it was that student's job to provide encouragement, and to make sure that the team was at the right place at the right time.

That was senior Bobby Gibbs' job; he was a teammate for the Norris Middle School team—first-timers at the Middle School Math Contest. Although the team didn't place in a high position, Gibbs was proud of them and thought that they had a good experience at the competition.

Other students acted as messengers and runners (typically freshmen), some worked behind the scenes grading and sorting tests, some assisted with the different parts of the competition, some were responsible for documenting



PHOTO BY AUGIE WELCH

Math students from a nearby middle school work together in the courtyard.

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(From left to right) IMS Director for OPS, David Patton, alum Clark Lauritzen, OPS President Freddie Gray and Omaha Mayor, Jim Suttle, participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony by cutting a virtual ribbon on iPads.

Celebrating a Beginning

A ribbon cutting ceremony celebrated the completion of the 21st Century Capital Campaign, marking the beginning of the future for Central.

SAN JUANA PARAMO

Staff Writer

Catering tables line the entrance of the courtyard, filled with appetizing food and the essential cups of coffee. Rows of chairs surround the infamous “C” waiting to be filled with an audience ready to witness the Wireless Ribbon cutting that will make Central High the first OPS school to go completely wireless.

Central staff, OPS representatives and dignitaries from around the city sit engaged in the speech given by Matt Aiden, president of the Central High Foundation, and a 1975 alum who “spear-headed” the campaign. “It was nice having a Central alum, somebody who knew what he was talking about (give the speech),” Keith Bigsby, Principal said.

The 12-year campaign, supported by many, reached its goal in October. The ribbon cutting was an event in which donors were honored for their contributions. “It was very nice, very eloquent, it was not overstated; it was short and very much to the point,” Bigsby said. The entire event was organized by Michele Roberts, Executive Director of the Central High Foundation.

A plaque honoring the donors was unveiled by Central students Akoy Agau (11) and Maddie Regan (9), who cut a rightful purple

ribbon to commemorate the event. “The names that are on the plaque are major financial donors, the lead donor was Pam Buffet, a Central alum,” Bigsby said.

Among the names of the people who donated, one in particular stands out the most. In the array of first and last names, one donor decided to remain anonymous. “Anonymous basically means that they want to support Central High School, they just don't want to be recognized,” Bigsby said, adding that he “can't tell them to put their name on things.”

A short, simple event that will lead Central in the right direction to a future where more and more students will have access to computers and an education that goes far beyond the text books. The wireless campaign has helped pave the way for Central as to how its testing procedures will change and the learning in classrooms will be more hands on with technology available to get the answers right away and faster than before.

“I think what it does is position Central for the opportunities that will come with technology; that we are already seeing now as we see more introductions of tablets and iPhones and all of that. We are going to see technology take

Continue to 'RIBBON' on page 2



Senior Akoy Agau and Freshman Maddie Regan cut the ribbon to commemorate the event.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ALI HODGE

Wireless Campaign

BY THE NUMBERS

500,000

Dollars from Central's budget

400,000

Dollars contributed by the CHSF

100,000

Dollars contributed by OPS

Wired computers at Central 400

Laptops purchased 110

SMART Boards purchased 75



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM WILLIAMS

Speech team practices during class periods. As a team, they have grown stronger through common goals.

Speech builds program for competition

SETH ARTER

Staff Writer

Central's speech team is into their second season and still competing. “As a team, we're very new to the whole scene,” said senior Sam Bennett, the captain of the speech team. “It's just getting used to the whole rigor of it.”

Coach Jayme Prisbell (also an English teacher) and her team have come a long way since last year. From August until November, the team is preparing non-stop for the competitions. “I think the most difficult component is actually blocking their piece,” said Prisbell.

Not only is Central new to the speech competitions, but they are one of only three OPS high schools that compete. Burke and

Bryan compete as well. Although this is their second year competing, this year is first with the team being official members of the National Forensics League.

“For many of our tournaments we have had students place,” said Prisbell. Preparing for and memorizing a speech doesn't just happen instantly, as there are several steps that need to be taken before the tournament season.

First, the students must select the events they will be competing in, which include dramatic, humorous, poetry, duo, informative, persuasive, and entertainment.

According to the speech team, the tough-

Continue to 'SPEECH' on page 2

Leaps and Bounds

Central alumnus Claire Goodwill pursues her passion for being a professional dancer with Ballet Nebraska.

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The End for Bullies?

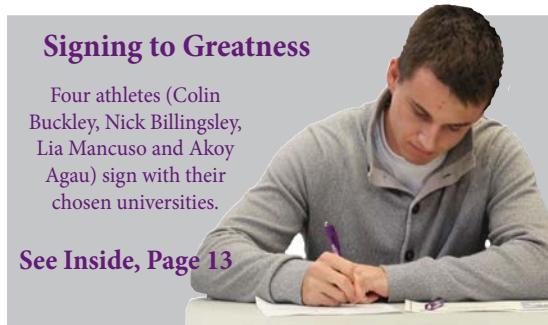
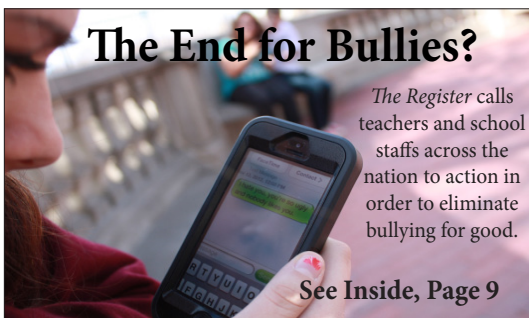
The Register calls teachers and school staffs across the nation to action in order to eliminate bullying for good.

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Signing to Greatness

Four athletes (Colin Buckley, Nick Billingsley, Lia Mancuso and Akoy Agau) sign with their chosen universities.

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The Register

2012-2013

ATTN: The Register
124. N. 20th Street
Omaha, Neb. 68102

Phone: (402) 557.3357 Fax: (402) 557.3339
central.journalism@ops.org

Editor-in-Chief: Jennifer Rooney
Exec. Editor-in-Chief: Emily Beck

STAFF

Business Editor: Giselle Tran
Visuals Editor: Stephanie Paul
Copy Editor: Mckenzie Kerr

Writers: Seth Arter
Elissa Weiner
San Juana Paramo
Cheyenne Alexis
Maya Durfée O'Brien
Sydney Halonen
Raina Behrens

Contributing Artists: Imani Brown
Keali French

Advisor: Hillary Blayney
Mentor: Ali Hodge

For advertising information call Ali Hodge or Giselle Tran at (402) 557.3357, central.journalism@ops.org, or hodge_alexandria@yahoo.com

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

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

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

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

The Register has won multiple NSPA Pacemakers, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA, and has been awarded the Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA for its overall work.

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

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Letters to the editor are encouraged.

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

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

Misrepresentation of fact will not be considered.

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

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

Thank you, readers.

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

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

Wireless campaign promotes 'individualized education' for all students

Continued from 'RIBBON' on page 1

a very important role in education, and we're prepared, we have our infrastructure," Bigsby said.

With more ways to incorporate technology in the classroom, teachers will have the option of choosing to stay with the textbooks or experiment with the variety of tablets available in the market; they can also learn how to incorporate their lesson plans with tablets and computers.

"I think that it's going to be up to the teachers to determine whether they want to use it or not," Bigsby said. "The key is that we have it, it's there, we don't have the excuse 'Well I don't have what everyone else has,' we have it; it's up to you now to figure out how to use it," he adds.

By having a school that is wireless, not only do the changes affect how a teacher uses technology to advance their classroom but also leaves room for more individualized learning. Teachers and students will be able to work together more and better than before, catering to the student's specific needs.

"I think what it does is individualize our education a little bit more, it also allows teachers and students to access information that we never had the ability to access

just in time when I need it, not go home and find the answer let's find the answer now," Bigsby said. "I think that's important, just in time education."

Central became an IB school, and since then students have been exposed to a program that teaches students to be responsible global citizens. Schools that are able to provide its students with more access to technology will help better the education of IB students and benefit them just like any other student.

"We now have the ability to differentiate education and the ability to do just in time education, for them specifically it may be that we now have greater access to a global education," Bigsby said.

Central plans to stay wireless throughout the years to come, but ever advancing technology will change the way it will be used as well as educating its teachers on how to adapt to such rapid changes.

Because of the access to wireless the need for more laptops and tablets will grow, and for that, the school will have to find a way to be able to let its students use such equipment. Giving the students the freedom to use their own devices will add to their individualized education.

"That's the hope, that we will bring in more laptops, we'll see tablets come into play, we'll see students bring

their own devices," Bigsby said. "But we have to develop a culture that will allow that to happen, those are important things."

This is an initiative that many schools will take into consideration just like Central did and hopefully do the same. There are many schools, not only in OPS and in Nebraska, but everywhere that could benefit from going wireless.

"I hope so, I hope we've been the catalyst, I hope we've been the people that broke the glass ceiling so to speak and other schools follow us through. I think every student deserves the opportunity and every school need the right to play," Bigsby said.

Technology is an ever changing field in where anything can happen and changes occur faster than one can adapt. It is an uncertain ground and people have to be able to change with technology and keep up with it so as not to miss a great opportunity.

"I don't know what's going to be right or wrong when we talk about technology, but if we never get to try, we'll never know," Bigsby said. "To me it's about excuses, there are no excuses, when people say 'We don't have the right technology' my line is no, it's not true we have it, you just haven't used it we'll," he says.

E-Math students host 72nd annual Middle School Math Competition

Continued from 'MATH' on page 1

the event with pictures and some simply had to keep watch over the mountain of backpacks.

The competition was executed by Central students who, according to Enrichment Math teacher Greg Sand, did a great job. He said that, "They run it, I'm just there to supervise."

Senior Mitch Hezel assisted with the team round, in which each team gathered together and was given problems to work on together; they received only three minutes to answer each question. Each school's correct answers were added up and whichever team had the most points received a reward—pizza—first (Sand ordered 70 large pizzas from Godfather's, about 600 slices, which were provided by the Central High Foundation).

"Once the time is up, the answer is read and the room goes wild," Gibbs said. He named the team round as his favorite part of the competition. The other parts included a leap frog test, a target test and a sprint test.

Enrichment Math students were also responsible for preparation beforehand, which was "not something

quick" according to Sand—it took about three months. The students spent a lot of time learning from both Sand and their more experienced peers what a "good" question is and how to write one; they also settled on a superhero theme.

Each student was required to write five different math questions for the competition tests "so that there were more than enough to choose from to put into the competition itself," according to Hezel. Students wrote two easy, two medium and one hard level question—that resulted in about 600 total questions. From those, 58 of the best were chosen—and the editing process began.

For Sand and his students, everything was about perfection. They constantly edited and re-edited questions, making sure that nothing could be misinterpreted, that the grammar and spelling were correct, and that there was only one answer.

"We spent an unbelievable amount of time just editing," Sand said. "We had a big mix of parochial and public schools, and we really wanted to put our best foot forward by making sure that all of our commas were in the right place...and that everything looked clean."

Since the questions are geared toward younger kids, they stayed at a geometry level and under—but students were able to get as creative as they wanted.

"Most of us write stories based on other classmates and add math," said junior Megan Bruce.

The Central students who were a part of the competition particularly enjoyed seeing how the middle schoolers reacted to the competition as a whole. An array of emotions were exhibited that day, from euphoria to disappointment.

"Depending on their level in math, they're either really excited or really nervous," Bruce said. "There's always at least one boy who will cry."

Sand said that the results of the competition were interesting this year, because the top four schools were all public schools; usually a mixture of private and public schools appear at the top, but it "wasn't until the eighth or ninth team that we saw our first parochial school."

Sand said that their overall goal was to make the competition "as perfect as we can make it from start to finish." Many would agree that they accomplished that feat with flying colors.

Speech team faces tough competition in its second season

Continued from 'SPEECH' on page 1

toughest competition was at Millard South. "There were a lot of heavy hitter competitors," said Prisbell. As for preparing, the competitors are given one chance by Prisbell, and if they're not prepared with their speech, then they do not compete. "You always have to be prepared," said Bennett. Though they may still have a lot to learn, the team knows that they are on their way to success, as they are far improved from last season. "It's like when you jump in a pool and it's freezing cold," said Bennett, describing last year's season. As the season has progressed, the team has already earned more awards

than last year. Last year, there was only one award on the varsity competition.

As Bennett and the team are learning the ropes, they truly understand the judges' criticisms. "They judge you very hard if you mispronounce words or if you speak extremely fast, they hate that," he said.

One of the important factors in speech is self confidence. "Sometimes confidence can fall if you feel like you should have placed better than you did in a tournament," said Prisbell. The team is taking home more awards and gaining knowledge each tournament. They continue to work hard as to build the program to what it once was, allowing the team's motto to ring true: "One Room. One Voice. One Team."

Students initiate new Anime Club to explore pastime, make friends

CHEYENNE ALEXIS
Staff Writer

At Central, students are strongly encouraged to participate in at least one afterschool activity. Lots of students will strive to come up with an idea for a club, and if they find a sponsor the club is good to go. There are many types of clubs at Central; therefore students will have a wide range to choose from. A lot of clubs have been added this year, and the newest club has been quite a success so far, in the opinion of the president and sponsor of the club.

Ben Strazdas, senior, started a new club on Nov. 13: Anime Club. Anime, which is derived from the word animēshiyon, is animated Japanese movies or television shows, mostly popular with teenagers. Japanese animation began in the 20th century when Japanese animators were being influenced by Western animation.

Anime, unlike American cartoons, is more separated into various genres such as mecha, also known as "robot anime," romance, action, fantasy and shounen, which is geared toward male adolescents, and shojo, which is more for female adolescents.

"I wante dto make friends with people who like anime," said Strazdas as the reason for starting the Anime club, as well as recognizing the lack of such a club at

Central.

Other than those two reasons, he said that there was "no complex reason," and it was more of a pastime for him to do after school.

Students need a teacher to sponsor a club, and luckily Strazdas found one without much trouble.

He also found a room to hold the anime club meetings in. Anime Club's sponsor is James Jordan, a math teacher, who overheard Strazdas and a friend talking about the idea.

Jordan thought the idea of an anime club was good and, "...doubted any teacher would sponsor, so [he] volunteered." Jordan, who likes anime himself, is mainly glad to be helping kids out who join the club.

"[It's] good to get a group of kids who want to be there and have something in common..." Jordan also enjoys seeing the bonding between the kids who join.

Jordan also enjoys sponsoring a club because it was a way for him to stay at school later to work and at the same time give kids a place to hang out and watch anime. He has "no problem having anime in the background and grading." Jordan is genuinely excited for the club.

The club meets on Tuesdays from 3 to 4 p.m., and has about 10 members. One student, junior DecAnna Brust, particularly enjoys the club, even if there haven't been a lot of meetings.



PHOTO BY CHEYENNE ALEXIS / THE REGISTER

A student sketches cartoons in the style of anime during an Anime Club meeting.

"It's amazing, very interesting, too," she said. "Everyone's nice, funny, and it's a really friendly atmosphere."

The plans for the club are to mainly watch and discuss their favorite anime, as said by both Jordan and Strazdas. The kids in the club will be able to choose any anime to watch, but "nothing more than PG-13," said Strazdas. The senior cannot predict how the club will do next year, or

if it will even continue—but said the club will "wait a few meetings to find out." Even Jordan said he did not know how many months the club would continue.

Brust enjoys having Strazdas and Jordan as a president and sponsor, and feels they are all doing a good job.

Besides a few computer issues, Jordan and Strazdas said that the club has been going well.

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2012-2013

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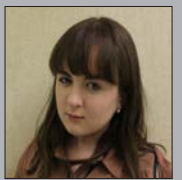
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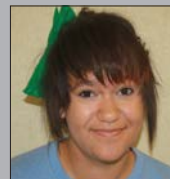
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Students dominate in math competition

GISELLE TRAN
Business Editor

Nothing says, “I love math,” quite like missing an entire day of school, only to head over to the University of Nebraska—Lincoln for the annual UNL Math Day.

On Nov. 15, Greg Sand, math teacher and professor at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, traveled with 45 Central students to Lincoln, where the students competed with over 1,000 high school students from 99 Nebraska high schools.

UNL Math Day is comprised of two contests, PROBE and Math Bowl. Math Bowl is conducted similar to quiz bowl. Teams are chosen from each high school to compete in fast math.

Every student competes in PROBE I, in which they take an hour-long, multiple-choice test. The top 50 scorers from PROBE I are invited to compete in PROBE II, an hour-long essay exam that emphasizes mathematical knowledge, depth of understanding and written expression.

The top three female scorers and top three male scorers from PROBE I receive awards, and the top ten scorers on PROBE II receive a total of \$34,000 in scholarships. Central was proud to have senior Marika Svolos place 1st and junior Ryan Goding place 3rd in the overall competition. Svolos and Goding received \$8,000 and \$4,000 scholarships, respectively, for their achievement.

Women dominated this year’s UNL Math Day, with 1st, 2nd and 4th place overall in the scholarship competition. To the surprise of many, Svolos is the first female to ever win the scholarship competition of UNL Math Day. Svolos noted the significance of her achievement.

“I felt really proud because it was good thing for myself, but also because I don’t feel girls are represented enough in math contests,” she said.

Not surprisingly, Svolos appeared to handle the math competition with comfort. She said, “I thought it didn’t seem that hard, probably because this was my third year, so I had some experience.”

UNL Math Day provides an encouraging learning environment where math is welcome. The stereotype of “only nerds go to math contests” could be fading away, in part because of competitions like Math Day. What these high school math students do share is a love for math. Many of them have a knack for mathematical problems.

“I’m an analytical person,” Svolos said, “and I like problem solving.” These bright, engaging students enjoy not only math but brainstorming and sharing ideas. Many of them build relationships and connections that foster intellectual curiosity. Svolos noted, “It gets better every year, and it’s exciting because there are a lot of really smart kids. When we all get together, we come up with really smart things.”

This year marks the 23rd anniversary of UNL Math Day. Every year, students compete in mind-boggling mathematics, but it’s not all grueling math. With the downtime available, many students play Frisbee, football and tag in front of Nebraska Union. Students have the opportunity to interact with people from all over the state of Nebraska, and it’s a chance to expand horizons, make friends and share experiences.

Svolos looks back at her high school math career with appreciation. “Mr. Sand has helped me a lot. He’s the best math teacher I’ve ever had. He’s created a lot of opportunities for me,” she said.

Both students and Sand look forward to each UNL Math Day with enthusiasm. Sand commented, “It’s our chance to bring a large group of students and engage them in mathematics outside the classroom...It’s also an opportunity for us to celebrate the excellent performance of our peers.”



1. The entire project is represented in front of room 236 on the community wall. 2. A poster represents what the ‘Giving Tree Project’ is and how a student may be involved. 3. Individual gifts are listed on Post-it notes.

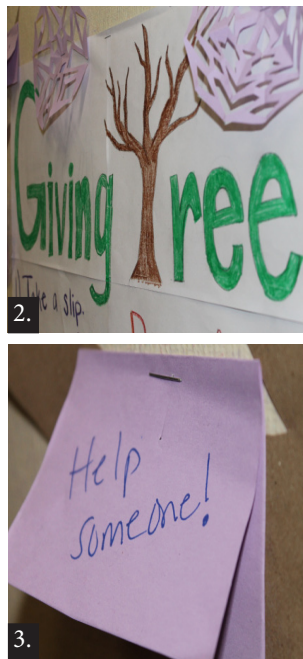


PHOTO COURTESY OF JHALISA ROBINSON

YLO Students participate in holiday giving

Central Ambassadors expand their philanthropy as they invite their acquaintances to take part in The Giving Tree Project.

JENNIFER ROONEY
Editor-in-Chief

“I think it’s really important to give back to your community, and I love Youth Leadership Omaha Ambassadors because you meet a great group of students who generally care about making a difference in their community. You make really great relationships with people as well,” said senior Giselle Tran, member of Youth Leadership Omaha (YLO) Ambassadors, a community service group.

Tran is not the only student at Central making a difference with YLO Ambassadors. Junior Ryan Goding and seniors Maureen Kalkowski and Jarel Allen, are also in YLO Ambassadors and have contributed to a project called the Giving Tree Project here at Central.

YLO Ambassadors usually meet twice a month. They focus on volunteering and fundraising for their community. To become an official “ambassador,” they had to participate in Youth Leadership Omaha as a sophomore. YLO is an organization run by Creighton University seeking to create civic minded students. After participating, students could return as an ambassador.

Youth Leadership Omaha has been doing the Giving Tree Project for years. They established this at schools like Elkhorn and Creighton Prep. Last year, all of the YLO Ambassadors raised enough donations to fill eight SUV’s and Tran hopes to raise even more this year.

The Giving Tree Project is where anybody can take a note off of the tree on which a gift is written. For example, gifts that may be written on it are “six pairs of socks,” “a can of food” or “a toy truck.” The ages of people who will benefit are from the gifts run from an infant to late adolescent. The price ranges from \$10 to \$15 because YLO Ambassadors wanted to make the presents affordable.

