



# the register

A High School Newspaper Practicing Professional Journalism

9th Place Best of Show Paper at the 2012 JEA National Conference

1st Place Division A Best Newspaper at the UNO 2013 Annual Media Contest

**Sneak Peek**

**An Omaha Legend**

Page 16

**Top Anime TV Shows**

Page 18

**Fusing Art and Style**

Page 19

**Say Hello to Pope Francis**

Page 15

**All-State Rugby**

Page 6

**Dates to Remember**

- May 14...Seniors' Last Day
- May 22.....Graduation
- May 23-24.....Finals

“High school has been four years of learning who you are, what your plans are and who your friends are. And I completed it and I'm ready to end high school to pursue my dream. I have hated and loved these four years and it is my time to leave.”

Jennifer Rooney, page 13



PHOTOS BY JHALISA ROBINSON/THE REGISTER

# NEST LEAVING THE NEST

As Dr. Keith Bigsby prepares to leave his position of principal, he looks back on his successful career and forward to his chance to be a dad again.

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

“I don't want anybody to think for a minute that I walk away here because I'm 'burned out' or that I don't care or that I'm just going to abandon what has just been too important...I don't roll that way,” said Dr. Keith Bigsby about his upcoming retirement. To the dismay of some and surprise of others belonging to the Central community, the Scottsbluff, Neb. native announced March 4 that he would retire at the end of the 2013 school year. He is to be replaced by Dr. Ed Bennett, current principal of Buffett Magnet Middle School.

**Building a Career**

At the age of three, Bigsby moved to Lincoln, where he stayed until age 26. He attended the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Marketing Economics/Finance and a minor in English. He then earned a second degree, a Bachelor's in Marketing Education. For him, it was just the beginning. Bigsby completed his student teaching at Bryan in 1982 and got his first job the same year at South High, a place he still regards fondly. “I love South,” he said. “That was the first time I had really been involved in diversity...I had the opportunity to work with an outstanding principal (Joyce Christensen). She was my first insight to what it really takes to run a good school. She had very high expectations, and it was across the board.” Bigsby had a task at South: to build up the

marketing program. Many of his tactics came from Central's DECA program, which has always been strong. “I had one class, and we only had 26 kids. That was it,” Bigsby said. “By the end of the three years I had built that up to 150 kids and added another teacher.” “I've always enjoyed building things,” he said. “That's really what I love to do, go and do the things people say you can't do.” Bigsby left South after being selected as the new Director of the Academy of Finance Program at the Career Center. “I got to go into every high school, including Central, and pick out three to five of their best kids to bring over there for a two year program,” he said. “I was surrounded by great kids. That was another introduction to Central.” He could see a difference, and “was always amazed...The thing that always stood out with the Central kids was their ability to write. It was mind boggling.” This was where his love for Central had its roots. Bigsby ran the finance program for five years, and after that his next step was Central. He applied to be the department head for the Business Marketing Department. He had more than enough qualifications. “Here I'd built the South High program up, here I had made the Academy of Finance and my next task was the Business Marketing program, which was going into decline,” he said. Bigsby taught at Central from 1992 to 1997, and he spent that time recreating Business Marketing. “Over the next four years, [we] took our numbers from eight

Continue to 'BIGSBY' on page 2

## A FRESH START

The Register gets the story on Ed Bennett, current principal of Buffett Magnet Middle School, who is to replace Dr. Keith Bigsby. While his feelings about leaving Buffett are bittersweet, he looks to his bright future with Central.

**CHEYENNE ALEXIS**  
Staff Writer

Dr. Ed Bennett, current principal of Buffett Magnet Middle School, is to replace Dr. Keith Bigsby as principal. Since Bennett has worked at Central in the past, he is very familiar with the community and culture of Central High. Bennett left Central after being appointed principal of Buffett by former superintendent Dr. John Mackiel. With his 20 years of experience in education, Bennett is fully qualified to pick up where Bigsby is leaving off. Bennett, though very passionate about and content with his current location, exemplifies very strong and personal feelings towards Central High. His time at Buffett was satisfying, but his return to Central as principal will be a new era of successful achievement. The future principal provided answers to several of The Register's questions.

**What is the toughest thing about being principal?**

The toughest thing about being a principal is probably balancing work life and home life, because I love my family and my job. I often wish I could be in two places at once. Next year, I will occasionally have the best of both worlds. My older daughter will be a ninth grader at Central in the fall. When she asked me where she should go to high school I have her two choices: Central or Central. She made a good decision.

**Why did you decide to come back to Central?**

I love Central High School. It is not only the crown jewel of Omaha; it is the best downtown high school in the country. But Central is also more than simply a high school. It is an experience. The feelings that Central High students, staff and alumni have about this building are deep, meaningful and enduring. I share those feelings. To be able to return to a place I care so much about and to have the opportunity to lead Central in the future is an incredible honor and the opportunity of a lifetime.