After the new and unopened gift is bought, the student tapes the note on top off the gift and brings it to Mr. Nielson’s office. All of the presents will be sent to charities like the Open Door Mission and Siena Francis House to help families that can’t afford gifts, especially around the holidays. Most churches are seen to be doing things like this around the holiday.

“A lot of churches are really successful. I’ve never seen it done it at Central. It’s a good way to promote awareness and give back to the community... It’s a good thing for the students and the school,” said Tran.

This project at Central is being sponsored by the National Honor Society. Usually projects are done like these are done in small groups like NHS, but students are never aware of what is really going on in their community. This way all students can be involved and realize what they can do to make a difference in their community.

These students even had to ask for Dr. Bigsby’s permission at first. The two problems were there couldn’t be any religious views towards it and on where to put it in the school.

Some schools, like Creighton Prep had it much easier because religious views were not a problem. For the gift notes, they even able to cut out angels for them. And because they have more power in accessing money, they students could just email parents to grasp donations for the project.

It is also more difficult for Central, because it is harder to encourage students to engage in because not all students can maybe because of money or time. “It is more to let students know what is going on in the community,” said Tran.

Not only can the students get involved, but the administrators and staff can too. It’s open to everybody out there. “I hope they will participate, too. If we get the word out there, I think they will be willing to contribute as well,” said Tran.

The tree was set up on Dec. 3 on the community wall across office 236 and plans to stay up until Dec. 14. Allen and Tran set up the entire tree, Goding and Tran made the actual tree, and Kalkowski helped get the word out.

The students tried to make the tree as nonreligious as they could, making it look like a normal branched tree without leaves, but the “ornaments” on which gifts would usually be written are notes. By the tree also consists of directions in case anybody is unaware of what they must do to make a difference in donating. It just takes a few simple tasks.

“I encourage all the students to donate because it is going to a good cause,” said Tran.

Chess Club hosts contest, ranks first

MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Staring at kings and queens. Contemplating on whether to use one’s best knight. Is this a fair-rytale? No, this is chess. The Central High School chess club has shown off their skills in their previous competitions and in their meetings.

On Saturday, Nov. 17th, Central hosted the largest chess tournament ever held in Nebraska. Central’s chess team participated in the tournament and placed 1st overall in the high school section. This tournament was not just limited to high school students, students from elementary and middle schools played as well, and even some adults decided to join in on the fun. In total there were 276 participants, with only 25 in the high school section.

“There were fewer high school students than last year,” said Thyden, the chess club sponsor, “most kids were from elementary and middle school teams.” The teams six best players did not play in the high school section, but rather the played in the adult section. Senior Mitch Hezel—the chess team’s best player acclaimed by Thyden and by his fellow teammates—has also participated in this tournament.

“I didn’t play in the high school section, they played in the adult division,” said Hezel, “I played against adults. I went two and two, two wins and two losses.” Noah Zaleski was another participant in the tournament and placed first in the section he was in. Each person in the tournament had 45 minutes, so a game could only last up to an hour and a half.

While they share the same game, chess club differs from the chess team. On Tuesdays the club works on mastering their skills. Some even go to library to check out books to better their knowledge on the game, meetings usually lasting until 4:30 pm. “The chess club is made up of 20 members, and the chess team is made up of eight members,” said Thyden. Some members of the chess club do not want to participate on the chess team so that is why they join the club, but all the members on the team happen to be members in the club.

Pieces on a chess board are different than other types of game pieces. They all serve different functions and have different names. “Pawns can move up and attack diagonally,” said Zaleski. “Knights can go up and over two, like a T. Bishops go on diagonals as long as they stay on the same line. Anoraks can go vertically or horizontally on the board.”

Although the chess team has already finished their first tournament, they have more to come. These include many individual and team tournaments including the High School Championship. For the individual chess championship competition the team will send its two best players and they will play against all the other high schools.

Just starting out at chess is much easier than not. “Getting better is difficult,” said Hezel. “If you are just starting out you are going to get good at it quickly but mastering is the hard part.” Hezel also advises to get that to improve one’s skills at chess one must practice practice practice. He also recommends checking out books on chess and how to play it.

“Even if you’re completely terrible at it [chess] is still a fun game to play,” said Zaleski, as his teammates teased on his lack of skills and abilities. The environment in the room is serious, but not overwhelmingly. Fellow members crack jokes with one another, Thyden even getting in on it. They all have their strengths and their weaknesses, but they share one common goal: a love for the game and striving to improve, piece-by-piece.

Fundraiser dinner to occur in January

The Central High Performing Arts Department will be hosting a fundraiser dinner, called the Downtown Purple Jam, on Jan. 26, 2013, at 5:30 p.m. in the cafeteria.

The evening will include both food and a performance at 7 p.m. by local funk/rock group Soul Dawg.

Tickets are \$25 each in advance and \$30 at the door.

Proceeds from the dinner will help to fund a spring break trip for more than 80 students to Dallas, Texas, where they will have the opportunity to sightsee and perform for internationally recognized clinician Frank Troyka.

History and AcaDeca Students explore D.C.

SYDNEY HALONEN
Staff Writer

From Nov. 9 -11, Omaha Central students from AP United States History and Academic Decathlon classes had the opportunity to participate in a trip to Washington, D.C. The students left early Friday morning, making it back to Omaha late Sunday night. From the Lincoln Memorial to the White House, the Eagles were able to visit many landmarks in a matter of only three days.

“It’s my favorite city in the world, I’ve probably been there 20 times,” said APUSH teacher Scott Wilson, one of the chaperones who went on the trip.

“For a history teacher it has so much to do and to see every time you go.”

Students from APUSH and AcaDeca and six teachers went on the trip, which began early Friday morning. Within the first two days the group visited the American History Museum, the Russian Cultural Center, a Monument walk, featuring Lincoln’s memorial, the Vietnam memorial, the Martin Luther King Memorial, and the FDR memorial, visited Arlington National Cemetery, toured the White House, and visited the Air and Space Museum. “The most emotional monument for me was the Vietnam Memorial,” said junior Katie Winekauf. “There the veterans there read-

ing off names of soldiers who they lost and also family members remembering those who they have lost.”

The students stayed busy during the daytime, yet the night hours were also filled with activities.

“Saturday night we caught an advanced showing of the movie ‘Lincoln,’ which came out in D.C. a week before it came out in Omaha,” said Wilson.

The movie received high ratings from the students as well as the rest of the country.

“My favorite part of the trip was the Abe Lincoln movie because it was the best movie I have ever seen,” Winekauf said.

On Sunday the group rented a bus and drove to tour Antietam Battlefield and the Air and Space Annex, and then headed back to Omaha.

“There is something for everyone in D.C.,” said Wilson. “The Russian Cultural Center was something I hadn’t seen before.”

D.C. is in a small area that’s full of history; the students were able to see a lot of the city within three days. “On the Lincoln Memorial I read his second inaugural address and the Gettysburg address every time I go,” said Wilson “It’s always impressive, it’s always cool to think about all of the people that have been to the Lincoln Memorial, like Martin Luther King.”

“I would participate in a school trip again,” said Winekauf. “It was a really fun time and I learned a lot.”

Music students put on successful dinner theatre

Continued from ‘MADRIGAL’ on page 1

about 45 tickets were sold, and a significant profit was made since most of the food was donated by parents involved in VOICE.

“This year went about as smoothly as it has ever gone,” Bouma said. “The music itself was great... and the dinner part of it went as smoothly as I can ever remember.”

The music included a variety of old and modern songs, including classic Christmas tunes like “Deck the Halls,” “Joy to the World” and “Do You Hear What I Hear.” Many CHS Singers and Bel Canto members had the opportunity to sing solos; several

of these were seniors Dreizan Moore, Joe Fitzgerald and Emma Turbes, juniors Abbi Laferla and Dan Hangman and sophomores Melissa and Gina Comstock.

“CHS Singers works really hard to prepare for it,” said junior Samantha Quintata. “The other groups did amazing as well.”

The night proved to be a good time for all; supporters of the performing arts department, the music directors and the performers alike enjoyed themselves while contributing to a beneficial cause.

“It’s always fun to do the Madrigal Dinner because it’s so festive and it’s nice to be able to raise money for our department,” Quintata said. “I like it because it’s always a good time for everyone.”

DECA students attend conference in Michigan

GISELLE TRAN Business Editor | **RAINA BEHRENS** Copy Editor

Every year, students from across the Midwest connect and share ideas about business at the Central Region Leadership Conference (CRLC).

For students involved in DECA, an association of business students, this conference was an opportunity to discover how DECA can make a difference in someone’s future.

On Nov. 16, students attended the CRLC in Detroit, Mich. While the conference lasted only three days, the schedule was action-packed. Students attended engaging workshops and seminars that taught them how DECA applies to the real world. Inspiring speeches were made, and entertainment was abundant. Central High was just one of many schools that brought students to CRLC. During its travels, the Central DECA chapter stopped in Chicago, Ill. for one night. Students explored the Windy City, shopping on Michigan Avenue and sightseeing at the Navy Pier.

The theme of the 2012 CRCL was Connect. Many DECA students felt that the conference was an invaluable opportunity.

Senior Henry Gentle said, “I gained valuable networking opportunities that I would not have received without other DECA members in the metro area.”

At the conference, high school students focused on expanding their network. They discovered the value in making connections—how connecting can help them in their future endeavors. After a speech, students were divided according to state and encouraged to “connect.”

The following Saturday morning, the students attended five different seminars. During these seminars, guest speakers talked about a variety of topics, including leadership, sports marketing, the Muscle Dystrophy Association and networking.

At the conference, students thought they gained an abundance of practical knowledge.

Meeting so many students from other schools and hearing about what they do with their DECA chapter also helped to inspire Central students.

Central High was not able to attend the closing ceremony the next morning, due to the long bus ride back to Nebraska. As a chapter, however, the students spent quality time together, between the 28 hours of bus riding and the conference.

Students felt that the conference helped bring the Central DECA Chapter together. The members left Omaha knowing a majority of their chapter, but they returned knowing everyone. The Central Leadership Conference helped students learn more about leadership and how to connect with people in and around their community.

Corrections from *The Register’s* Oct. 30 issue

A headline, entitled “Central High School senior volleyball player, Sydney Lee, dominates with 17 kills in one game” incorrectly listed Sydney Lee as a senior. She is currently a junior. *The Register* staff apologizes for the error.

A story called “Student Council plans newest school tradition,” about the upcoming Winter Formal, incorrectly listed the date as Feb 5; the dance is to take place Feb 2. *The Register* staff apologizes for the misprint.



PHOTOS BY JAREL ALLEN / O-BOOK AND JENNIFER ROONEY / THE REGISTER

1. Journalism students pose during their visit to the Alamo. 2. Senior Jarel Allen, Executive Editor-in-Chief of the O-Book, looks through photos on his camera during a photography competition. 3. Senior Jennifer Rooney, Editor-in-Chief, and Junior Emily Beck, Executive Editor-in-Chief, proudly display their Best in Show award.

Journalism students attend JEA conference

MEKENZIE KERR
Copy Editor

Over the weekend of Nov. 15-18, staff members of the *O-Book* and *The Register* ventured to San Antonio, Texas, to attend the national Journalism Education Association (JEA) Conference.

Winning both a ninth place award for Best in Show and two individual student awards, the trip was well worth the efforts.

Fourteen eager students, journalism instructor Hillary Blayney and mentor Ali Hodge began preparations for the journey before school even began, planning fundraisers and other techniques to raise money in early August.

From garage sales to food fundraisers, each of the 14 staff members worked diligently to be able to make the trip, which initially would have cost each student approximately \$900, more affordable.

This determination to begin saving and to do so efficiently was provoked by the anticipation and eagerness held by both students and teacher.

Yearbook staff members who attended the conference included junior Chelsi Balentine and senior Jarel Allen (the editors), juniors Rachael Rief, Alex Everritt and Hannah Leuders, sophomores De'ja Thomas-Valentine and Elinore Hantula, and freshmen Christopher Winchester and Rylee Bottoroff.

They attended the conference with five newspaper staff members, editor-in-chief Jennifer Rooney (senior), executive editor Emily Beck (junior), sophomores Maya Durfee-O'Brien and San Juana Paramo and junior Stephanie Paul.

"I was excited with how many of our students were competing for the first time, and I knew our publication would stack up well against the rest of the country," said journalism advisor Blayney, whose San Antonio trip became her second JEA conference experience.

Blayney was accurate in her assumptions; *The Register's* ninth place award came out of the approximately 100 other schools competing from around not only the United States, but the globe.

Following this award were also two other single awards given to yearbook student Rief and newspaper staff writer Durfee O'Brien; Rief received an 'Excellent' in Student Life Copy and Caption Writing (the second highest placement given), and Durfee-O'Brien accomplished an 'Honorable Mention' in review writing.

In last year's competition *The Register* did not

place, making ninth a sweet victory. Rief's 'Excellent' was also an indicator of personal success among the writers, making a few steps up from her 'Honorable Mention' award in the exact same category last year.

And along with the many sweet successes of the conference, each journalism staff member picked up very valuable lessons in the tips, tricks and ethics in all aspects of journalism, taught to them by key-note speakers and through workshops.

Central's journalism staffs attended different workshops all day Friday and Saturday, learning about everything from byline writing to taking successful pictures.

"I had a complete blast," said junior Chelsi Balentine, "and I thought the workshops were beyond helpful. My workshop on photography really helped me explore new aspects of photo journalism, which I can absolutely apply to my work as Editor of the *O-Book*."

The JEA Conference is held with the importance of further educating and progressing students' skills in the journalism field.

Yearbook editor Allen also took away exactly what he had anticipated to from the conference: more enhanced skills to apply to the yearbook.

"I learned how to relate to staff members," he said, "as well as learning how to be a better business manager."

Both Balentine and Allen said that apart from learning quite a bit in conference classes, they each felt pressure to perform well during the individual write-off competitions, which taught them to work under a deadline, a skill they anticipate they will take back to Central.

Students also got the opportunity to explore San Antonio's Riverwalk in between their time at the conference. The Hyatt Riverwalk Hotel was only steps away from the Riverwalk, which included shops and restaurants.

"The Riverwalk was beautiful," said Advisor Hillary Blayney. "I appreciated that it provided a safe place for my students to have fun."

Not only did each staff come back to room 029 with a more in-depth knowledge of journalism, but also with better relationships.

"The students got to know each other outside of school and were able to intermingle with each other's staffs," said Blayney, "meshing both yearbook and newspaper together well."

After accruing awards from national conferences like the JEA's, each publication staff member feels ready to take on the world of journalism competition.

IB students adopt a family for the holidays

ELISSA WIENER
Staff Writer

The holiday season always has a certain essence about it that can't be missed.

Each year, right after Thanksgiving, the holiday season starts and so do the feelings about the holidays.

Stores begin to advertise for holiday sales and bargains, people start to put up colorful lights and decorations around their house, and family and friends buy presents to give to each other.

For many, this is a very thrilling and enjoyable time of year.

For others, however, it is simply a reminder of how little they have. While their friends are shopping and buying the nicest gifts available, they are staying at home wishing they could afford something half as nice for their children.

This year, Central's IB students decided to help as many less fortunate families as possible to have a wonderful holiday season.

The IB-Adopt-A-Family is the program they chose to use to help the families.

"The IB-Adopt-A-Family is just an opportunity for our students to volunteer. We are working with Open Door Mission and we get an adopted family that they supply and there will be about six families," says senior Mishala Lewis who is in charge of the entire operation. "We buy them Christmas presents... It's going to be either a single parent or a mother, father and children."

Lewis is not only the organizer for the entire operation but also the inspiration.

"I get emails from the Open Door Mission so they keep me updated on volunteer opportunities. I just like to help and I'm known in IB to have all the voluntary

ideas...I have a lot of things on my shoulders so I keep coming up with new [ideas]," Lewis said.

This particular idea hoped to "accomplish supplying several families just a great Christmas... something to look forward to," says Lewis.

Even if it creates an amazing Christmas for just one family, the IB-Adopt-A-Family will have done its job.

As of Dec. 5, there are six students participating. Lewis hoped to supply multiple families with gifts.

But with only six students involved, they "are just going to take them all to one family of six."

Lewis said, "There's six of us participating and we're just going to have an individual person that we each buy presents for."

The family was not chosen by Lewis. "The Open Door Mission emailed me the family and I will be telling the students which family member they can have or if they want to choose a person," Lewis said.

It's all an anonymous project.

The students will know who the family is and which member they are giving gifts to in order to make sure it is something that particular person will enjoy, but the family being supplied with gifts will not know who they are from.

The students and the family will never meet face-to-face.

While the family will not know the who is donating, it will know it is getting gifts.

The program will be done on Dec. 16.

"It's not really a place," clarifies Lewis, "We just buy gifts and then take them to families."

Even with the few students participating, they still have the ability to turn someone's holiday completely around and supply them with wonderful presents.

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LEAPS AND BOUNDS

Claire Goodwillie, 2009 graduate of Central High School, makes her alma mater, her family and herself proud through her successful career as a professional dancer for Ballet Nebraska.

EMILY BECK
Executive Editor-in-Chief

Claire Goodwillie, who graduated from Central High in 2009, has been cultivating a career as a professional ballet dancer since she was six years old.

The Central alumni began gymnastics at a tender age, only to find that she was terrified of high bars and lacked any zeal for the sport. So her mother stuck her in a ballet class, and from there she bloomed.

Although Goodwillie studied jazz, tap, character and modern dance as well, ballet was always her focus, and, unlike gymnastics, she quickly developed fervor for it that she still possesses today.

"I love the athleticism that is involved," Goodwillie said. "People, I think, really underestimate how physically demanding ballet is."

"I also love that on top of being athletic, it is artistic, because of the musicality and storytelling that is involved... Dancing is much more than just doing the steps. It is about telling a story and making the audience feel something. It is a big challenge to combine all those elements, and I think, ultimately, it is the challenge of it that I love."

Goodwillie's passion allowed her to dedicate herself to developing her skills—and devote herself she did. "From the time I was 11 through graduating high school, I took dance class 6 days a week," she said.

Because her schedule was heavily laden with dance, Goodwillie had little time for other things while at Central. After a long school day she would usually have dance until 7 p.m., and on Saturday mornings the dancer would attend two-hour classes. The rest of her weekends were quickly taken up with rehearsals for whichever show she was preparing for at the time.

The alumni did make time for studying, of course, and she also found time to take part in the National Honor Society, the Spanish National Honor Society, and one year of DECA. But between all of those activities, Goodwillie didn't have a ton of time to go out. Her grueling schedule tended to keep her busy, but when she did leave the house, she "went to football games and dances and things like that, but...definitely didn't stay out really late very often. Oftentimes [she] really didn't have the energy."

I love the athleticism that is involved. People, I think, underestimate how physically demanding ballet is.
~ Claire Goodwillie

While in high school, Goodwillie was fortunate enough to have the Central experience. Among her favorite teachers were Marcella Mahoney, Jodi Martinez and Scott Wilson (although she never took any classes from him).

"I had some awesome teachers and feel that I got a great education there," she said. "I also really enjoyed the diversity of the school. I felt like no matter who you were, you could find people who would like and accept you."

Unfortunately, Goodwillie didn't get many chances to perform with Central's performing arts department; every time an opportunity presented itself, it always conflicted with her dancing schedule, and she was forced to pass it up. The alumni did, however, get to perform a ballet solo in Roadshow as a senior; it was a piece that she had choreographed herself.

Now studying Human Resources Management part time at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, Goodwillie juggles being a student with a job teaching dance and an assistant managing position for a marketing company. And, of course, she is a full-time dancer at Ballet Nebraska, Iowa and Nebraska's only professional dance company, which is in its third season.

Dancers like Goodwillie have a lot of responsibilities; Ballet Nebraska not only puts on professional dance performances, but also does community outreach through programs and workshops—which dancers are expected to assist with. Since the company is relatively small, dancers also help with costumes and makeup backstage; they even load and unload all of their sets.

"Being a professional dancer means showing up at work every day," Goodwillie said. "There really are no sick days or days off unless you are seriously injured."

Even with the demand, Goodwillie enjoys dancing for Ballet Nebraska. "I plan to keep on dancing for as long as possible," she said, and although her future isn't completely clear yet, she is "trying to keep all [her] options open and seek out every opportunity [she] possibly can."

The wholeheartedness with which Goodwillie has given herself to her art has certainly resonated with her peers—particularly her little sister Lauren, currently a senior at Central, who has drawn inspiration from her sister's hard work throughout the years.

"I'm really proud of her," Lauren said. "I've been able to see everything that has gone into every performance she does, going back to when I was a toddler...As long as she does what she wants with her life, it inspires me to do the same."



PHOTO COURTESY OF JIM WILLIAMS

2009 Central High School alum, Claire Goodwillie performs as the character Helena in Ballet Nebraska's production of "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Goodwillie, who recalls her time at Central fondly, said her achievements and direction from Central High School aided her in her success as a dancer for Nebraska Ballet.



PHOTO COURTESY OF PATRICK NOLAN

Junior Patrick Nolan, who was selected for All-State Orchestra, prepares for his performance. Nolan has been part of the Central Band all three years of his high school career.

Students selected as All-State musicians show off talents

GISELLE TRAN
Business Editor

The band plays, the choir sings, and the show goes on. Congratulations to the Central students who were selected for the 2012 All-State Ensemble, coordinated by the Nebraska Music Educators Association (NMEA). These students performed in Lincoln, Neb. on Friday, Nov. 16.

NMEA seeks to foster a life-long love of music making, creating several All-State Groups for which a plethora of Central students were selected.

As the largest high school ensemble in the state of Nebraska, making All-State is one of the highest achievements a high school musician can accomplish. The audition process is rigorous for both instrumentalists and vocalists.

For All-State Band, instrumentalists au-

ditioned on Oct. 13. Each instrumentalist performed one major scale, one chromatic scale, two etudes and one excerpt in front of a judge who recorded the audition. While the etudes were available online, the excerpt was available only one month before the audition date. The judges were comprised of people in Nebraska's music community, and they sent the recordings to music professors at the University of Nebraska—Lincoln (UNL) for scoring.

Junior Eddie Schooler has been playing the trombone since fifth grade. According to Schooler, what's nerve-racking about the audition isn't being recorded or the judge staring or the random selection of scales. It's the finality of the audition. There are no re-recordings, no redos, no second chances. If the instrumentalist

Continue to 'ALL-STATE' on page 6

What happened to looking presentable?

In my time at Central High, I have seen my share of outfit choices that have caused me to stop and stare. I've seen countless stomachs that don't quite fit in crop tops, leggings that aren't quite thick enough, and underwear I would have never otherwise laid eyes on. We all know the horrible moment when walking up the stairs, tilting your head up and seeing the skirt that's just a little too short. We have all seen a shirt with printed pick up lines, usually written across an underclassmen's chest, the deep v-necks that are just a little too deep and then the ones that make you wonder how she forgot to wear a bra.

All of these things make my stomach flip; yet there is one thing that can be challenged for a place at the top of the list. The ultimate fashion faux pas that makes me want Kelly and Clinton on speed dial (this is also referred to as the "I have given up all hope" look), is wearing pajama pants to school. This style surrenders any high school student from any outfit credibility whatsoever.

This outfit choice will always keep me wondering, what could be going through the person's mind that made this tragic so-called outfit choice. The average dress down day for a high school student consists of something like sweats and a jacket or t-shirt. Yet, sporting pajamas in public is the ultimate bum attire. It gives "rolling out of bed" a new meaning. Sadly, the problem doesn't stop at this initial description. There's more: the pajamas range from subtle linen to prints so obnoxious that Snooki wouldn't even bother considering. Attending Central I have seen it all, from Tweety Bird to Harley Davidson, and even the occasional flaming pants. Oftentimes it is the same offenders. It's like an addiction...once you get on this

train, there is no turning back.

How is a teacher supposed to take a student seriously with virtually no pants on? Pajamas are not considered pants in public, people. This statement should be posted on the package of all pajama sets throughout the United States, along with a photo of my protests. With all of the other attire guidelines that each student is required to follow while attending Central, why are pajamas not included? Let's be honest, if you can't get out of your pajamas in the morning, we have larger problems than your fashion sense.

Whatever happened to looking presentable? What if Dr. Bigsby came to school looking as if he had just left the YMCA?

Think about this, no one wants to see stains from that doughnut you ate on the way to school, or from that TV dinner last night. Putting no effort into appearance is just as bad—if not worse than—caring too much.

This problem can also be seen and various places around the city, not only in school are teens wearing pajamas, but around town as well! These fashion-challenged teens can often be found at places such as the drugstore, fast food joints and even Wal-Mart. Let's do them a favor, and put that outfit out of its misery, next time you see the dreaded pajamas in public, give them this rant, and hope they will soon reconsider.

This leaves the rest to you pajama wearers. Let's solve this reoccurring fashion crisis affecting Central Students everywhere. Tomorrow morning when you wake up, don't even consider wearing those dreaded fleecy "pants", go with an alternative option, you can do it, for you and the rest of the Central High population.



GOOD TO KNOW
A Column by Sydney Halonen



GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

Taylor Swift's new album *Red* receives praise from *The Register*
See Inside, Page 7

CAUTION: NOVELISTS AT WORK
November is National Novel Writing Month.
See Inside, Page 8

Attention Aspiring Novelists!

In honor of National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo), a new club begins at Central.

See Inside, Page 8

Central Celebrates No-Shave November
The Register acknowledges the month of November as "No-Shave-November" in recognition of cancer.
See Inside, Page 6

Register Your Opinion

What's your favorite way to spend a snow day?



Alexa Robinson (10)

Watching Christmas movies, drinking hot chocolate and tweeting.



Sam Bennett (12)

Playing ultimate frisbee in the snow and writing poetry.



Jarel Allen (12)

Rolling in the snow in my boxers and listening to Taylor Swift.



Maya Gogoi (12)

Reading.



Chelsi Balentine (11)

Instagramming pictures of coffee.



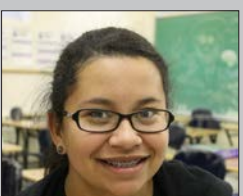
E'lazhia Gray (11)

Turning on the fireplace and drinking hot chocolate and watching Christmas movies.



Eddie Schooler (11)

Sleeping and sledding.



Dallas Sims (12)

Drinking hot tea, lounging in pajamas and watching SpongeBob.

Lenny's Sub Shop opens in Midtown, still needs a zing

EMILY BECK
Executive Editor-in-Chief

Lenny's Sub Shop is a nationwide chain that just opened a franchise in Omaha's own Midtown Crossing. Originally a single shop in Memphis, "the tremendous reception from guests at the first location prompted rapid growth and the concept soon became franchised," according to Lennys.com.

The sub shop is known for its authentic Philly cheesesteaks, and for serving up "The Deli Fresh Experience."

The menu was split into hot sandwiches and cold subs, and appeared pretty straightforward. When ordering a sub, one has the choice between a regular (7-inch) or a large (15-inch) sub and a Kaiser, which is simply the same sandwich, but on a bun.

Lenny's had a pleasant, inviting atmosphere; it was clean (the bathroom too) and the employees were friendly. The walls were decorated with huge appetizing pictures of the various sandwiches that they offer. Customers have the choice between comfy booths and tables, both decked out in shades of cream and burnt sienna.

It was clear that the place had been carefully and thoughtfully decorated, but nothing really jumped out; it felt a little bland...the food included. I had a grilled chicken Philly, which included lettuce, tomato and melty Swiss cheese. It was good, but not great. The wheat bun was warm (I was glad they had the option between white and wheat), the chicken hot and seasoned well, the lettuce and tomato crisp and fresh. But it needed a little something extra...more flavor, more zing, more something.

Something unique about Lenny's though, is the freshness of the meats and cheeses. Big blocks of different meats are displayed at the counter, and after you order you can watch as employees slice it fresh just for your sandwich. The Philly meat is apparently trucked in from Philadelphia several times weekly. The same can definitely not be said for other sandwich shop franchises like Subway and Jimmy John's.

The place did remind me of Jimmy John's though, in several ways: for example, at Lenny's you can purchase "Lenny chips" in different flavors, just like at Jimmy John's. However, the two franchises actually have totally different atmospheres as well as disparate menus. From my experiences at Jimmy John's, it has a fast-paced and slightly funny/sarcastic air to it, whereas Lenny's was not so distinct—it carried almost a generic air (but maybe that was the friendliness that they stress). I would also say that Lenny's has fewer options than Jimmy John's—and while those options may carry a higher quality, they also come at higher prices.

"It was overpriced for just a sandwich," said Augie Welch, a friend who accompanied me on the visit. His lunch, which consisted of a sandwich, chips, and soda, cost him about \$10. He ordered a French Dip, which came with a container of au jus; the white bread sandwich came loaded with roast beef and Swiss and American cheeses.

"It wasn't outstanding," Welch said. "It didn't have a zing."

The thing about sandwich places: they've got to have some kind of off-kilter ambience or uniqueness about them to really stand out. Or they've just got to have really amazing sandwiches. And unfortunately, the Omaha Lenny's doesn't seem to have any of these things...yet. Atmospheres can take time to develop, and Lenny's hasn't been occupying that spot for long; it still has some growing to do. As for the food: I think that it would take



Lenny's Sub Shop, located in the heart of Midtown Crossing, is known for its Philly Cheesesteaks.

PHOTO BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

more than one visit to fairly judge the quality of the entire menu.

My advice for Lenny's: take those everyday sandwiches and add an extra punch to them, something you can only get at Lenny's Sub Shop. Because right now, the "More Food, More Taste, More Personality"—the Lenny's motto—seems to fall a tad short.

There is something to be said about the employees at the sub shop; it's clear that they really care. One guy made a point of coming to our table after we had finished to make sure that we had enjoyed everything. Another unique thing about Lenny's is their lack of trash cans. My friend and I spent several minutes trying to locate one, only to be intercepted by a worker who graciously took our trash. Apparently customers are supposed to leave everything on the table for workers to pick up; that's all fine and dandy, but I think that they should have trash cans out in the open. Some of us do like to pick up after ourselves.

Overall, eating at Lenny's Sub Shop was a good experience. As the restaurant gains a following and establishes a foothold in Omaha, its popularity and merit can only rise.



Central musicians impress judges with auditions, 22 selected for All-State Band

Continued from 'ALL-STATE' on page 5

misses a note, the audition must go on.

According to Schooler, All-State is "a pretty big deal. This is one of the biggest achievements in high school."

All-State includes musicians from all over the state of Nebraska, from small towns in western Nebraska to Lincoln and Omaha. As this was Schooler's first year auditioning, he was proud to make All-State Band, albeit a little taken aback.

Schooler commented, "I was honestly a little surprised [...] [but] the audition went really well. I felt like the work I put in paid off."

The selection process for All-State Chorus is similar to that of All-State Band, Jazz Band, and Orchestra, except the judges do not send recordings to UNL. The vocalists are judged on the spot. The audition is comprised of pieces sung at the All-State Chorus per-

formance. Out of six pieces, the judges randomly selected excerpts from two or three pieces. Often, the most challenging passages were chosen.

While the songs were available to the vocalists long before the audition, they only knew the audition pieces one night before the audition.

Senior Evan White participated in a chorus for the first time in fifth grade. Like Schooler, White did not find the judge or the audition pieces unnerving. It was the solitary aspect of the audition that challenged White, who said that, "The most difficult part for me is doing a solo performance." Along with swimming, White has always had a passion for singing. "I like singing," he said, "because for a fairly right-brained person, it is a good escape from what I typically do—science, math."

All-State instrumentalists and vocalists spent three days in Lincoln. Much of the time was filled with rehearsals with their groups, which paid off on Friday, the day of the final performance.

Participating in 'Poetry Out Loud' brings about the meaning of poetry in life

Rhythm, verse, alliteration, similes—these terms seem to fly over students' heads in English classes. But Maya Angelou said, "Words mean more than what is set down on paper. It takes the human voice to infuse them with deeper meaning."

Dramatic recitation reveals the beauty of poetry. After watching performances by Strivers Row, an organization that strives to create positive role models for disadvantaged youths, I realized the truth in Angelou's words. The process of analyzing poems according to syntax, rhyme, and stanza does not do these pieces of art justice.

I've participated in Poetry Out Loud, a national recitation contest where high school students perform the work of poets such as Maya Angelou and the Brontë sisters. The anaphora and alliteration of a poem mean something more than repetition of words or letters. And the similes and metaphors come alive. In a poem, a breath of wind signifies the soul of a mourning widow more effectively when performed with feeling and with voice.

It isn't easy to see the deeper meaning behind a poem. For example, "The Death of the Ball Turret Gunner" appears to describe the death of a soldier, but it can be interpreted to describe the act of abortion. Performance of poetry brings life to words. A performer can reveal the double meaning of "mother's sleep" in "The Death of the Ball

Turret Gunner" in ways that words on a piece of paper never could. Somehow the passion and emotional depth of poetry cannot be conveyed by the ink on a page. And the rhythm that seems so stilted and forced in writing flows smoothly and eloquently when performed.

One of the first Strivers Row videos I watched confirmed my feelings about the profundity of poetry: http://wn.com/Strivers_Row#/videos. I can no longer look at a poem without wondering about the deeper meaning.



ITS ALL UNCOMMON
A Column by Giselle Tran

True, I realize some poems are relatively straightforward, but I always marvel at poets' ability to write poetry within the confines of structural rules. I find it difficult to write according to a certain rhythm or rhyme.

Poetry can be criticized as lacking the depth and complexity of prose, but I believe the rules of poetry offer meaning.

The structure of a sonnet, for example, implies that rhyming lines relate in some way. The ending couplet is often seen as the thesis or the moral of the sonnet.

I am loathe to write more about how dramatic recitation reveals the meaning of poems, considering that would go against my purpose. But I encourage people to explore the world of poetry. Omaha's arts community offers a plethora of poetry slams and contests, where artists, young and old, can perform original poems or recite words of the greats.

No Shave November

Many people took part in the fun of "No-Shave-November" by leaving their razors in the cabinet, some in solidarity for those suffering from cancer.

MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Across the nation, males and females alike partake in a modern tradition called "No Shave November," or "Noshember." During this month, they put away razors and shaving cream and vow not to touch them until Dec. 1. Sometimes the participation is out of sheer laziness, but in other cases it is for good causes.

One of the causes for men is a lesser-known type of cancer. In some communities men will decide to participate in abstaining from shaving to help gain awareness of prostate cancer. They will even have fundraisers to help further research this cancer, because although it is rarely mentioned, it is a common type of cancer.

The website Noshember.com, has the rules of "No Shave November", a shop, and a mission statement that reads as follows: "The goal of Noshember is not so much the contest or even the ritual shaving, but rather the sheer laziness of being unkempt and rough together for an entire month. Let us not get bogged down in detail, but keep our eyes on the prize. Or prizes as it were. We're just glad to have you beard-keepers along for the ride."

The site also has a separate section for women wanting to participate. It states that even though women may not have "burly looking beards" they still have hair growing on their body. It then continues to say that it is unusual for women to shave their underarms or legs, so they encourage ladies to go all natural for an entire month!

The Charities tab shows which organizations they have partnered with for the month. These charities are mostly related to cancer research, but there is one charity that is solely related on researching multiple sclerosis.

Another interesting area on the website is the "Heroes of Hair." Featured on this page are the people participating with the more hair than most other people.

An intriguing part on the site is the games Tab. These games are all facial hair related in some way. The games are called "Castle Crashing Beard," "Red Beard on Gold Hunt," "Beardo Kills Vol. 1," and "Mustachr." "Mustachr" is a little different than the other games, because in this game one can insert a photo and can be able to place a mustache on a photo of them or other people.

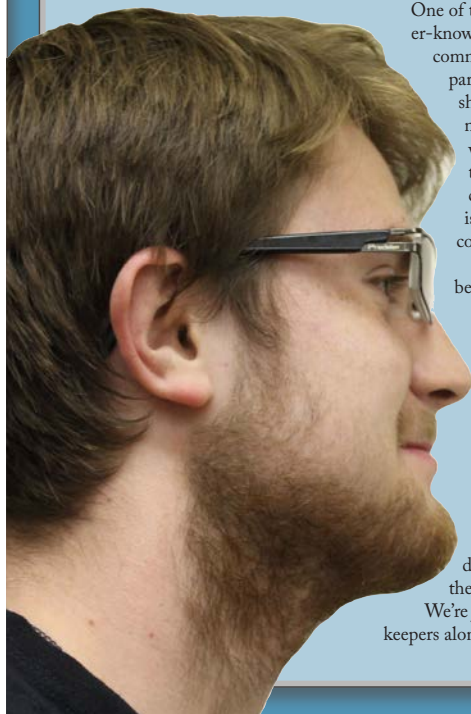
Last year they even had a contest to find the hairiest beard in America according to Yahoo News. The website AutoCricket.com made it known on their Facebook page that the winner would receive \$452.32.

Not only that, but with every single photo posted to the Facebook page the website donated \$1 to the Place of Hope Organization. The Place of Hope Organization helps provide welfare to children in foster care. They also offer family outreach, housing, interventions, adoption and foster care recruitment, and finally hope and healing to those who have been victims of abuse and neglect.

Even some famous football players will be taking part in the event. According to *The Washington Times* several St. Louis Rams players will be letting their hair grow out a little more during this month. The organizer for this is linebacker David Vobora.

He says that players will pose for Christmas cards with their newly grown facial hair. The players do not know exactly what they will use this for but Vobora says that most likely it will be used for fundraising purposes.

Whether one finds loads of hair attractive or appalling, all can agree that participating in "No-Shave November" is for a good cause.



GRAPHIC BY JENNIFER ROONEY / THE REGISTER

Forever 21 to expand Westroads Mall store

SYDNEY HALONEN
Staff Writer

Forever 21 has been a high school girl's staple since the first Nebraska location opened at Omaha's Westroads Mall in late 2008.

Forever 21 does a great job providing stylish as well as affordable clothing for Omaha's tweens, teens, and young women. Walking into the constantly bustling store can be described as a battlefield for many, yet many enjoy taking the venture to steel some stylish deals.

Forever 21 is planning to expand their highly demanded merchandise in the Omaha community. On December Eight, Forever will be expanding, spreading to three times the square footage of their current location.

The store will be moved into the previous home of the Tilt gaming center and connecting to the previous location of Abercrombie Kids, making the new addition two levels.

The size of the new store is projected to, be sized as slightly larger than the size of the location at the Plaza in downtown Kansas City, making the store not only the largest in Nebraska, but also the largest location in the Midwest.

The Westroads location will also offer a variety of new departments that were not previously offered in the old location. Departments such as men's, kids, plus size, and lingerie will be added into the jumble of various clothing items. Different lines within women's clothing will also be offered, such as Heritage 21, and Love 21. The upper level of the store will feature all accessories such as hair goods and jewelry, vastly widening the options and styles for the customers to choose from while browsing the store.

The opening night will also feature events such as door busters, giveaways, and a live DJ to create an exciting and positive experience for new, as well as returning customers to the store. With 100% new inventory on opening day, the store will be a fresh look at winter styles for 2012.

The new store will have a layout somewhat like a department store, with each department separated, featuring various employees specializing in each department of the store. Very few stores throughout the international chain offer children's clothing in the store, so Omaha is one of the few stores that offer this line. Plus sizing is also a new department being added to the store, previously only being able to order from the online store.

Forever 21 has also at least doubled their staff preparing for the new store. Many employees also attend Central High School. "The new addition is going to be insane," said Junior Tanzy Givens. "After the initial rush, working at the new store should be a great experience." Forever 21 has been a first job for many Central High School students throughout the years since it originally opened.

Forever 21 is opening the store right in the midst of the holiday season, hoping to bring in the highest profit the location ever has, and also hoping to attract customers from other cities by advertising as the largest store in the Midwest.

The original date of the new stores opening was going to be Black Friday, having to set the date back to early December.

The new store will without a doubt attract new as well returning customers, hopefully bringing in the biggest gross the store has ever seen.



ALBUM ARTWORK COURTESY OF BIG MACHINE RECORDS

Taylor Swift, 22, recently released her highly anticipated fourth album, "Red," which sold 1.2 million copies in its first week.

Swift's new album blends pop, country

JENNIFER ROONEY
Editor-in-Chief

"And in my mind every one of these memories looks the same to me. I see all of these memories in bright, burning red," sang Taylor Swift on a track featured on her newest album, *Red*.

Swift's fourth studio album was released Oct. 22, 2012, through Big Machine Records and has been on the top 10 albums in the U.S. Billboard Hot 100, with millions of fans buying the album from the first moment it was released.

Before the album came out, there were four single songs released leading up to it. The #1 single was "We are Never Ever Getting Back Together," which depicts the relationship Swift had with an ex-boyfriend, who would keep coming back asking for her. But when she let him come back, he would not keep his promise and change his ways, and she finally decided that it was over, for good.

One would describe Swift not as a country singer, but not as a pop singer either. She has a different voice and style than the pop and country singers; she combines the two, creating her own style. As always, Swift describes the hardships, intensity, passion, letdowns, joy and love of all relationships from the past, present and future. Her main message of the album is that all relationships are "red," meaning that they have their ups and downs.

The deluxe content album was available at Target. This includes: "The Moment I Knew," "Come Back... Be Here," and "Girl at Home." It also includes two original demo recordings: "Traacherous" and "Red." Lastly, it contains one acoustic version of "State of Grace."

There are many different sounds in this album. One song with an intense climb of motion and emotions is "The Last Time," featuring Gary Lightbody of Snow Patrol.

It starts off slowly, explaining that he believes the relationship will work again, this time. Gradually, Lightbody and Swift collide and weave their voices together. This song represents the hard times that Swift has gone through when

she's only given her boyfriend one last chance to show that he cares for her by putting her first.

From one slow song to another fast-beat song, Swift reminisces. In "I Knew You Were Trouble," Swift introduces a song with a fast beat bass that blares through the speakers and starts a new twist in the recording studio. This song is about the type of man who has walked into relationships with her and doesn't give one care about her; she knew the whole time he was trouble because he was drowning her with everything he never did for her.