**What do you like most about Central?**

Let's see. How much space do you have in the Register?



PHOTO COURTESY OF ED BENNETT

**How do you feel about becoming Central's principal?**

I am honored and excited to lead Omaha's Crown Jewel. I can't wait to get started.

**What are some things you would like to change about Central?**

The amazing success of Central High has been a source of pride to our district and community for decades. Central is a powerhouse high school that doesn't need to be “fixed.” However, like all other schools, Central faces ongoing challenges as we move forward. We will need to continue to provide a powerful and relevant literacy-rich curriculum that successfully prepares students for higher education and the work force. We will also need to provide students with opportunities outside of the classroom to round out their education experience. But as the needs of higher education and the work force change, so will our need to provide students with relevant and empowering educational experiences. My job will be to anticipate those changes and activate the amazing resources available in and around Central High to support students in the best possible way.

Continue to 'BENNETT' on page 2

## Alumni inducted into Hall of Fame

**TIA SPEARS**  
Staff Writer

Notable alumni Peggie Georgeson will be inducted into the Central High Hall of Fame. Throughout her academic achievement and constantly being involved with Central's endeavors, she makes her spot on the wall with all of the alumni who helped spread the word of the Eagle territory. “I'm so excited,” she said. “I get to be up there with Henry Ford!” she said excitedly.

When Georgeson received the news over the phone, she was at home with her husband and a friend. “I assumed that he [Bigsby] would be asking me to do Rock the Nest,” Georgeson said. She was startled with the news of her being annexed to the wall that every alumni strives for. Georgeson shared that she was jumping up and down and screaming because she couldn't believe the news. She is very humbled to be a part of something so renowned at Central High.

Georgeson graduated in the class of 1961. She is one of less than ten students left of her class. Subsequently, she is doing as much as she can to make be proactive. Throughout her high school career, she was a cheerleader and an active drama student. Georgeson cheered her freshman, junior and senior, year and did drama for all four years of school. “I tried out for Roadshow every year,” she said. “I didn't make it once.” Despite that set of unfortunate events, Georgeson had leading roles her senior year in the three plays. She vividly remembers her role as Katsusha in the play “Malato.” Georgeson said, “Being a cheerleader and having leading roles in those plays were the highlights of my high school career.”

Georgeson graduated from Central after some of her siblings did. “My brothers went to Central so I was always familiar with the school,” Georgeson shared. In addition to a family history here, she had two daughters who graduated from Central. One daughter who graduated in 1986 and one who graduated in 1989. Georgeson added that she thought the family trend might end at this point, but expressed that she will always stay involved with

Continue to 'GEORGESON' on page 2

**A Night with the Oracle of Omaha**

Editor of The Register Jennifer Rooney dines with Warren Buffett at the Omaha Press Club Show.

See Inside, Page 3

**Flying Away**

Learn about each of the retiring staff members, their time at Central and their plans for the future.

See Inside, Pages 4-5

**Sugar High**

The Register explores the pointless attempt to ban sugary soft drinks measuring in at over 16 ounces.

See Inside, Page 11

# 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

**Copy Editor:** Mekenzie Kerr

**Staff Photographer:** Jhalisa Robinson

**Writers:**

- Stephanie Paul
- Seth Arter
- Elissa Weiner
- San Juana Paramo
- Cheyenne Alexis
- Maya Durfee O'Brien
- Sydney Halonen
- Tia Spears

**Contributing Artists:** Imani Brown  
Keali French

**Advisor:** Hillary Blayney

For advertising information call Hillary Blayney or Giselle Tran at (402) 557.3357, central.journalism@ops.org, or hillary.blayney@ops.org

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.

Signed editorials are the opinion of the author alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central High School or The Register staff.

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 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.

## Bigby to retire in late July, plans to continue involvement at Central

Continued from 'BIGSBY' on page 1

teachers to 18 teachers," he said. "I brought in technology...kind of made this hybrid" by working with CAD and information technology programs.

"For about four years, I basically got a lot of this rebuilt," Bigby said. Many of the things the Business Marketing Department does now are because of Bigby.

In 1995 Doc Moller retired, and Bigby's good friend Gary Thompson became Central's principal. "We began to get busy," Bigby said. "I made some alliances. I knew technology was coming and I got involved with the Aim Institute in writing a grant...we wrote a \$600,000 grant for us to come in and redo our curriculum and put in computers."

He helped create Pathways, which later became FACTS. In 1997 Bigby left Central to go to TAC. He spent a year and a half there, and he hated nearly every minute of it.