Other than relationships, hardships and love, Swift sings about herself, the nights she has partied and been who she wants to be without a worry in the world, dancing like she is 22. Yes, this song starts off with just a calm night getting ready with friends for a party worth remembering and ends with them "dreaming instead of sleeping."

Another song features an unforgettable singer in the song "Everything Has Changed," featuring Ed Sheeran. They explain in a relationship waking up one day knowing everything has changed and just wanting to know the other more and more, but all they do is remember the past when she would have butterflies in her stomach and he would open up the door for her.

From country to pop, from upbeat to slow, slinky and romantic, Swift's music either makes listeners want to dance, scream or pour their feelings out to anyone close: she can do it all.

The rhythms and beats to all of these songs represent any feelings of love or romance a girl may have during her teenage years.

I believe that the fans represent Swift and how well the album reflects them because millions of copies have been sold--and it's true, this album is outstanding. Some guys have even been buying it and listening to it.

Her music speaks to all and is really good; whether you like country, pop or both, you'll love *Red* because "moving on from him is in burning red, losing him was blue, missing him was dark gray, because loving him was red."



'A Midsummer Night in the OC' performed in One Act play competition



1. Junior Aiden Hay, "Miss Quince," informs Drama Club students of the play they must perform for the cotillion. 2. "Lysol" and "Hermia" discuss running away together at the pier. 3. "Summer Bottom" tries to influence fellow Drama students of his great acting ability by reciting lines from "Romeo and Juliet."

SETH ARTER
Staff Writer

Dramatic Arts Director Scott Mead and the Central High School Department of Drama put on the production *A Midsummer Night in the OC*, as they did last year. However, the production had a new spin on it. The cast and crew prepared for the Class-A district One Act play competition which took place on Dec. 1. The performance was shortened and will have a duration of 30 minutes in order to meet the One Act competition requirements.

The production was used for the performance because "it received good responses from the audience and students who tried out," said Mead.

According to Mead, last year, "the play had a good turnout. We spent a lot of time to make the stage look like a beach." While the length of the production had to be changed, that wasn't the only change the cast and crew had to transition into.

As the crew prepared for the performance, they had to keep portability in mind due to the fact that this year's One Act Competition was held at Lincoln North Star High School. However, before that competition took place, the cast put on a production at Elkhorn South. Central also put on the production's public performance here at Central on Nov. 29 at 7 p.m.

Other than the length of the play and stage changes, no other major changes took place. "We will keep the same basic storyline," said Mead. Central competed against seven other schools at the competition at Lincoln North Star. The opponents for the Class A-1 District Competition are: Lincoln North Star, Bellevue West, Crete, Elkhorn, Fremont, Gretna and Lincoln East.

Central received superior ratings from each of the three judges. They also placed 4th overall and received nine outstanding performance awards, which was the most of any school that competed.



PHOTOS BY ALEXIS NELSON

The main characters are Hermia, played by Sydney Penrod, Lysol, played by Stephan Goodwin, Demetrius, played by RD Gerbeling, Helena, played by Gina Comstock and Summer August, played by Matt Weidner.

"It's going to be great, it's going to be one big reunion," said Comstock, before the competition. "I'm interested to see how the dynamic is different, and how we're going to make this time better than the last."

Even though Comstock felt confident about the production, it wasn't stress-free. "We have a very short rehearsal time for District One Acts, we only have a couple weeks to rehearse before the competition." Unlike the competition practice, the cast had a few more weeks to rehearse before the production. The cast was given scripts in late September and had two weeks of practice time. The rehearsals began directly after the fall musical.

"I wasn't in District One Act last year, but I've been hearing other cast members saying how stressful it is," said Comstock. Going into auditions, Comstock knew what she had to do in order to get her part. "Helena is a very interesting character and she is very obstinate...she knows who she is and is not afraid to voice her opinion. Auditions were fun, like one big drama game," she said.

Although some things are the same, not everything is. "There are some major changes," she said. "Lysol from last year is not playing the part this year. A new character is being added: a Snout."

"At first, I wasn't sure how I felt about it, because I've grown very attached to the part of Helena, and I heard rumors that the cast may not have the opportunity to play the same parts," said Comstock. "I felt awkward because I had an advantage over those people who didn't know the part."

"We don't have much rehearsal time this year," Comstock said. "We already knew the parts and the characters." Not everything about this production and competition was easy, but Comstock and Mead are very confident in how the performance turned out.

Register Your Opinion

What are your New Year's Eve resolutions?



Zarea Jefferson (11)

I plan to get a job, plan for college and buy a car.



Chris Pospisil (10)

Hang out with my cats and make sure their newly knitted Christmas sweaters fit.



Christina Remijio (10)

To make varsity cheer and to have six-pack abs and consistent straight As.



Elise Saniuk (9)

My New Year's resolution is to not have any New Year's resolutions.



Michael Rieger (12)

To save more money from each paycheck.



Billy Atkins (10)

To pass to the next grade.



Augie Welch (11)

To stop procrastinating so much.



Toni Collins (11)

To boost people's confidence and be more outspoken.

Holiday season is a valuable time of the year, not a time of consumerism

The phrase, "Merry Christmas," may be significant to the Church, signifying the importance of Christ or the love of family gatherings around a Christmas tree. But to me, it is not just this holiday, but the entire month of celebration, that is important to me.

The first time you realize the holiday season is approaching is that Friday after Thanksgiving that we all suffer from called "Black Friday." Most people achieve their very first holiday shopping on this day because so many places have sales going in and out of the door.

On this day, I stay away from all stores and just choose to do something lazy like be wrapped up in a blanket and watch movies all day because I choose not to be stepped by these insane people in this world.

Something I always wish to have while the holiday season is approaching is something some people in this world hate so much and that is snow. Yes, I do hate driving in I admit, but I think the snow just makes the world outside of the buildings and walls look so beautiful and bright.

I usually don't think it's a real "Winter break" or "Holiday Season" without the snow falling on the ground. It just doesn't look right. Snow is what makes it real, to me.

I also adore the gorgeous lights everywhere from West Omaha to Dundee to downtown. My family used to put up lights every year because our neighborhood would have a competition in them and it was just the way of the holiday season to put them up. If there was a huge snow storm, my dad and I would even add a big snowman to our yard to make it even more applicable for a place in the winners.

Although it was as cold as ice outside, I would still stand outside as a child dressed as "Santa's little elf" waving to random cars as they drive by just to win first place in a friendly Christmas lights neighborhood competition. I thought it was ridiculous at that age, but if I saw that now, I would think it was adorable and a first place winning house.

Every time you see a big "overload" truck with even cars ahead and following it to make sure everything travels right and all other drivers know how important it is to be careful driving around it carrying a lot of connected lights, you know exactly where it is going, the American National Bank on 90th and Dodge to create the many feet high Christmas light tree once again.

The spirit of giving also gets to me in

this season because there is no other time of the year that people have so much heart. Some people don't have as much money as others so they can deserve the same the richer people do.

Although I love receiving gifts, I love giving them even more. I live the feeling when someone is un-wrapping my gift and see what I have actually thought to buy them with my own money earned. I also love to see their faces to the cards I have written inside with so much thought to show how much they mean to me.

Some people may not think that about me, but it is true. I love to give gifts to people I care about and I even wish I could share more to people that need it, for example, I would love to give money to the Humane Society or SPCA for all of the work they do to help animals in need.

My neighborhood used to have a lot of Christmas carolers, but for some reason there has been less and less and now there just aren't any anymore so when I do see them I just want to stand outside and listen to them as they walk door to door down the block.

I love the holiday songs, not only Christmas, but any in this winter season. They not only get me into the holiday, but they bring heart to it all. It's just not a type of music like country or rock or pop. It's something most people are into during the season. Everyone knows the songs. I even hear some people humming, singing or whistling them when it may be summer or spring.

But I have met someone that does not like them because they have heard them throughout their life and are already sick of it even though they are only 16 years old. But then why do the middle aged and older people still like them if they have heard them for 50 years or more? I just don't understand how you could already hate something when you're still very young and have many years to broaden your music interests.

Sometimes Christmas Carols just make me think of my childhood too. It's a different type of feeling. I never see them around my neighborhood singing anymore. It makes me a little sad. But, someday I will see them once again and I will be back in my childhood.

Whether it is Hanukkah, Christmas, or even Kwanzaa, the holiday season speaks to me different than some people and it's my favorite time of the year because of the giving, the spirit, and the gorgeous outside world. I will always spread tradition on to tradition to the decorations and life of the holiday to more and more people I meet in this world.



NEVER WOULD I EVER
A Column by Jennifer Rooney



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

Love Culture, located at 17305 Davenport Street, recently opened a new store located at the Village Pointe Shopping Center. The shop, aimed at teenage girls and young adult women, offers inexpensive yet fashion-forward clothing and accessories.

Love Culture ideal for frugal ladies

MEKENZIE KERR
Copy Editor

Remember that one day when we all had the revelation that Hollister and Abercrombie & Fitch are owned by the same company after realizing that their clothing tags are similar? Not only were their tags similar but, wait, so is their advertising, pictures and bags. An even scarier revelation is to be had after stepping foot into Village Pointe's newest store, Love Culture.

After the initial steps into the massive, shiny white and silver doors, it may take a few minutes for your wandering eyes to focus on a particular section of the divided store. While open and free, the store has very obvious differentiations made between each "style" of clothing it holds. Another step in will bring the revelation even closer, and then it'll hit: is this Forever 21?

Forever 21, a store new to Westroad's mall a few years back, was all the rage for young women in the Omaha area. The store, originally founded by a family from South Korea, vends clothes that tend towards "off-the-wall" style while still having very basic, simple pieces for very affordable prices.

And let's be honest, there's no young lady who could turn down classy clothing for a reasonable monetary value.

And now here to rival Forever 21 is Love Culture, the store that is filled to the brim with clothing all too similar to Forever 21. From solid colored blazers and tribal print leggings to studded button-ups – Love Culture's sense of fashion is an exact mimic of Forever 21.

The pricing of most of the items are in the same range as Forever 21's as well, button-up shirts costing around \$20 and basic solid cotton shirts costing about \$5-\$15.

Love Culture, because of these two insanely obvious sim-

ilarities, almost feels like a rip-off of Forever 21. While it is almost identical in style to Forever 21, it is not in any way a poorly done mimic.

The clothing quality is at about the same level as far as one can tell as Forever 21 – not too low, but the clothes are not going to last you a lifetime.

In fact, if you are an avid fan of Forever 21, spending some of your free time perusing Love Culture might be the perfect thing to do.

More times than not I have seen duplicates of a shirt walking around the halls of Central, mainly because Forever 21 is a highly trafficked store – especially by Central students (if you haven't been able to tell by the amount of Central students who are employed there).

Love Culture's clothing is very close in resemblance to things you may find at Forever 21 without being exact replicas, therefore you might find a pick-up that no one else has at Central.

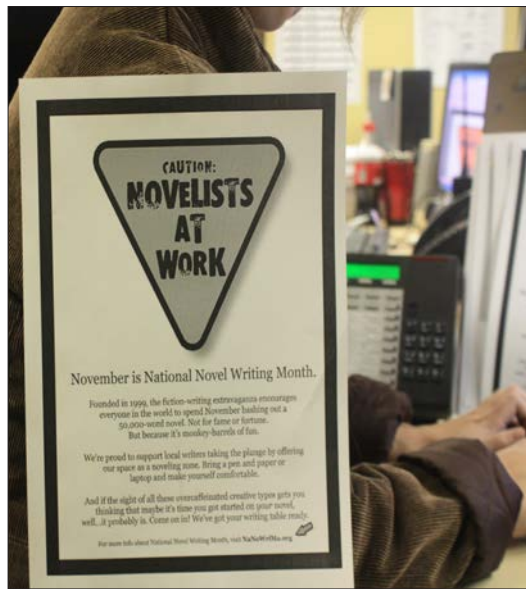
And while Love Culture is a well-done mimic, it is quite the fashion-forward store for its location. In the outer reaches of the west parts of Omaha in Village Pointe, Love Culture presents clothing that is by far different from its surrounding stores. American Eagle for the name brand gurus, Francesca's for the classier, perhaps more adult ladies, Old Navy for those looking for simpler solids...Love Culture adds a taste of more radical-style clothing. In essence, in relevance to its location, Love Culture adds a breath of fresh air to the Village Pointe Shopping Centre.

All in all, Love Culture is something to get excited about, especially if you're an avid visitor to Westroad's Forever 21.

And while it may not be the same exact thing, the original holding a special place in every girl's heart, it's a newbie worth exploring.



New NaNoWriMo Club begins at Central; provides a unique writing experience for students



Aspiring novelist Rachel Pruch, a junior, types away at her computer.

CHEYENNE ALEXIS
Staff Writer

National Novel Writing Month (NaNoWriMo) has been a chance for novelists from all around the world to purely write without hesitation for more than 10 years. It was started in July 1999 by 21 people in the San Francisco Bay Area; a few novelists wanted to just write because they had nothing else to do. The novelists realized that the whole writing process was an enjoyable experience.

The process is called noveling, and after the month of nonstop writing ended, the founders felt that if they could write a passable novel in a month, everyone could. A year later, the group decided to start an actual website and move it to November. By the first of the month, they had 140 people participating, including some individuals from Canada. The event is for people of all ages; participants can write in any sort of genre they want (sci-fi, fiction, romance, humor).

Angel Decker, who works in the attendance office, explained that the deadline is 30 days for everyone participating in the event, and the novels are to be 50,000 words, which is only a goal for the kids. But she said, "Anything accomplished is something to be proud of."

Decker runs a NaNoWriMo club at Central. She said before the club started the creative writing classes were doing it as an assignment, and that there were "Always a few, even when required, that really got into it that wrote 50,000 words. So she decided to form a club so the event was less curricular.

There are five or six kids in the club now, but Decker looks at it as a positive outcome because it's "all voluntary rather than an assignment. [The kids are] actually signing up for the punishment; which is really

cool."

In terms of bringing NaNoWriMo to Central, Decker had a strong outlook on it. "I know what it did to me," she said, "and I know students who have a story to tell, fiction or non-fiction... All I hear is, 'I can't write.'" But Decker disagrees; she believes that whether a student is a good or bad writer, everyone has something to "let out." She enjoys seeing young people get excited about writing; her main focus in starting the club is simply for the kids to let out their stories.

Decker said that even the people participating from the community volunteer to work with the club students to help or give tips, meeting at places like coffee shops. Before bringing NaNoWriMo to Central, Decker worked with the community program that participated—in fact, she was the leader. The club has guest speakers who are experts on publishing, character development and more.

NaNoWriMo is not a contest, but a marathon. "They run it so you feel you're in a marathon—in a good way," said Decker describing the event further. "For you, it gives you a deadline, gives you a boundary." Decker said that no one really reads the story, because it is more of a place for novelists to write without having to worry constantly about developing the story or editing too much. She said that it "really feels like a marathon," and it's "the same accomplishment as a marathon."

NaNoWriMo focuses solely on word count. Of course, people can "cheat" to assure they get 50,000 words by the deadline. Decker explained that noveling "turns off inner-editor so you can write... I could never get past the first paragraph." It is now her seventh or eighth year participating in NaNoWriMo. The process is "a big push," and "very encouraging."

"If you learn in it doesn't just turn you into a writer," she said. "It affects you."

Scattered members of Omaha band Tilly and the Wall release new album



Members Kianna Alarid, Neely Jenkins, Nick White, Derek and Jamie Pressnall.

MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Local indie band Tilly and the Wall has just released a new album entitled *Heavy Mood*. This album has been highly anticipated by fans because the band has not released an album since *O* in 2008.

"We decided to name the album *Heavy Mood* because of the song title, and also because it just fit well. We wanted to help our listeners to get out of that heavy mood," said band member Neely Jenkins.

The first album the band has produced in over four years is quite a complex and interesting compilation. It is not like the band's usual sound, but differs in the fact that it is more electronic. The band's signature tap dancing is not as prominent as listeners heard in previous albums.

"Jamie was pregnant for part of the recording process, therefore she could not tap—so our producer Mike Mogis took some of her taps from the songs on former albums and simulated them all together," said Jenkins.

Their tap dancing (used for percussion) has set them apart from many bands. Since the tap dancing is not as relevant, other percussion instruments are used. It is different from the usual tapping beat, almost more psychedelic sounding.

"A lot of people asked me if we'd broken up," Jenkins said. However, just because the band had not produced new material did not mean that they were not making music.

"It was interesting—we all live in different parts of the country and we co-write each song, so we had to send each other bits and pieces of each song," Jenkins said. "I would just get on my email and go 'oh here's part of this song.' It surprisingly was not as difficult as I thought it would be."

The bandmates formerly lived in Omaha so it was not a prob-

lem for them to practice together. Now Neely Jenkins lives in L.A. and so does Nick White, another band member. Kianna Alarid Cameron, a vocalist for the band, lives in Kansas City, and Derek and Jamie Pressnall live in Omaha. Doing things long distance was what they had to do to write this album.

"It was great to be back in Omaha to see my family, friends and even getting to have a Runza!" said Jenkins.

The band's album artwork is just as unique as the songs included on it. Designed by artist Ari Fish, it is quite abstract. On it you can see pictures of lips, and eyes that are incorporated with the use of bright and cheery colors. Much like the album itself, the artwork is upbeat and happy.

"Before we started rehearsing, my favorite track was 'Static Expressions,' but then once we started rehearsing I started to like 'Heavy Mood' a lot more because it is so fun to play," said Jenkins.

Another thing that is different for the band this time on their tour: children will be accompanying them.

"I'm curious to see how this will work out," she said. "We've never had kids on tour with us before." They even have gotten a separate minivan for all of them to ride in.

"I feel like nothing has changed in four years, we are all still super weird and crazy. Pretty much the same old Tilly," Jenkins said.

Tilly and the Wall started their tour on Oct. 6 in Des Moines, Iowa, and traveled to the West Coast as well.

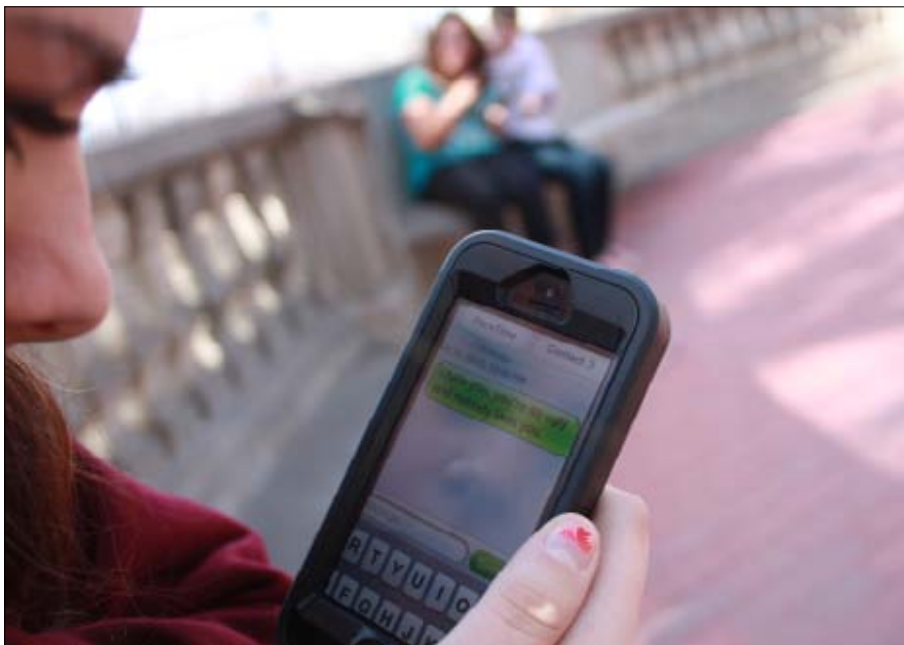
The band even has its own set, that has some of the same type of designs as the album artwork. As seen from previous shows the band is usually dressed bright and cheery; fans often say that Tilly shows are the most fun. They will be performing in their home city (Omaha) on Nov. 21.

"It's really amazing when a complete stranger comes up to you and says 'Your music helped me through a lot,'" Jenkins said. "This is why I love this job."

PHOTO BY CHEYENNE ALEXIS / THE REGISTER

PHOTO COURTESY ZACH HOLLOWELL

Opinion



GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

A DIFFERENT WAR ON TERROR

As bullying seems to increase at school as well as online, we at *The Register* are calling for a change in the way that teachers, administrators and other authority figures in school districts choose to handle it.

It's everywhere. It's a plague, and it won't go away anytime soon. Bullying: it happens all the time, in every school, and sometimes outside of school. Saying a school doesn't have bullying is like saying the sky isn't blue.

It's just a simple push, a light shove to them, when in reality it becomes worse. Pushing and shoving turn to punching and severe injuries. Teachers, adults, administrators and parents seem to brush it off. They don't want to face the reality of bullying; to them the bullies are "just kids" who are playing around. They aren't hurting anyone, they'll "grow out of it."

The truth is that bullying is a constant problem that needs to be solved now. Teachers, administrators and parents need to work together to find a solution to this growing problem. It won't happen overnight; it will take time and patience, which is why adults can't give up. Despite the struggle, there is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Parents, as well as teachers and administrators, need to be well-educated on bullying, learning prevention methods so that they know how to stop it. A well-educated adult on this topic can teach others. It's a chain reaction, and it will lead to the decrease of bullying.

Bullying has literally killed kids. Something needs to be done, and it needs to be done now. No student should ever feel afraid to walk into a building in which their safety is the main priority. The adults need to make sure every student is feeling

safe, and if they're not, they need to do something about it.

Teaching students that bullying is wrong and about its terrible consequences could make a difference, even if it's just one kid who listens. Teaching them that speaking up for someone who is getting bullied won't get them in trouble and that they won't get hurt either would do a world of good. Instead students will be helping their fellow students out--maybe even saving them.

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Bullying affects everyone, not just the victim; family and friends are also affected. They both feel the unease the victim feels when they are unsure if they are going to get hurt or not. Parents feel frustrated when they don't know what's happening to their kids at school, and even more so if the school ignores the problem or acts like it never happened.

Walking the halls of Central, one would be crazy to think something as horrible as bullying happens here, but it does. "Yes, I have witnessed bullying here (at Central), I think bullying is a part of life," Central counselor Rick Richards said. Everywhere you go, at least one person will be bullied at some point in their lives. People cannot escape it, and it really becomes a "part of life."

Because of the new technology and social networks, cyber bullying has also become more frequent, escalating the dangers victims face. It used to be that children would go

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Dress to impress yourself, not others



THIS IS RANDOM BUT
A Column by Mekenzie Kerr

Nothing gets my cheeks more flushed than the hot pink streaks in my overly-poofy seventh grade hair. During the course of my twelfth and thirteenth years of life my longing to "be different" took hold. In fairly courageous attempts from my seventh grade to sophomore years of school, I tried embracing the aesthetically stereotypical looks of scene, skater, preppy and vintagey-hipster (embarrassing as it is to admit).

My seventh grade year started out with dreaded hot pink highlights and "cool," "edgy" earrings; this sense of style transformed into band shirts and dark wash skinny jeans paired with those obnoxiously bulky skate shoes (Vans, DC, etc.) that made my legs look effortlessly petite. Entering high school, I tried repping Fox Riders Company and DC Shoes, and that slowly morphed into a love of sweatpants and the ever-popular PINK brand from Victoria's Secret.

Year to year as my wardrobe swapped and switched, I look back now and realize the pattern that was inescapable: I was trying to be a certain something, a certain way by the way I dressed. Whether it was Jordans or Vans, the essential reason I was dressing how I was, was in order to mold into a specific group that I wanted to blend with... and apparently I figured altering my dress code was the way to do so.

With that in mind, whenever I heard people claim that they "dress to be different" and "dislike stereotypical dress" for either gender, it makes me cringe ever so slightly. In no way is it a negative thing to dress differently, but that is if you dress "differently" simply to dress differently, then you are in no way too different from your "stereotypically" dressing peers.

Perhaps your idea of "stereotypical" dress for a female entails PINK sweatshirts, leggings, Uggs, yoga pants, what have you; but who is to say that the individual dressing in that certain apparel is trying to fit in? If I've learned anything through my multitude of awkward phases, it's that dressing in a certain fashion does not determine your personality or character. While certain stereotypes of clothing per person may stand true in a few cases, it in no way determines the individual in the outfit.

"Don't judge a book by its cover" is something overly cliché, just like that pair of Uggs that the girl next to you is wearing that is bringing you dismay, but it is also nothing short of the truth. As my time in high

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SMART Boards worth the hassle, time and overall confusion



GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

As Central introduced Smart Boards into every classroom last year, many people were not impressed. They saw the Smart Board as an inconvenience to the classroom and the learning environment. One may also believe that the school could buy more laptops for students at a cheaper cost than the price of all the Smart Boards. Recently, Principal Keith Bigsby opened people's eyes and gave a whole new perspective on Smart Boards.

"You have to understand what the strategy was before you can question whether the Smart Boards were worth it," he said. As the school has put in the Smart Boards and gone wireless, we have now achieved a 21st Century classroom, according to the National Education Information and Technology standards.

"What we looked at was how can we go about and begin to intergrate technology into our classrooms," said Bigsby. "Eventually when we get the wireless connection into the game, we're going to have the ability of our devices connecting to the Smart Boards."

As there are some difficulties with this new technology, students aren't the only ones dissatisfied with the

boards.

"I dislike the fact that I don't always know how to troubleshoot things," said Tina Beck, a teacher in Central's mathematics department. "Sometimes when the Smart Board acts up, I have to go back and rewrite my writing."

Even though Bigsby views the Smart Boards as being beneficial, he agrees with Beck on the troubleshooting aspect. "Not all of our teachers are masters at using Smart Boards," said Bigsby.

Even though the Smart Board will be more beneficial in the future, as it will use the school's wireless system to connect with laptops, smart phones, tablets and other technological devices, Bigsby and Beck both know that there are already some great features the Smart Board has to offer.

"Some of the teachers have figured out how to do some amazing things with the Smart Boards," said Bigsby. Meanwhile, Beck has figured out how to save the notes that she's taken so that students who are absent from classes can easily copy the notes that they missed.

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Pokemon does not encourage animal abuse, despite PETA's accusations

I grew up knowing three things: school was my friend, my mom loved me and I needed a Thunderstone to evolve my Pikachu.

I grew up loving Pokémon. I came home every day from school and watched the latest TV episode as Ash, Misty and Brock made their journey across the world to become Pokémon masters.

I admired their efforts in befriending strangers, traveling across the Pokéworld, and discovering new and unique Pokémon.

When I missed an episode, my uncle sent me a recorded VHS tape through snail mail (yes, this occurred a few years back).

On my bed were stuffed pillows in the shape of Charmander, Pikachu and Jigglypuff.

Although I was never much for Pokémon cards, I collected them to look at the new and latest Pokémon.

When I played Super Smash Brothers, I always chose Pikachu or Jigglypuff. What else did I know? Falcon, Luigi, even Mario were all foreign to me.

And when I went through the airport with my toy Eevee, I was horrified when officers squeezed its stuffing out during security.

Even today, I have a Pikachu-Raichu folder.

Pokémon taught me a plethora of life lessons. One, you must protect your individuality (illustrated by Pikachu's refusal to evolve into Raichu). At the time, this episode pulled at my heart strings.

Two, you must persevere to fulfill your destiny. Ash never stopped training Pokémon in order to become "the very best" Pokémon master.

Oddly enough, he never aged either.

And three, you can build bonds with Pokémon/animals (Pikachu and Ash are BFFs).

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) have articulated their qualms with this last moral.

PETA believes the Pokémon TV show and games promote the abuse of Pokémon, which are associated with animals in the real world. In fact, PETA released a Nintendo video game, "Pokémon Black and Blue, Gotta Free 'Em All!"

Instead of fighting each other, the Pokémon in "Pokémon Black and Blue, Gotta Free 'Em All!" use their powers to escape their tyrannical masters and free their fellow Pokémon.

The "moves," or powers, of the Pokémon have been modified to promote compassion and denigrate violence. Pokémon can attack their masters using "Group Hug," "Educate" and "Shame." How ironic that hugs and education are now weapons of destruction in the video game.

Needless to say, I disagree with PETA's opinion concerning Pokémon and what the show implies.

I followed the Pokémon TV show religiously, and I liken their relationships to that of soulmates.

The Pokémon and their masters are tailor-made for each other. They build a lasting and compassionate friendship that cannot be recreated

elsewhere.

I understand PETA's objective. The organization believes Pokémon promotes animal abuse and cruelty. But I can say that after years of watching the Pokémon TV show, I am not violent toward animals, nor do I feel any inclination to force animals to fight each other. Instead, I understand that mutually beneficial bonds can be made with animals.

The Pokémon battles are built on the principles of teamwork and love.

The Pokémon and their masters work together during battles, and the Pokémon feel the need to protect their owners.

Of course, Nintendo is rather upset.

One of the latest press releases concerning the topic reads, "Nintendo and the Pokémon Company take the inappropriate use of our products and intellectual property seriously."

In the end, PETA is fighting a nonexistent battle.

The Pokémon fight each other, but the foundation of the games and TV show is not animal abuse and violence.

In several episodes, Ash, Misty and Brock fight and capture criminals who poach Kangaskhans.

I am an avid Pokémon fan, and I admired the bond between Ash and Pikachu. I understood Pokémon as one with their owners, not simply weapons or accessories.

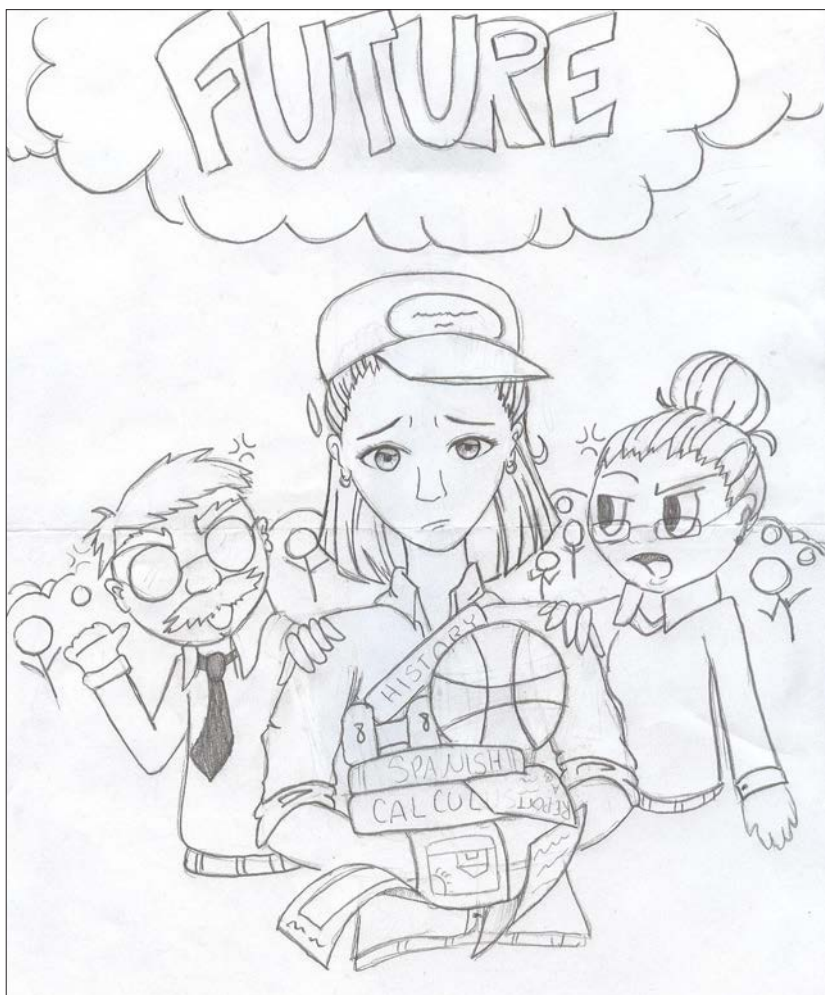


UNCOMMON NONSENSE
A Column by Giselle Tran

Under Pressure
One student explores the mind-blowing number of challenges that teens must face in their everyday lives.
See Inside, Page 10

Sugar High Danger
A drink to help you through that late night of homework should come with a warning label.
See Inside, Page 12

Holiday Consumerism Gone Too Far
People have taken the holiday season too far, believing that gifts represent love.
See Inside, Page 11



CARTOON BY IMANI BROWN / CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

UNDER PRESSURE

With college and careers looming, and the stress of holding a part-time job, getting good grades, playing a sport and enjoying a social life, are students subjected to more pressure than they can handle?

Wake up at 5:30 a.m., go to school for nine (almost all AP/Honors) classes for eight straight hours, stay after school for more activities that you feel may make you happy, go home for about five minutes, get ready for work, work for another five hours, then finally arrive home. And it's already 10 p.m.. What is this? The life of a high school student.

Nobody may ever realize the countless things high school students accomplish and try to achieve each day in their lives. They do accomplish all of these things, too—often without any help. It stresses them out, and will someday break them down.

Students receive the most pressure from anybody in this society. They are much different, mostly when it comes to their lifestyles, but they often don't receive any thanks or credit for what they do accomplish. While adults usually just have one job and then come home to take care of a family, teenagers have multiple "jobs" that they must take care of.

Most academically challenged students succeed in more than just grades and GPA. They all have something extra under their belts, whether that is work, an out-of-school activity like dance, or an in-school activity like football or French club. Let's not forget those extra achieving students who take on more than one, like National Honor Society or Student Council.

Stress happens more in teens and is often started that way, especially to those seniors getting ready for college. There is way too much pressure, which causes many to feel overloaded and forces some to want to quit—but they know that this is never an option.

College planning is a stressful subject, from resumes to ACT scores to essays. Unfortunately, some students still don't have a clue. It's good to have options, but they barely even have time to thoroughly look at different colleges around the country.

Everything has to be perfect, and when there are several people behind teens' backs poking at every moment if this or that isn't done, it gets stressful and all they can really do is become angry and want to yell the next second.

Parents cause a lot of stress for their student when it comes to college. Where do you want to go? Have you finished that essay yet? Let me see what your resume looks like. Have you studied yet for the ACT? Why do you want to major in that? Don't go to this college, we don't like it.

Why would you tell your student to pick any college when first, you know you don't have the money to pay for it, and second, you may hate it if it isn't Christian affiliated or liberal enough or close enough to home ("that's just not in your 'nature,' sweetheart, but try again."). Well, to tell you the truth, some of those things just don't matter as much to some. Parents should not be the leading factor when it comes to choosing a university.

To tell parents the truth, getting away from them is one of the reasons many students would rather live in a dorm in college and/or go out of the state or the city. Another reason may be because they just want to get rid of the people they've had to deal with for these last four years.

People may ask, "why are you getting annoyed

with your parents?" or "why would you want to leave them?" They have taken good care of you for the last 18 years.

And this is why they want to: because they know that they can. They want to leave because they know that their parents have taught them well, and that they can make it on their own. Although it may be hard, they still would like to try on their own.

Students also just want to be able to escape all of the stress that has been put on them throughout the years. They're tired of parents breathing down their necks. They want to be able to do things their own way. Remember, parents, you are the ones that taught them to think on their own.

Of course, students know and appreciate/are thankful for the fact that their parents might be paying for some of their college tuition and board; Yet they still just want to think on their own (for once) about how to get things done, even though they still need a little help financially.

Speaking of finances: and then there are scholarships. How will can students even get into college without them? So many people are forced to fill out every scholarship that they're capable of receiving. But who has enough time for them too?

Pressure is put on students to have a higher GPA, to obtain enough credits to graduate, to have extra-curricular items on their resumes and to plan for college.

Students should always remember how to fight off their academic pressure. First, they can finish their homework in libraries or cafes nearby if that provides a less distracting environment. They should also take time to plan more study time, and work ahead if something might be coming up in their schedules. Students should talk to teachers as well, and ask for upcoming assignments on days that they know their schedules are booked so that they can get started early. And lastly, the one nobody thinks of: students should daily acquire a good night's sleep and exercise. Who in the world has enough time for all of that?

Being up all night trying to finish homework also brings students down each day. They may fall asleep doing homework and wake up knowing that they did not get things done, quickly becoming disappointed in themselves. But if they stay up all night to finish, the quality of work that they produce is reduced—not to mention they are incredibly tired at school the next day. But teachers and parents still nag them about not going to sleep earlier. It's just too much to handle.

All of the stress put on students is an intellectual, an emotional or a physical strain caused by change or demands. Students are pressured to have good grades, keep up on a job, do well in an athletic sport or club and get ready for college. Sometimes it's good for a break, and many students will take several "mental health days" throughout the semester.

Students are the future, and they know how to get things done. They must learn to focus on one thing and persevere in that. It's just so hard to balance all of these accomplishments. The pressure needs to reduce a little, and students need to slow down and try to enjoy life while still coming out on top. It's a lot to live up to.

Boards a smart investment in the classroom

Continued from 'SMART' on page 9

Not only are the Smart Boards capable of things many never imagined possible, but the staff also received more training with them than many thought. "We had a couple days of training last year right before school started," said Beck.

The teachers were shown a lot of ways to use the Smart Boards, and were then given time to play around with them in order to get acquainted with their features. There are also many financial benefits to the Smart Boards.

The cost of one Smart Board is about \$1,200.

One laptop cart with 30 laptops in it costs about \$45,000. While there are different benefits when

it comes to each of these—students can take a more hands-on approach with a laptop, but can interact better technologically with a class on a Smart Board—there is no denying the intelligence that has been shown through making this Smart Board investment, not only at Central High, but in schools throughout the district.

There is still work left to be done.

Teachers still have a lot to learn about the boards, as do students. But with that knowledge will come even more benefits.

"Not saying that it's perfect yet," Bigsby said, "but I can equip 75 rooms where every kid has access to the projector and technology."

Which gives every kid an equal chance to learn, grow and cultivate his or her knowledge.

Administrators, teachers need to step up when it comes to bullying in the classroom

Continued from 'BULLY' on page 9

home followed by bullies. Hurtful text messages can go from simple name-calling to encouragements of suicide. Facebook pages have been set up to fuel hate towards the victim, causing them more emotional pain than physical. "It would be wonderful if Facebook could police that (hate pages)," Richards said.

Unless students speak up and tell teachers or adults, no one really knows what's going on behind the screen. The few times that students have spoken up, mostly because they are fed up, no one listens to them—until it's too late. Teachers brush it off, acting like they are just children who are playing around or having fun.

Name calling, harassing, punching and kicking are in no way "playing around." They are all assault, and should be treated as such. The adults in a school need to treat it as such; they need to tell students that it is not okay, but most importantly they need to take responsibility for what is happening in their school. Parents should take on the responsibility of talking to the school district and informing them of what is going on.

They go to the district seeking help, not only for their child, but also for the many others who are victims. The answer is always the same; they say that they'll do something about it and that "they're just kids," but they don't take enough action. Talking to the bully, trying to make them confess their "crime" and then letting them off with one single detention or stern talk isn't enough.

There needs to be consequences for the bullies. They need to know that what they did is not right. The punishment should be more than making them apologize. But the problem isn't just the bullies...it has now become the schools, who are really not taking any action at all.

School districts don't realize just how horrible

bullying is until it's too late and someone has lost a life. From the beginning, when a student is getting bullied they, should do something. They shouldn't wait until something terrible happens for them to take notice. "In the Omaha Public Schools, if it's a physical thing, they are going to get police involved. Its standard procedure, and then it's up to the police," Richards said.

There are plenty of schools who can learn from this. From the time the bullying becomes physical (even just a push), the police should be involved, because after that the pushing turns into assault. It would be the first step to take against bullying—and education is next. Schools should be focused on teaching their students about bullying and what could happen as a result of it—not just to the victim, but to the bully as well.

Administrators and teachers should learn to step in and stop bullying if they witness it. It is their responsibility. When a student comes up to speak to them about it, they need to listen, they need to talk to the family of the victim and together find a solution. Parents can't control what goes on in school, but teachers and administrators can, which is why their role in stopping bullying is so crucial.

Instead of brushing it off, they need to defend that student and help him or her in any way they can. They need to show the bully that they can get into serious trouble and that hurting others leads nowhere in life. Schools need to take action; they need to be actively involved with their students and let them know that they are there for them.

Schools should take responsibility for what's happening in their classrooms and hallways. They are there to teach and to make sure that every student feels safe. If schools took more action, bullying would decrease. Sure, it wouldn't end, but if they can stop it in schools, then stopping bullying anywhere else is possible.

Style, fashion stereotypes a waste of time

Continued from 'STYLE' on page 9

school has progressed, I've been given the worldly, lucky opportunity to come into close contact with a wide variety of people. These encounters have solidified one thing time and time again: people are never as they seem – and I mean that in a positive way.

Stereotypes – racial and aesthetic by style – my mind jumps to them immediately as it has been programmed to do since its entrance to this earth by society, but all of them have fallen short.

When I learned that appearance does not dictate what lies behind it, I've been able to break down walls that have been put up personally and by societal standards – opening doors to friendships and a more open mind that I would not have been granted otherwise.

And unfortunately, the way a person dresses

plays heavily into the way that I, and I'm sure many others, form a judgment or opinion on a complete stranger (emphasis on the complete part).

If someone dresses in a way that we personally consider to be "stereotypical" or obscenely "different," we just make assumptions on their personalities. It's a common trend. And it's impossible not to, because that's what our human brains naturally do.

Though really, who are we to make judgments of people we do not know?

I say that there is only one person in this entire universe that you should be dressing to impress, and that is yourself.

As long as you're content with the way that you look and how you dress, then no one else's opinion of why you do so matters.

Day to day my taste is influenced and changed, but as long as I'm happy with it, who cares?

Teenagers with motors: cars a luxury not to be taken lightly with carefree drivers

If you want to be cool, you need a car.

A car means freedom. Driving students can leave as they please, never depending on a ride from a parent, rushing to catch a school bus or waiting on the frigid lawn for a city bus to rattle on by. This translates to ease when it comes to taking part in clubs, sports or other extra-curricular activities; students with cars don't have to go through the irksome process of coordinating how they're going to get home. They have the luxury of depending on themselves—a luxury we all wish we could have.

Am I the only one that occasionally cringes while getting dropped off or while waiting for a ride home? I don't think so.

It's incredibly frustrating to achieve that small freedom granted to teenagers (a driver's license), yet still be forced to depend on others for transportation. Alas, that's just the way it is for some of us whose parents don't have the financial means to provide a car for our very own. Unfortunately, the truth is that not everyone can afford to pay for their own car payments and insurance, and many students' parents aren't rolling in enough dough to purchase a new vehicle for their child.

Just because you can't afford a car doesn't mean you or your family are poor or lazy; for example, both of my parents work, but between various bills, my sister's college tuition/car payments and our own everyday expenses, purchasing a car for me just isn't something that's realistic right now.

Honestly, it really upsets me when I see a brand-new car in the junior parking lot—and this irritation doesn't come from jealousy.

Granted, I will say that I am jealous—not of the "brand-new" aspect of the car, but of the car itself. I just can't seem to comprehend why in the world any pair of self respecting parents would purchase their child, who just received a driver's license, a new car. Obviously the student is a new and inexperienced driver. Wouldn't it make more sense to buy a less expensive (used) vehicle so that it wouldn't be such a colossal occurrence if the student managed to scratch or wreck the car? Maybe some parents believe their child is perfect, and that since they took a Drivers Ed course they're good to go...but that's just not the case.

Don't even get me started on the recklessness I've seen. The junior lot is straight up dangerous after school. While I don't spend much of my time there, the times that I have experienced under that overpass have frightened me, and have really brought to my attention the lack of skill that many Central juniors have when it comes to operating a motor vehicle.

I encountered an accident during the first week of school, and I've encountered many near-accidents since then; they're all because kids are

either trying to look cool, are being reckless and don't bother to look, are speeding/in a hurry or are simply exhibiting the fact that they suck at driving.

It's clear that lots of kids aren't following the simple parking lot rules that include checking mirrors, looking both ways and making sure that others aren't backing out at the same time that they are.

Maybe they didn't learn those rules...which leads to my next question. Why (or rather, how?) did they get their licenses in the first place?

Did these kids take Drivers Ed, or did they prove themselves to a DMV employee in a driving test? It really makes me wonder, but it also frustrates me.

It doesn't seem fair that these reckless kids get the freedom of having a car while I, a careful driver, am left in the dust. But that's life, I suppose.

Many times this lack of a vehicle thing isn't too awful to deal with—but the fact that I had a car this summer does not help my mindset now.

I was granted the family's old blue-green 1996 Plymouth Voyager—a true soccer mom van—after passing the illustrious driving test at the DMV. Sure, it tended to overheat sometimes, and it leaked oil like nobody's business...but I still loved it. That van meant that I could come and go as I pleased, and I was looking forward to having the luxury of driving myself to school.

Until I broke down while trying to merge onto the interstate the day before school commenced.

Needless to say, I was not happy with this rotten luck.

The worst part of it, though, was the fact that fixing it would be useless. It would just break down again no matter how many parts we replaced, and throwing money at it didn't make sense. So the sad, junked Voyager retired to the melancholy car show in the sky, and I was left to depend on my mom (and sometimes the city bus or friends) to get around.

Having that painfully brief taste of freedom only causes more frustration and upset for me now; fortunately my mom is generous and lets me borrow her Honda Accord throughout the week and on the weekends, but not for getting to and from school.

I've accepted that this is how it must be since that broiling and fateful day on the interstate.

Cars have been a staple of that 'cool' persona since the 1950s, and although a lot has changed since then, that aspect of teenage life has remained the same.

Those of us who are deprived of cars must realize that that's just the way that the cards have been dealt to us—and we must also remind ourselves of how fortunate our lives are, motor vehicle or not.



I MADE THIS FOR YOU
A Column by Emily Beck



CARTOON BY KEALI FRENCH / CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

Increased greed, selfishness of those who fail to see the point of the holidays utterly disgusting to some

Frankly, we at *The Register* are a bit disgusted with the consumerism that has taken the holidays hostage. Yes, a large aspect of Christmas is purchasing gifts for friends and loved ones, but should that play as large of a role as it does?

These days, holiday shopping is plain stressful. It causes anxiety and worry, and many have to be careful to put aside finances during the year just to afford to buy gifts.

How does buying your child a Barbie doll or a toy truck translate to love? How does running up your credit card bill to buy your husband that grill he's been eyeing for months prove that you care about him? Yes, the gesture is nice and all, but doesn't all of this business of what-should-I-get-them-for-Christmas cause us to lose what the season is really supposed to be about?

Maybe what I'm going to say will "offend" some people, but I just don't care; there is no denying that Christmas has its roots in Christianity, and it is widely known that the holiday is a Christian celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ.

Of course, you don't have to be a Christian to take part in Yuletide festivities. In fact, many agnostic or even atheistic individuals celebrate Christmas, and there's nothing wrong with this. Although the holiday was originally created as a means to celebrate the birth of who Christians believe is their savior, Christmas has really expanded to include everyone.

The holiday really isn't exclusive—in fact, it's something that everyone can relate to, Christian or not. Christmas falls during a time of the year when many take time to show gratefulness for all that they have. And they do this by giving each other gifts, or by lending a hand to others by giving time, energy and/or finances to those who find themselves less fortunate.

The tradition of gift-giving comes from the story of Jesus' birth, when three wise men came bearing gifts to the infant Jesus Christ in a manger in the town of Bethlehem. Since then, Christians and non-Christians alike have celebrated the holiday by exchanging gifts amongst each other.

Of course, there is nothing wrong with this tradition. But what it has done to the holiday is downright despicable. Around this time, many people talk about what "the reason for the season" is, and truthfully, everyone should be able to agree on what this reason is. Even if you aren't religious, hopefully you realize that the point of Christmas is to relax, spend time with family and exhibit thankfulness for all that you have.

Unfortunately, the world sees Christmas in a different, particularly ugly light. Today's Christmas is adorned with the far too shimmering tinsel of consumerism.

Department stores, companies and stores in general have managed to morph Christmas (as well as the holidays in general) into a giant profit. The wonder of the season has disappeared for many, with anxiety and stress taking its place.

The pressure to begin shopping commences earlier and earlier every year.

As soon as stores begin setting out their Halloween merchandise, they also start putting holiday lights and other decorations out. And the sales around Christmas time are ridiculous as well; in the last few decades Black Friday has morphed into a colossal event that causes deaths around the country. People get TRAMPLED, for goodness' sake! Last year at a Wal-Mart in Los Angeles, some woman pepper sprayed everyone within her vicinity, including a child, in order to get her hands on the last gaming system on the shelf.

I ask you: how does that translate into the "real meaning" of the holidays? Because this occurrence, as well as all of the other Black Friday injuries, is plain pathetic, and simply exhibits the ridiculousness and urgency that now surrounds the purchasing of Christmas gifts. To quote the Black Eyed Peas: where is the love?

And maybe that is exactly what has disappeared from the holidays as of late: love, or rather, human compassion. These days it's everyone for him or herself. If you want to prove your love for someone, you have to give him or her the perfect gift.

I'm not saying that giving is a bad thing; on the contrary, the feeling that usually floods an individual while giving gifts is incredibly satisfying. But we must remember what the point of the holiday season is—and what those gifts that we are giving symbolize.

According to a Consumer Reports Holiday Shopping Poll from 2011, "just 33 percent of Americans said they expect to be happier this holiday season than last, compared to 40 percent who felt that way a year ago."

Maybe people are feeling gloomy around the holidays because a) they're overspending and putting themselves deep into a financial hole, b) they can't do any shopping without fear of death, and/or c) they're too focused on the buying gifts aspect of the season instead of focusing on being with family.

Isn't happiness kind of the point of the holidays? Everyone wants to feel happy and content, but that just isn't a possibility when one bases contentedness off of whichever gifts he or she receives. Because in reality, when you turn to material things to make you happy, you can bet that your happiness won't last for long.

People should make investments in their families, spending money on travelling to visit loved ones who live in different states, or on family vacations, or maybe even on counseling.

We at *The Register* think that everyone should take a step back from the cloud of purchasing frenzy that envelops the holidays, take a deep breath and explore what the season really means to him or her. Granted, everyone may have a different idea of what the point of Christmas really is, and that's okay.

Eliminating the selfish side of the holidays will truly do everyone a world of good.

In the OPINION of the REGISTER

Giving thanks for all of the wrong reasons: why Thanksgiving is a scam

While in elementary school, children are taught to be thankful around November, because Thanksgiving is coming up.

At the schools, teachers taught students about the "very first Thanksgiving" and how amazingly nice the pilgrims were to the Native Americans.

Some students would put on plays reenacting what they were taught, and some would go up and tell what they were thankful for, because that is what Thanksgiving is about, right?

Wrong.

In school, children are taught about the pilgrims. This part is true, because there were indeed Pilgrims that came to America in 1620 on a boat called the Mayflower.

The pilgrims were a group of Puritans who came to America so that they could practice their religion freely.

After that whole explanation, the students are informed that the pilgrims met up with helpful Native Americans and they had a huge three-day feast and everyone was happy and extremely nice to each other. This is true...kind of.

But it didn't happen exactly like that. According to an article on Links.org.au, "The deadly impact of European diseases and the good will of the Wampanoag allowed the settlers to survive their first year.

In celebration of their good fortune, the colony's governor, William Bradford, declared a three-day feast of thanksgiving after that first harvest of 1621."

So basically, the celebration took place a whole year after the pilgrims arrived to celebrate the beginning of their terrorizing of the Native Americans.

The whole idea of celebrating a holiday for the survival of the start of the huge war of the Native Americans is absurd.

America is a diverse nation with hundreds of different and distinct races, but if one really took the time to understand, she or he would realize that the beginning of a "free nation" started out as a mass murder of the people who were in America first.

That's really not something to celebrate, given the fact that a) Thanksgiving is a national holiday, and b) if another country were to murder a ton of its people, America wouldn't stand for it.

Up until 1629, there were only about 300 settlers in New England, but upon hearing of their survival, more Puritans were inspired to travel to America. For 10 years, a whole wave of settlers came onto the land by boat.

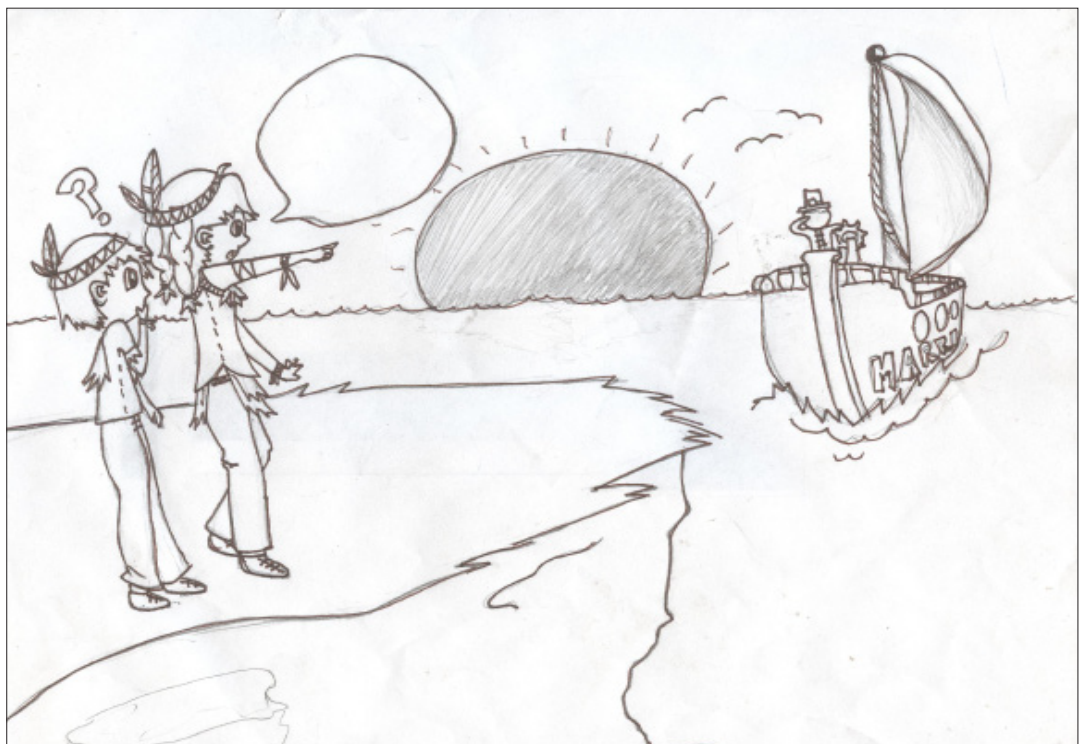
But that wave of Puritans was not as kind to the Native Americans.

On Links.org.au, it claimed that the Puritans and other religious sects were discussing the rights of the land. Some, however, agreed that the land belonged to the Native Americans.

This, unfortunately, caused the individuals to be excommunicated (expelled from the church).

The Puritans came up with a ludicrous idea that it belonged to the "public domain," or the king, and decided that they had every right to not tell the Native Americans about their seizing of the land.

After seizing the land as theirs, the Puritans enslaved the Native



CARTOON BY IMANI BROWN / CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

Americans for farming assistance. About 2,000 settlers from Britain inhabited the land in 1637.

There was a Thanksgiving in Manhattan County, but it was anything but gleeful—or as nice as the "first Thanksgiving."

In 1641, a Dutch governor of Manhattan, Kieft, offered the first gruesome "scalp bounty" against the Native Americans.

When a Native American was brought forth to be scalped, the government paid money.

Soon, the governor ordered a scalping massacre of a friendly tribe, the Wappinger.

Kieft, the jerk who ordered the bounty, actually watched and laughed as a Native American captive suffered and was forced to eat his own flesh after being skinned alive.

Then, because one massacre wasn't enough for him, Kieft ordered another massacre near Stamford, Conn. and set a village on fire. Those who managed to escape the blaze were killed.

Afterwards, a day of Thanksgiving was held at the churches of Man-

hattan. Every time a mass murder occurred, the colonists had a Thanksgiving for it.

A thankful holiday?

Try a holiday that is celebrated to commemorate the land that the Puritans took over. Instead of politely sharing the land, they had to claim it as their own.

Not only that, but they celebrated scalping Native Americans with a Thanksgiving feast!

Why should America celebrate a day of "thanks" when it should really be a day of apologizing? Americans celebrate this day as the welcoming of the Puritan survivors, but that was just to cover up the real brutality of it all.

Maybe if Americans read more about the horridness which is Thanksgiving, it might be celebrated in a different way.

Who wants to celebrate the start of a country when the people who actually inhabited it first were the sacrifices? Thanksgiving is a holiday people look forward to—if only they knew its real background.

Frustrations, rage caused by jests at victims of Sandy



MY NAME IS PAUL
A Column by Stephanie Paul

Hurricane Sandy was a terribly tragic storm that hit the East Coast in late October. Even though people were killed in the storm, users of Tumblr and other social media sites made it seem like a giant joke.

As I scrolled down my dashboard on Tumblr, I saw several fake Photo-shopped screen shots of news stations covering the hurricane as it came closer to the East Coast. It disgusted me to see people laughing at the unfortunate folks getting hit with Sandy. All I could think was to get off of the site, because seeing the photos upset me. While I was thinking of changing sites, I ended up continuing to scroll down the home page of Tumblr.

I noticed after a while that people stopped posting about Sandy and I was glad. I decided that I made the right decision. As countless minutes passed, I noticed that MSN.com had an update about New Jersey and how the state was doing while Sandy was terrorizing it.

I clicked on the pop up and I went right to the new updated story. Under it there were several mean comments from different people, saying things such as, "Oh, Snooki lives there, they deserve it."

While I was disgusted by people on Tumblr posting about the hurricane and laughing about it, I would have never thought that MSN.com would ever let people post comments like that; it's a very professional site.

If people don't like the Jersey Shore or New Jersey in general, do they have to be that rude? Also, its weather... it cannot be controlled by anything. Even my own home page is talking about it and Snooki for some reason.

I turned off my laptop and turned on the television. It was around 6 p.m., so the news was on. I rolled my eyes after seeing the headline on the bottom of the screen, which was about an Omaha man helping Hurricane Sandy survivors. But the only words my eyes caught were "Hurricane Sandy."

As I was about to turn the channel, I listened to the news anchor's voice, and I heard the word 'helping.' Now that got my attention—and I didn't change the channel. After I watched the story on the news, I realized that the only reason I was mad at the people on the websites that weren't helping the victims of Sandy's wrath.

As soon as I realized I made a big mistake getting mad at the people I didn't know, I should be mad at the people who are not doing anything for the victims. Now a couple of months after the tragedy, I do not see any more news stories about Hurricane Sandy. Which is a great.

After that day on my Tumblr website with the many "funny jokes" about Sandy I didn't see any more jokes about the hurricane which is great. After the first news story about the people volunteering with the victims of Sandy I saw a lot more people volunteering on the East Coast.

I am grateful that not everyone is just laughing at the victims of Sandy.

People are actually helping others; I believe that those who are sitting on the computer saying crude things on a social media site should actually help the victims, and not just sit on their butts and write nasty comments or post about the disaster.

WHEN CAFFEINE KILLS

What may seem like a harmless drink, meant for a small extra kick of energy, can potentially turn into something that is dangerous to one's health. When drunk excessively, energy drinks such as Rockstar and Monster can kill.



GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

Video game addictions, procrastination, naïve, too loud, stays up late – a brief list of stereotypes that tag along with teenagers across the United States.

Staying up too late, sleeping in and constantly caught running around with an energy drink in hand – a routine all too typical for most average teenagers – but who would even begin to think that the one thing a teen utilizes for survival could also be their cause of death?

The seemingly beneficial, sugary, caffeinated beverage used at least once by all: the energy drink.

Many teens' source of a temporary energy burst, energy drinks are also beginning to show themselves as a lethal poison – one that should be carefully considered before being consumed.

"...can never get too much of a good thing!" claims Monster energy, a popular energy drink producer, but according to recent studies this isn't the truth.

At least five deaths have been linked to an overdose connection with energy beverages. One of the most publicized being that of a 14-year-old Anais Fournier, headlines stating that Fournier 'Dies After Drinking 2 Energy Drinks'.

While it should be noted that Fournier had a heart condition called mitral valve prolapsed – one of her heart valves malfunctioned – it should also be noted that the National Institutes of Health and her doctor report the condition is "usually harmless".

What is most shocking about Fournier's death is that it has been traced back to the two 24-ounce Monster Energy drinks that she consumed within a 24-hour period on a December day back in 2011.

What started as a simple outing to the mall with her friends resulted in the untimely death of the Maryland teenager who went into cardiac arrest, dying six days later.

Fournier's family took into account the two 24-ounce Monster energy drinks, or in other words, the 480 milligrams of caffeine that their daughter had downed as the main cause for her cardiac arrest.

This amount of caffeine is about five times over the limit suggested by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

To make this amount more easily understood, Fournier consumed the amount of caffeine one would find in about 14 cans of Coke.

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While Monster told NBC News that they "vehemently deny that drinking two cans of Monster Energy by itself can cause a death from caffeine toxicity," others are still in disbelief, making efforts towards at least bringing recognition to the issue.

Unfortunately, energy drinks like Monster seem to be the quickest, most convenient method of trudging through a school day, following a sleepless night.

As teens mindlessly consume these drinks they become blinded to the fact that the toxicity in the amount of caffeine they are taking in could result in something much worse.

An overdose in caffeine, something energy drinks are rampant with, can result in insomnia, quickened heartbeat, restlessness and muscle tremors – and the list goes on.

As a teen whose body is still growing and developing, it is dangerous to fill it with chemicals that are seemingly harmless.

And though teens may not be seeing the effects of energy drinks as negative, emergency rooms are being plagued with an exponential spike in caffeine overdoses.

From 1,128 cases in 2005 to about 13,114 in 2009, data from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

As appealing as the names seem (Monster, Red Bull, Rockstar, etc.) – these catchy labels and names should come with a warning, just like cigarettes or alcohol.

Many individuals who consume these beverages, while side effects aren't usually negative, still are not aware of how much caffeine content lies within the can of their morning drink.

While the Food and Drug Administration regulates caffeine levels in soda, it has no control over energy drinks.

Because of this it seems necessary to begin to require energy drink companies to post just how much caffeine is confined in the aluminum walls of the can.

Although this might not prevent teens from downing a can every once and awhile, at least the energy drink companies have an alibi and less guilt for teens who are experiencing the negative effects of one too many energy drinks.



CARTOON BY KEALI FRENCH / CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

The world is not speeding to a fiery end

Oh, the world is going to end in a month, we better become dramatic! Tell everyone to get a bucket list started and finished quickly, and to do the things they have always wanted to accomplish now before our time runs out . . . NOT! Come on, people, let's not be impractical.

With many natural disasters, scientific thinking and influential television shows, people assume that the world will end on Dec. 21, 2012.

According to NASA, it will just be another Winter Solstice (on or about Dec. 21st that marks the beginning of winter in the Northern Hemisphere.) There will be no dramatic changes in 2012. There is no evidence, so stop worrying and just go back to living your normal life.

All I do is make fun of how ridiculous all of you sound. My dad has even made a joke that if my sister or I get a text on that day saying 'let's go' that we have to rush home from wherever we may be. He supposedly has a "plan" for this non-existent "crisis."

Nothing bad is going to happen this year--or at all. Earth has been here for more than four billion years and it's planning on staying.

Yes, the movie *2012* that appeared in 2009, directed by Roland Emmerich, was a very terrifying action-packed adventure that seemed real, but in reality it could never really happen. Don't believe everything you see on television, or even in the media.

An internet hoax was also created, stating that an unknown planet (which does not exist) named Nibiru, discovered by the Sumerians, is headed towards Earth.

First, this planet is not real; astronomers would have found it, and would've been tracking it. Second, it's an internet hoax, meaning it is. Not. Real.

Lastly, this was predicted for May of 2003 and nothing happened, so this so-called "Doomsday" was moved years down the road.

What kind of doorknob would believe a certain day was real when it was just delayed?

Another reason people think the world is suppos-

edly going to end is the Mayan Calendar...it's a calendar, get over it. We have a calendar too that ends, and you know what? It restarts the very next year. It's the end to a long-count period in the Mayan Calendar, meaning a new long-count period calendar will begin again. Earth has always been subject to impacts by comets and asteroids, although big hits are very rare.

Furthermore, there aren't any planet alignments that will impact Earth in the next decades.

Leap year may additionally be a factor to why people think this world is going to end.

What does leap year have to do with anything?

It is one extra day every four years. Julius Caesar created Leap year in 45 B.C. because the Romans had a 355 day calendar, and it was to keep festivals around the same season every year.

So a 22 or 23 day month was created every second year. Then in 1582, Pope Gregory XIII further defined it to occur once every four years.

I think with all of the people thinking the world is going to end

on these random days that none of these can be true.

For example, that "apocalypse" that was in May of 2011--everyone was scared, going to church every day and every night hoping they could "save themselves." The people that are making up these apocalypses are just grumpy attention-hogs who need something to talk about. They're all wrong.

One of the funniest things I've heard, though, is how world is going to end in a "Zombie Apocalypse."

Just because you saw one person eat another human being in a devastating country doesn't mean he is a zombie, maybe he was hungry. He had nothing else. I do admit, the many zombie apocalypse movies that were made are pretty interesting to watch, but in reality, this could never happen.

So I want all of you to know this: the world is not going to end! So stop worrying and being impractical, because there is more to life than thinking about something that cannot be true.



NEVER WOULD I EVER
A Column by Jennifer Rooney

Presidential candidates exhibit outdated, trite thinking while reaching out to women voters

What are women's issues anyways? The meaning can be interpreted differently depending on who you talk to. Women should not have to deal with separate issues today because all people are equal, so why make women seem more difficult than men?

Some politicians, for example, do not even know what these issues are. It seems as though some politicians portray women as people who are unintelligent and not able to do anything but be a housewife and a mom. This seems backwards, seeing as how this type of stereotyping dates back to the 1950s.

Women nowadays are holding high level jobs, being moms, and carrying out the duties of the household--all at the same time. Not all politicians feel this way, but some do...mainly the ones who want control over the decisions women make.

President Barack Obama and Governor Mitt Romney tried hard to gain the approval of women, since they have an important role in choosing the president. "Women's issues," in their eyes, seem to consist of abortion and birth control, while women worry essentially about everything that men worry about--namely jobs and the economy.

It seems that the candidates just wanted to find a way to relate to women because they are both men. This way of trying to understand these voters was beneficial for some candidates, because these politicians did a better job of reaching out to the population of women.

If these candidates are really focusing on women's issues, they shouldn't make assumptions about what they actually are. The candidates and politicians should go out and discuss with women what they are struggling with, and what is important to them. Assumptions will get political figures nowhere. If they were more willing to ask questions of the people about what they would like to happen, it would be more effective.

Gaining women's approval was at the top of both candidates' lists, as it should be. Early on in the presidential campaign, the candidates showed their views on an important issue: Contraceptives. President Obama stated in the last debate before the election that contraceptives should be allowed for all women; he also stated that it was not only a health

issue for women, but also an economic issue because that money was coming out of their pockets, according to About.com.

Meanwhile, Gov. Romney took a different view. He plans to cut federal funding for Planned Parenthood (before you think that Planned Parenthood is just an abortion clinic, hear this: they do plenty of other great things for women, like offer prenatal care, information on how to care for babies, and provide assistance).

According to the *New York Times*, Romney was "tepid" in his response to an incident involving a law student from Georgetown University in which a young woman was subjected to rude comments by popular radio talk show host Rush Limbaugh. No woman or person in general should be subject to anything like this; it is very degrading because she did not do anything wrong, she was simply voicing her opinion. Because of this incident and Romney show of little enthusiasm on the issue, women started to doubt him fairly quickly.

At the final debate prior to the election, President Obama said that Republican politicians believe that it is okay to decide all of the healthcare choices women make.

For some women who take pride in making their own decisions, this is a comforting truth. It is reassuring to them because they know that President Obama respects them and their personal views.

During this debate, President Obama also discussed the Lily Ledbetter Act, which states that women will get the same pay as men for equal work. Through this act, Obama gained much approval from women (and for good reason). If they work just as hard as men, they should be equally paid. There should not be discrimination between sexes.

According to the *New York Times*, the Republican National Committee spokeswoman Kristen Kukowski said that the main issue that was to be focused on in Romney's campaign was specific women type issues like "the kitchen table issues, the cost of milk and gas." Do they really think that is all women are concerned with?

As stated earlier: This is not the 1950s. This is a modern time where women have a say in things, and should not be reduced to the stereotypical housewife.

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BE TRUE BE YOU
A Column by Maya Durfee O'Brien

From Mercy to Central: making the change

It's hard being the new kid. Believe me--I know. Just because I am in my sophomore year does not mean that I went to Central to begin with. As a matter of fact, I have never attended an OPS school. At the beginning of this semester I had to put away my old Catholic school uniform and socks and trade them for "regular high school" attire--whatever that means.

Last year I attended Mercy High School, a private all-girls Catholic school. I am sure a lot of you are thinking "ooh, that's so weird, there's no boys. How did you survive?" Well, I obviously did make it through somehow, otherwise I wouldn't be writing this right now. I am not saying that getting an education with all girls is bad at all; there are some good aspects of it, but overall it was not the right fit for me.

I hated most aspects of the school itself. It was small, but the majority of the people were not for me. The girls were so cliquy. Central is somewhat like that too, but in a larger environment it is not as easily noticed. I did not really fit in with any of the cliques there, so it was quite hard for me, because everyone just wants a sense of belonging. Not having that feeling really made school difficult for me. A lot of the girls were just too close-minded for my liking, which was a struggle because with the lack of students in attendance, making friends who were similar to me was hard. That is why I decided to propose the idea of transferring to Central as an option to my parents. I never imagined that they would agree with me on this. They were the ones who forced me into going to private school to begin with! So to prove my argument, I wrote a paper with the pros and cons of attending both Mercy and Central. I cannot

remember which had more pros than the other--but I do know that they ended up allowing me to change schools.

Going back to public school wasn't challenging; when I was younger I went to Westside from Kindergarten to 8th grade. Going to a private school was even more of a struggle than transferring back to public school, in my opinion.

Fast forward to the first day at a new school. I have all my supplies ready, a backpack fully equipped with needed supplies, and of course CONFIDENCE! To my surprise, I did not see many smiling faces greeting me in my first class; instead I see intimidating wannabes staring back at me. Maybe it was the floral shirt and the high waisted shorts I was wearing or maybe they could just sense that I was the new kid. The next class got a little better, although I was quite scared. I just wanted to bury myself in my books and hide from all those unknown people. I felt like one

of the freshman. I knew no one, I did not know my way around school, and I kept tripping over doorsteps since I'd never been warned about them. After the first day, I honestly never wanted to go back. I was so terrified of everything and tried my best to stay out of the spotlight. Following the next couple of weeks it got better. I joined newspaper staff, I started to get more familiar with people in my classes, and I overall began to love Central! I don't care what other people say about my choice to change schools. I know I made the right choice to come here. I love how diverse it is and how everyone is so accepting. I am so glad I transferred and hope that this year has a lot of good things in store.

Sports

SIGNING OFF ON GREATNESS

Four Central Eagle student athletes: Colin Buckley, Nick Billingsley, Lia Mancuso and Akoy Agau solidify their futures by signing with their chosen universities.



PHOTO BY ELISSA WIENER / THE REGISTER

Senior Colin Buckley, who has been playing tennis since the age of six, signs with the UNO Men's Tennis Team as his parents look proudly on.

SAN JUANA PARAMO
Staff Writer

MEKENZIE KERR
Copy Editor

Senior athletics: a mix of playing your hardest and saying good-bye to the past years competing with teammates, but also the beginnings of a new chapter, a time to say hello to all things college.

Four seniors at Central High School recently tied the knot and sealed their college sports futures, looking ahead to more opportunities in the world of college athletics.

Colin Buckley

With a tennis player for a mom, it was inevitable that senior Colin Buckley's future would involve picking up a racket and joining the UNO men's tennis team.

Buckley has been playing since the age of six, and was eager to join Central's boys tennis team as a freshman; he's been a part of that team ever since.

"I really didn't think there was an option, playing tennis for so long, to not play high school tennis," Buckley said. With an array of colleges available, UNO wasn't the only school on Buckley's mind. He considered many other schools.

"South Dakota State, UNO, of course, and my parents both went to Iowa. I was looking at Iowa and Iowa State," Buckley said, adding that, he didn't look "too seriously into a lot of those schools other than UNO and UNL because of in-state tuition."

"I always loved Omaha, I think it's pretty fun," Buckley said. He decided that UNO would be a good school for him

since he won't always be away from home and will still be able to see his family on occasion.

At first Buckley didn't know if he was going to play tennis for UNO.

"I was frustrated because I had two injuries going into this year's season, and didn't really feel like I reached my potential," he said.

But in the end, he decided to play college tennis.

With an older brother attending UNO and familiarity with UNO's coach, Buckley is completely confident.

"I'm not going to a completely new place," he said. "I know who I'm going to be dealing with."

While his parents were ecstatic, his Central tennis coach, Tracy Menten, was more excited than his parents.

"She was going crazy. At signing day, she was out of her mind just jumping around," Buckley recalled.

Buckley commented on his future team.

"When I've seen them in years past they weren't as talented as they are now, but I think they are getting better and are definitely able to compete," said Buckley.

With an engineering career in mind, Buckley plans to take classes at UNO that'll help him achieve his goal.

Without a definite plan for the future, Buckley hopes to attend UNO and obtain the degrees he needs.

"I haven't really decided on what I'm going to do," he said. "Hopefully by going through college, it'll help me figure out what I want to do and who I am, so I can figure out what I want to do."

Continue to 'SIGN' on page 16

'10 Grad a vital part of UNL's wrestling team

SETH ARTER
Staff Writer

The importance of the ABCs (academics, behavior and community), are strongly enforced every day by Principal Dr. Keith Bigsby. Skylar Galloway, a University of Nebraska Lincoln wrestler and former Central student, has proven that he knows his ABCs; the senior has won his weight class at 141 pounds.

Since his wrestling career in high school, Galloway has come a long way.

"I started wrestling when I was seven years old. I started wrestling because it ran in the family," he said. Following in his older brother's footsteps, Galloway wanted the same success for himself.

"My older brothers were wrestling and they won state in Iowa," he said, "and I wanted to do the same." Skylar's younger brother Tyrell, is wrestling at Maryville University in Missouri and is a national qualifier.

When it came to choosing a college, Galloway knew that he had many choices. As for most people when they chose something, Galloway knew something felt right about UNL.

"I wanted the opportunity to compete on the Division One level," he said.

Having the opportunity to wrestle for a college at a Division One level is spectacular for Galloway. In addition to this opportunity, he also received two scholarships.

Among those was the Othmer scholarship, which was worth \$5,000 for four years. He also received the Canfield scholarship for \$1,000.

Many may dislike the level of difficulty that college athletics bring to its athletes, but that is not the case for Galloway, as he sees the challenges as a great accomplishment.

"I like how hard it is to wrestle," he said. "It is by far the toughest collegiate sport and to succeed in such a tough sport makes it well worth it."

Although Galloway faced some challenging competitors in his high school years, he's come to discover and explore the even bigger challenges of college wrestling.

"College wrestling is a lot tougher because in high school you may wrestle one or two tough guys, but in college everyone is tough," he said. Like many sports, people rarely master them quickly. "You have to be extremely dedicated," adds Galloway.

Of course, wrestling has all sorts of difficulties. The biggest one is meeting the weight requirements before competitions.

"My biggest challenge is getting down to weight," said Galloway. Last year, Galloway's starting weight was 149, but this year Galloway dropped down to 141 pounds. To achieve his goals, Galloway has to buckle down.

"In order to overcome this I have to be disciplined and work out two or three times a day," said Galloway. Despite the challenge of making weight, Galloway knows it's worth it, as he thinks highly of UNL.

Continue to 'WRESTLER' on page 16



PHOTO COURTESY OF ERIC FRANCIS / CU ATHLETICS

1. Creighton University student and former Central basketball player Josh Jones dribbles quickly down the court during a game. This is his last year playing for the Creighton Bluejays.
2. Josh Jones watches his teammates as he heads towards the basket hoping to make a shot.

Former Eagle ready to leave a legacy at CU

MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
Staff Writer

Current Creighton University senior and former Central High Eagle Josh Jones is getting ready for an exciting basketball season for the Blue Jays.

He primarily plays guard for the 14th-ranked team, but despite how far he's come, Jones will never forget his time at Central—especially the time he spent on the court.

Jones helped to lead Central's basketball team to three state titles during his time as an Eagle. The first, during his sophomore year, was the most difficult because they had to build the "foundation" for the next few years to come. The second state title came was a bit easier because they had already played a championship game, and the "foundation" had already been laid.

"This last state title was still hard, but a lot easier than the other ones," he said. All of the team members had to prove once again that they were capable of winning, and it was a tough year for Jones; he went through open heart surgery, and wasn't focused on basketball at that point.

"I am blessed to be alive," he said. "The situation really humbled me and gave me a better appreciation of life." Jones did not know if he would ever be able to play basketball again, but ended up playing a few months later, helping to bring his team to victory.

Although Jones is still playing basketball, the style of play and the game itself is quite different than what he was used to at Central. He describes the type of offense that the Jays play as "Big Man Offense," while at Central he was more used to a "Dribble Dry" type offense. In high school the competition is

difficult, but in college there is a lot more at stake. The game itself is a lot longer than what Jones was used to in high school, and the games are sometimes much later at night.

While at Central, Jones was a four year letter winner; he owns Central's school record for most career points scored (with 1,518 points), and averaged 19.8 points per game as a senior. During Jones's four years, the team was on an 89-19 run. He was very devoted to the basketball team during his four years, holding a captain position. He said he was very Central oriented, and that he still loves the school.

"I know I haven't been to any other high school, but I would have to say that Central is the best high school out there," Jones said. He especially loved Central's diversity, saying that "It was so cool how different students could be friends with basically everyone." He misses those sold-out Friday night basketball games.

Jones's last year at Creighton is somewhat comparable to his last year at Central, as it feels like it's his last time playing ball. He will miss being a student athlete and all of the many great relationships he has formed with the coaches, teammates and all who are involved.

Jones hopes that his last year at Creighton will be a memorable one—full of his hardest play and a lasting legacy. He would like to be remembered for his accomplishments and hard work, and for continuing to help lead his team to victory. Jones will graduate college with a major in Public Relations and Journalism, and also has hopes to continue playing basketball later in his life. Despite a bright future ahead, Jones will always remember where he got his start.

"I'll forever be an Eagle," he said.

New swim coach excited to be part of a strong team

GISELLE TRAN
Business Editor

This year, Central's swim team was eager to welcome Samantha Zickefoose as the new girls swim coach. Since former varsity head coach Ashley Barna resigned, Zickefoose has stepped up to lead the girls team.

Zickefoose is a speech language pathologist at Central. After being the junior varsity coach last year, Zickefoose thought coaching the varsity girls swim team would be a "great opportunity to get involved in the school."

At the beginning of the year, she was approached by Central Athletic Director, Darin Williams, about coaching the varsity girls swim team in Barna's stead. After the interview, Zickefoose was happy to accept the coaching position.

Zickefoose said, "I wanted to meet a new population of kids, and it just seemed like a fun opportunity."

Although she was welcomed onto the team, Zickefoose has not had much experience with swimming. Being a dancer in high school, Zickefoose has coached dancing, but coaching the swim team at Central is a new and exciting experience for the speech pathologist.

The girls swim team has had a successful season thus far. On Dec. 1, the girls swim team placed first at a meet held at Monroe Middle School. During these first few meets, the team had several automatic and secondary qualifying times. This bodes well for swimmers qualifying for State. Zickefoose's plans for the season are modeled off of that of last year. According to Zickefoose, "We had a pretty good turnout at State last year, and I expect an even better turnout this year." The new varsity swim coach plans to "develop the swimmers and enhance the speed and cut time throughout the season."

Hoping to end on a good note, Zickefoose commented, "We'll taper towards the end so that we get our fastest times toward the end of the season for Metro and State." She has taken to her new responsibilities with enthusiasm. Excited to coach a strong team, Zickefoose said, "We are swimming the best team we've had in probably over 40 years."

Junior Sam Bradley commented on the new swim coach, "She's a nice addition to our swim team family and she brings a lot of positivity to the team."

Even with little swimming or coaching experience, Zickefoose has embraced her new role. Her favorite aspect of coaching is the students. "It's a big commitment, but it's a whole new world for me. I've been having a great time, and I've learned a lot."

The Register's Winter Sports Preview

As it's getting colder outside, Central's winter sports are heating up! Get the inside look at all six winter sports: boys and girls basketball, diving, wrestling, swimming and powerlifting.

See Inside, Page 14 & 15



GET WARMED UP FOR THIS SEASON WITH

Even though the weather is turning downright chilly, Central's winter sports teams are just heating up. Here you will find all of the divers, the powerlifters, or one of Central's championship basketball teams. Get the lowdown on coaches, key players and what athletes

Boys' Basketball

RAINA BEHRENS
Staff Writer

"Basketball takes toughness, a lot of mental preparation, and scouting prior to each game," said boys' varsity basketball Head Basketball Coach Eric Behrens. Boys begin to prepare long before the season begins, with running, lifting weights, practicing shooting and other skill work. Basketball activities go almost year-round between open gyms, summer leagues and conditioning—and they all lead up to the winter season of basketball.

The boys almost never have a free day from practicing with the basketball team. However, the players still find time to try to improve themselves as players individually as well. Some players hit the gym on their off days. They may lift weights, or do additionally running, many play pickup basketball games with their friends. When the basketball players are multi-sport athletes, if they play a fall sport, then that is most likely how they condition for basketball season. The time period between the seasons is very short, so players can easily stay in shape.

Basketball season is now in full swing as of Dec. 7, when the boys played their first game against the Westside Warriors.

This year the team is rebuilding their bench from the players who graduated last year. Some of the players who may not have had as much playing time last year are improving, and will receive more playing time this year. Last season the team went undefeated and remained state champions as they have been for six out of the last seven years. Needless to say, this year they have very high expectations to live up to.

Before each game the team members must pre-

pare to play their best. Player and senior Tra-Deon Hollins said, "Everyone does a different thing. I go get my hair cut and get Subway." After the players have a couple hours of their own time, they meet back at the gym as a team. Behrens goes over final plays with the boys, and everyone discusses what they think needs to be done in that particular game. Behrens said that the team's two main goals this year are to "be state champions once again, and to continue to get better and improve as a team every day."

The players have similar goals. As senior Akoy Agau plays his fourth year on varsity, he agreed that their main goals are to win state again and continue to improve their individual skills and their overall team.

Senior Kevin Scott said, "We want to help each other get better and help each other get some type of basketball look." The senior has a desire for all of the players to have the opportunity to continue with their basketball career, whether in college or professionally. The team has key players who help in leading the team to their wins and overall success each year. This year, Behrens said that two of his best key players are seniors Agau and Tra-Deon Hollins. Behrens described Hollins as a "tough, aggressive and a skilled defense player," and also said that Agau is a great blocker and helps defend the goal while still doing well at his position of power forward.

Although each player has his own personal goals, the entire team shares the common goals named by Behrens and Agau. The whole team plans to work together to be the best that they can be, and to keep improving. "We plan to reach our goals with hard work, a positive mindset and determination in our practices every day," Behrens said, "and a lot of dedication from all coaches and players."

Key Players

Akoy Agau (12)



Height:
6'9
Position:
Power Forward

Tra-Deon Hollins (12)



Height:
6'3
Position:
Small Forward/Shooting Guard



1. Senior Kevin Scott dribbles down the court to shoot the basketball during a practice after school. 2. Members of the Varsity team leap for the ball.

PHOTOS BY SAN JUANA PARAMO / THE REGISTER



1. Sophomore Gabrielle Ramos prepares to dive at practice, which is held at Norris Middle School. 2. Alex Jones, a junior, begins a dive off the block.

PHOTOS BY EMILY BECK / THE REGISTER

Swimming

Key Players

Evan White (12)



Height:
6'1
Best Event:
100 Freestyle

Lena Wolcott (12)



Height:
6'0
Best Event:
100 Freestyle

EMILY BECK

Executive Editor-in-Chief

Monday, Nov. 12 marked the beginning of swim season for about 56 individuals trying out for the team. Tryouts commenced at 4:15 p.m. at Norris Middle School and lasted the duration of the week; results were posted after Friday's practice, and athletes were split into varsity and junior varsity teams (the junior varsity practices at Nathan Hale Middle School). Main coach Mike McGuire is ready for the season, which promises to be a challenging one.

"I want to win every dual..." McGuire said, but gave some leeway regarding the Prep/Marian meet, which will be a tough one. He expects victories for both the girl's and the boy's teams against North, Bellevue East, Benson, Northwest, Bryan, Lewis Central, Duchesne and South.

"I think we'll win every dual," he said, and he expects wins at invites as well, particularly the Bryan and Benson Invites.

McGuire also believes that both girl's and boy's teams can secure spots in the top three places at the Lewis Central Invite, and he wants all three boy's relays to qualify at State, as well as seven individuals. He also wants two of the three girl's relays to qualify and three individual qualifiers.

Hard work will be required on everyone's part in order for McGuire's projections to come true. Swimmers have practices every day after school, as well as optional morning practices on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

They also do dry-land workouts on Tuesdays and Thursdays; one of McGuire's wishes is for the team to begin weight training, but that's not so easy with 65 swimmers. He plans to split the team into two groups

so that half can lift while the other runs.

"But that's my goal," he said, "to get people in the weight room."

The coach also plans to fulfill these aspirations by encouraging each swimmer to decide what he or she wants to accomplish this season. "I'm going to sit everybody down and have them write down their goals this year," he said. "We'll talk and discuss what they want to do and how they're going to get there."

Some swimmers have already beat him to it, though—and McGuire isn't the only one with lofty ambitions.

Junior Megan Bruce, long-time swimmer, "would like to make it to State in 100 free, 100 breast and hopefully two relays."

She made the State team last year, playing a critical role in the 400 free relay; McGuire identified her as a key part of the team this year.

The coach also named several other swimmers whom he believes will carry the team: freshmen Mira Williams and Katie Walenta, sophomore Chris Pospisil and seniors Evan White and Lena Wolcott.

"Evan is going to be one of our fastest [boys]," McGuire said, "and Chris is pushing pretty hard right behind him...we probably have seven boys who are right at the top."

Pospisil is determined to keep that top position. "I plan to work harder than last year, because I have more concrete goals," he said. "I want to automatically qualify for at least three events at State."

Meanwhile Williams, a fresh face on the team, is ecstatic about being an Eagle swimmer; her goal is to make it to State any way that she can.

She said that she feels "really confident about the meets," and believes that the team is up for the challenging season ahead.

Power Lifting

STEPHANIE PAUL
Visuals Editor

There are many winter sports at Central that have been competing with other schools in the metro area for years.

But one of the winter sports that is just entering its fifth season at Central—a young sport—is power lifting.

The coach for this co-ed sport is Dennis Baker, a physical education teacher at Central.

Baker is very confident in many of his returning female power lifters from last year who won state. One of the key female participants in power lifting is senior, Tamerea Marion.

While Marion is a key component of the power lifting team, there are a handful that also shine. Two people in particular stand out to Baker as key players—all of whom are very hard workers that are willing to put in the extra time and effort the sport requires. These players are seniors Jose Aguilera and Natalie Allen.

"They are my key players, not just because of their lifting abilities, but also their leadership abilities as well," Baker said.

Power lifting requires a lot of physical strength and stamina, but often overlooked is the mental ability as well.

"They are at practice every day and I am glad that they are all returning this season," said Coach Baker.

While competing on a team is a positive, learning experience, some compete for more than just the simple idea of sports.

Marion first started power lifting to lose weight, but after a while she realized that she loved it. When lifting Marion prefers dead lift out of the other routines and types.

"It's easy to do, but it's fun," Marion said. Even though dead lifting is her favorite type of lifting, she is also very talented in other areas of power lifting; the senior can squat lift almost 365 pounds.

After Marion graduates from Central, she plans on continuing to lift weights.

"Most colleges don't have power lifting as a sport, so I will have to start a program," she said. If Marion cannot start it at the college she goes to, she will find a way to still compete in the sport since she loves it so much.

Last year at state, Marion placed second. "The girls and I are solid this year to win," she said, and Baker agrees; Both Baker and Marion are excited for the girls who are going to compete in the state competition.

"The girls this year have a really good chance in winning the state competition" Baker said.

Power lifting only has three meets this season. The first meet was on Jan. 26 at Central.

"I am always confident when I go into a power lifting meet. Each time I go into a meet I give the completer's hell" said senior Devin Bigelow.

After the Central meet there will be a meet held in Fremont, Neb.

Then after Fremont, Omaha South High School will host the state power lifting meet. Central's power lifting team will compete in the state-wide event, with hopes of bringing home a championship.

Key Players

Jose Aguilera (12)



Height:
5'4
Event:
Dead Lift 385

Tamerea Marion (12)



Height:
5'8
Event:
Dead Lift 315



1. TyVon Merritt braces himself for a lift. 2. Emily Keebler steadies herself during a lift.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

THE REGISTER'S WINTER SPORTS PREVIEW

information you'll need for the upcoming season of your favorite sport, whether you're a fan of the wrestling team, the swim team, the are doing to prepare for the season--all brought to you by *The Register*.



1. Senior Lia Mancuso dribbles down the court during a game against Burke on Dec. 1.
2. Senior Paige Muhammad rushes to grab the basketball from an opposing player.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JOHN BEST

Girls' Basketball

Key Players

Sylvia Smith-Gatson (12)



Height:
5'11
Position:
Forward

Abigail Niebrugge (11)



Height:
5'8
Position:
Shooting Guard/Point Guard

JENNIFER ROONEY
Editor-in-Chief

"My goal for this year is to win state once again and make my team involved more," said Sylvia Smith-Gatson, a senior on the girls' varsity basketball team.

As the winter season begins and the basketball teams work on keeping their titles, the school is obsessing over the possibility of having brother-sister state champions once again. The tryouts for girls' basketball were the week of Nov. 12-15, held in the gym for two hours each day.

The tryouts were just like any "ordinary practice." The players just did a lot of running or any drills that Coach Thomas Lee would come up with to make the team work hard and get better at their skills. The tryouts were all about seeing who showed they wanted to be there the most and who would work the hardest, rather than who was the "best."

Before the tryouts, from Sept. to Oct., all of the players who showed interest in being part of the team would meet to condition. This occurred every day after school, Monday through Thursday, for around an hour.

The girls' workouts consisted mainly of running and lifting weights, in order to build muscle and endurance, and to prepare potential players for the season.

After the tryouts, the teams were selected and the official practices began.

These practices started the Thursday after all of the tryouts were over. The varsity team practices Monday through Saturday; on Saturday they practice 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Every day except for Tuesday, the girls practice after school at 3:05 in the gym until 5 p.m. On Tuesdays, the girls travel to Norris to practice there because the boys' basketball team practices in the Central gym during that time.

There are three people new to the varsity girls' basketball team this year: freshmen Taylor Gunter and Yaasmyn Pivey, and junior Taylor Bye.

The seniors this year include Paige Muhammad, Lia Mancuso, LaNaë Washington-Carson, Sylvia Smith-Gatson, and Sydney McGruder.

All of the girls who were on the team last year made the team this year as well. This includes the three freshmen who even got a chance to play at the State tournament last year: now sophomores, they are Megan Gamble, Elexis Martinez and Jackie Beaugard.

"This year's teams look decent, it's just important to improve, keep working hard together, and communicating," said Smith-Gatson.

The starting line-up includes junior Abigail Niebrugge and seniors Sylvia Smith-Gatson, LaNaë Washington-Carson, Paige Muhammad and Sydney McGruder.

Their first game was played at home on Nov. 2 against Burke High School.

They won with the final score of 52-40, and plan to win many more games as the season continues.

Look out for the Lady Eagles as they get ready to tear down the court once again!

"I plan on winning State Basketball again," said Washington-Carson, "and improving working as a team as this season approaches."

The girls' basketball team looks forward to a sweat-inducing year full of trials, but mostly tribulations.

Wrestling

SYDNEY HALONEN
Staff Writer

The Central Eagle 2012-2013 wrestling team has been conditioning for months and is now ready to start the season.

Competing in various tournaments and duels around the area, the Eagles are hoping to come out on top.

"I think we can be competitive and finish in the top ten," said wrestling coach Jimmie Foster.

With a total of 28 members, the team this year features a mix of both new and returning members.

A large number of players have been described by Foster as key, including: Ronald Wells, RJ Jones, Markell Vaughn, Shannon Jackson, Kolbie Foster, Miles Russell and Josh Frezell; all have been conditioning hard for this wrestling season.

Wells, coming back from two state championships, is hoping to take state again this upcoming season.

To achieve goals of victory requires discipline and hard work in any sport, but wrestling is in many ways unique.

"We have to be disciplined from weight cutting to training and even within our social lives," said Foster. All of these aspects are important for a successful season.

With practice every night and many long hours of conditioning, wrestling is a sport that requires serious dedication.

Making weight is also a very important aspect of the sport; wrestlers must always stay conscious of calorie intake and the amount of calories burned during workouts are very important.

The Eagles face many difficult duels and tour-

naments this season.

The Eagles have duels against schools such as Gretna, which is a perennial top ten team that they will face more than once throughout the season.

"They have a strong tradition and always wrestle hard," Foster said. But so does Central's team.

The wrestlers also have duels against Ralston, South High, Lincoln North Star, Bellevue West, Skutt Catholic, Northwest, Benson and Bryan. While all of these will present a challenge, some will be more difficult than others.

The Metro wrestling tournament will take place Jan. 11 and 12, and Districts will take place on Feb. 9. The State tournament will occur Feb. 14-16 at the CenturyLink Center.

The team is sure to dominate at most of these tournaments and duels under the leadership of Foster, who has been coaching Central's wrestling team for 16 years.

Each of the coach's three sons has been a part of the wrestling program; clearly he puts his whole heart and soul into the team.

"I preach hard work," he said about his coaching techniques.

Foster is considered a highly dedicated coach; he has gained respect from the students he has coached as well as many others around him in his time at Central High, serving as both a loyal teacher and coach.

His wrestlers, by participating in rigorous conditioning, pain-inducing practices and all of the other events, prove their abilities and refine their skills.

With discipline and serious workouts, Central has produced many great wrestlers and will continue to pump out more as the year progresses.

Key Players

Ronald Wells (12)



Height:
5'9
Weight Class:
138

Miles Russell (12)



Height:
6'0
Weight Class:
195



1. Senior Josh Frezell battles it out with another member of the 200 lbs weight class.
2. Louden Adkins, junior, attempts to pin another wrestler as teammates look on.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JIMMIE FOSTER



1. Sophomore Blake Gittler gets set to backflip into the Burke High School pool.
2. Sophomore Peyton Pearson practices his dive technique by flipping into the pool.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MEGHAN PETERSON

Diving

Key Players

Meghan Peterson (10)



Height:
5'8
Best Dive:
Inward pike

Peyton Pearson (9)



Height:
5'0
Best Dive:
Front flip twist

ELISSA WIENER
Staff Writer

In the beginning of November, four individuals began practice for dive team. Because there were so few members, there were no tryouts.

Freshman Peyton Pearson and sophomores Courtney Klare, Blake Gittler and Meghan Peterson automatically became part of the team.

Coached by Michelle Bene, the team leaves to practice at the Burke High School swimming pool almost every day.

The training is very important for diving. If even one slight action isn't pulled off correctly the diver could sustain severe injuries such as muscle tears or broken bones--and they even risk breaking their necks.

The divers aren't worried about this though. They joined to have a good time.

Peterson, the sole member of the team last year, began working hard to recruit some of her friends to join. Her passion for the sport pushed her to introduce it to others.

And clearly she didn't want to be alone anymore. Now, with three other members by her side, Peterson hopes to sustain a strong team.

"My friends told me that it was going to be fun so I was like... might as well," said Pearson.

Klare joined for those same reasons. "My friend did it and she talked about how fun it was," she said, "and so... it looked like something new to do."

Peterson joined not only to be with friends, but because she dove since she was younger and "loved it so much that [she] couldn't imagine not continuing

it in high school."

Dive team has already had a few meets this season and the team is doing quite well.

"This season has gotten off to an amazing start. I have amazing teammates, coaches, and I've already felt a difference in my diving from last season," Peterson said. "I feel really good about this upcoming season."

Practicing is very important for the team. The dives can range from a simple to complex skill level, but each dive needs to be practiced until it's perfect. The dives are much like the divers.

"It varies. There are some really good people and then there's like a couple beginners and some in the middle so it's a lot of diversity," Klare shared.

Bene trains with them to elevate their skill level and diving ability. Each practice is hard work and there is not much resting until each member is confident in the dive that he or she has to execute perfectly at a meet.

"It's really fast-paced and it's a lot of fun, very enjoyable," Klare said.

At the meets, each member of the team competes and watches and cheers on their teammates. Dive team is a lot of hard work and all members have to be willing to sacrifice their time and be committed to the team.

"My favorite thing about diving is knowing how far I can push myself. It's such a mentally driven sport," Peterson says. The rewards for the team members, however, far outweigh the costs.

"My favorite part," said Pearson, "is knowing that you got the dive perfectly before you even hit the water."



PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

1. Senior Nick Billingsley signs with the basketball team at the University of Nebraska- Omaha 2. Senior Lia Mancuso, with her dad, signs with the University of Nebraska-Omaha softball team. 3. Basketball player Akoy Agau signs with Louisville University.

Four celebrated Eagles sign with their respective universities

Continued from 'SIGN' on page 13

Nick Billingsley

Athletic, funny and wise are just a few words Eric Behrens, boys' basketball coach, would use to describe Nick Billingsley a senior basketball player.

Not only is Nick new to the team, but to Central as well; he transferred from North High to Central this year.

Billingsley signed with UNO's Basketball team last month. With the help of his teammates and his coach, he didn't find it hard to adjust to a new school and a new team.

"It's not really hard, it's more structured and everything is expected to be perfect or we're going to run," Billingsley said.

Drake, Creighton, Wichita State, Wisconsin and Florida State were some of the colleges he had in mind, but opted for UNO instead.

"I'm more of a home body, I like to be around my family," Billingsley said, adding that "the coaches made [him] feel at home and it was great environment to be around."

With the help of his dad, Billingsley decided to attend UNO and play for their team. His parents showed lots of support.

"They were really happy about it, and excited, they were happy for me like any other parent would be," he said.

Behrens didn't expect Billingsley to choose UNO, but was always there for him anyway.

"I was happy for him," Behrens said upon learning about Billingsley's decision.

"He was very excited, probably even more excited than me," Billingsley added.

Billingsley said that his future team has a lot of young talent. "They come a long way, and they can do a lot of things." For his coach, "having a great career at UNO and thriving on UNO's team," are just a few things he wants Billingsley to do.

Filling out the scholarship and tuition fees and

signing off with UNO, Billingsley was all set to attend his future college.

"The scholarship is worth \$40,000 and covers anything you can name, except food," he said.

Basketball is not just a sport for Billingsley. "It's a tool really, my dad always tells me to use basketball as a tool," Billingsley said. "Use it to give you what you want in life."

Going into UNO, Billingsley is looking for a career in athletic training; he is prepared to take classes that will help him achieve his career goal.

"I'm really thinking about doing athletic training, or coaching maybe," he said, adding that he likes working with kids and that "it'd be great to help them with sports and how to prevent injuries."

Now, Billingsley ponders where he will end up; he said that "If I had to guess, I'd probably see myself here (Omaha) coaching at a high school, or maybe at UNO."

Billingsley plans to follow Behrens' advice: "Work hard and do your best."

Lia Mancuso

Continuing on a tradition of playing ball, senior Lia Mancuso signed to the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO), on a scholarship for softball.

Mancuso's journey began with a myriad of college options, all of which had impressive softball programs. Narrowing it down to four choices (Colorado State, Northern Colorado, Iowa State and UNO), Mancuso then began her visits. Unofficial and official visits eventually brought her to an even more specific set of options, either UNO or Iowa State.

Iowa State is tempting because her father is a former baseball alum, and also the scholarship opportunities. However, on Mancuso's visit to UNO, she began realizing the plethora of opportunities that UNO (and Omaha itself) could provide in her softball and college journey.

"When I was on campus [UNO] I realized what a great city Omaha is; I began appreciating it more,"

she said.

Omaha as a flourishing city was not the only drawing point for Mancuso; the quality of program that UNO will be able to provide for her in the future also served as an attraction.

"UNO has really nice dorms and I love the coaches there," Mancuso said, "and the new direction of the program now that they're Division One."

Entering college to play softball, Mancuso is only carrying on her lifelong love of softball. Mancuso began playing as a child and has participated on select teams throughout the past years of her life. She has also participated in a handful of select teams, the most recent being the Wichita Mustangs.

Through her heavy involvement with select teams, Mancuso has been able to bring her athleticism and softball knowledge to Central's Softball team. Previously a student and softball player at Marian, Mancuso became an eagle her junior year, jumping right in and joining the team.

Mancuso, anxiously awaiting her freshmen year at UNO, also realizes the importance that education holds during college, even if she signed for softball.

"I feel like I need to put school first definitely," Mancuso said, "and then put as much time as I can into softball."

Following her softball career at UNO, Mancuso doesn't see a future in softball outside of her four years of college in softball.

What is most important to Mancuso now is her future at UNO as a softball player— her love for the sport keeps her driven.

"I've always been really passionate about softball," said Mancuso, "and UNO is a great opportunity to travel in college and be a part of a team and a successful student athlete."

Akoy Agau

It was love at first visit for six foot nine inch senior and power forward Akoy Agau as he stepped foot onto the Louisville campus; this love blossomed

and became official Nov. 13 as Agau committed to Louisville University, located in Louisville, Ky.

Agau was offered full-ride scholarships from a total of 37 colleges around the United States. "The whole process was really hectic because you have to talk to all the coaches everyday whether that's calls or texts," said Agau.

Out of those 37 colleges that wanted Agau, he was eventually able to narrow the list down to his top 4: Louisville, West Virginia, Nebraska and Georgetown.

But as soon as he set foot at Louisville, he knew something was different.

"I visited all the schools [in my 'Top 4'], but when I went to Louisville it was more like a feeling thing," said Agau, "It was the right place for me."

Ranked number two in the nation and lead by coach Rick Pitino, the former NBA coach of the Boston Celtics and New York Knicks, Louisville presented, what Agau feels to be, the right fit for him. Although their ranking and team popularity for basketball is nothing short of impressive, raking in around \$20 million from basketball sales alone, Agau wasn't set simply on ranking in making his decision.

"Ranking wasn't as important to me," said Agau, "but more the success of the school and their basketball program, and how well they've been doing in their history of basketball."

In pursuit of a career in the NBA, noting the Miami Heat as his dream team, Agau will continue to prepare for his upcoming and closing season on the Central Eagle Boys Basketball team.

"My team members don't get as much credit as they should," said Agau, "but they are a big part of what I've accomplished at the state championships and as a player."

Although the last farewell to team and coach may not be easy, he is pumped and ready to be the power forward for Central one last year, with high hopes of taking state, completing a series of state championship wins for every year of Agau's high school career.

Central Alum wrestles for NU in Big Ten after winning weight class

Continued from 'WRESTLER' on page 13

"Wrestling for UNL has been great," he said, "and my coaches and teammates have helped me develop as a wrestler."

In sports, athletes have a few main competitors, but that's not the same for wrestling.

"We wrestle in the Big Ten, which is the best conference in the nation," Galloway said. "Every team has highly ranked guys."

Throughout the years, Galloway has learned many techniques, but

he has a favorite one in particular. "My favorite move would have to be the double leg takedown," said Galloway. He enjoys the particular technique because it was his favorite move in high school.

Even though Galloway has mastered the sport, there are still other expectations he must follow.

"As a student athlete, we are expected to keep a certain GPA and give back to the community," he said.

Besides trying to make weight and win matches, Galloway faces another challenge of staying in shape. "I just watch what I am eating and

make sure it's healthy," he said.

Despite his wrestling career, Galloway has his academics to keep up with as well. He is going to school for Actuarial Science and has hopes to become an actuary.

While the NU athlete is focused and working hard at his college wrestling career, he has memories of wrestling for Central. "What I miss most about Central wrestling is probably the chance to wrestle with my brother Tyrell," said Galloway. "It was so much fun challenging him."




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