"It was a bunch of people telling me what to do, and what I needed to do, and so I suffered silently for a year," he said. He got out as quickly as he could, and became an educator on loan. That was when he began his work with the Aim Institute, where he got to do more rebuilding, just as he did at Central. But eventually he left the institute.

"People thought I was crazy," he said. "I had to get back—I tried to get back to Central, but they wouldn't let me."

Bigby was given the option of either being a key-boarding teacher at an alternative school and Assistant Principal at Bryan Middle. While he was interested in the alternative school system, Bigby chose Bryan, where he received a lot of exposure to the south—a very positive experience. This further strengthened his belief in diversity, and prepared him for the bigger job down the road: his eventual principality of Central High.

### Arriving at Central

When Bigby finally got back to Central for the 2005-2006 school year, this time as Assistant Principal for Data, he "was a little disappointed to see that we had broken down. Central was not the Central I'd remembered from the 90s." He began working with then-principal Jerry Bexten to make some changes. After that year, Bigby went to McMillan Magnet Middle School to serve as principal. He helped turn McMillan, then the lowest-achieving school in the city, into an impressive institution with many assets. He spent several years there before returning to Central in 2010—this time as principal.

Bigby got right to work changing things around. He instilled the Eagle ABCs, constantly reminding students to be aware of their academics, behavior and community, and he began giving lively announcements during homeroom. He even developed a fiery obsession for pop star Justin Bieber (there are two life-size cardboard cutouts standing in his office), which has cooled over the course of the past three years.

## Dr. Bennett, principal of Buffett Magnet, set to take over for Bigby

Continued from 'BENNETT' on page 1

### How do you feel about Dr. Bigby's retirement?

Are you asking Justin Bieber this question, too? I'm sure he's taking it pretty hard.

Seriously, although I only worked with Dr. Bigby for one of his three years as principal, I truly enjoyed his energy level and commitment to Central High. Plus, he has an amazing sense of humor, which comes in pretty handy as a principal.

He has always treated me in the best way possible and I can't possibly express how well he has prepared both the school and me for the upcoming years.

He is a remarkable principal and a tough act to follow, and I'm not even a big Justin Bieber fan!

### How do you feel about leaving Buffett?

It is truly bittersweet. Buffett wasn't ranked by SREB (Southern Regional Education Board) as one of the top eight middle schools in the country by accident.

The staff, students and parents do an incredible job and I will miss them.

Fortunately, I do have a daughter who will be a fifth grader there in the fall so I will be able to visit when time allows.

### What is your prediction for the future as principal?

The Eagle Way will continue!

"He actively engaged with the student body," said senior Michael Griffin. Bigby was (and still is) seen walking the halls throughout the day, greeting kids by name and keeping order. He has been known to sit down and eat lunch with kids, and he attends as many sporting events as he can.

"My freshman year there were an abundance of fights," Griffin said. "It's changed drastically." Griffin felt that Bigby truly cared about the student body, not only through his friendly, personable actions but through his discipline and rule enforcement.

"At first I was worried he was going to be dictator-esque, but he has done an incredible job uniting the school," Griffin said.

Bigby's passion for Central exists partly because the school is so ingrained into his identity. "Central is very important to me," he said. "If you go into our house you will see Central memorabilia from every period of our time. I still have [Maureen's] pom-poms from when she was in the cheerleader camp."

Bigby said that the last three years have been a privilege and an honor.

"I start Packer Red, I become Monarch blue, and I end my career right in the midst of the two, in Central Purple," Bigby said. "This job was kind of like destiny."

### Stepping Aside

Bigby announced his plans to retire to the Central staff on March 4. Since then, he has received a variety of reactions, but overall he said that everyone has taken the news "a lot better than I had anticipated...A lot of people were really happy for me, but a lot were sad."

He thought that there would be much gnashing of teeth, but received only a minimal amount, mostly from friends like Doc Moller, who thought that Bigby would serve as principal for the next 15 or so years.

"If I know I'm a bad maintainer, why would I stay?" Bigby asked. He is ready not only to be a stronger advocate for Central as well as a father, but to step aside and hand the power to someone else who has earned it—just like he did.

"I've got a lot of really good young people in this district who are outstanding educators and administrators that deserve a chance," he said. "I had a chance. I've had a great career, and I truly believe that for you to get your chance down the road, somebody has to get out. And I'm okay with that."

In fact, Bigby is more than satisfied with his 30-year career in education, the highlight of which has been his time at Central.

"And I'm now at the end of my third year," he said. "I've had nine different jobs in this district...I've gotten done what I wanted to get done. I've rebuilt a culture. I've established this place again as a juggernaut, a powerhouse that you better damn well represent and respect. Because there's nothing we don't do that you can do better."

Bigby's love for and belief in Central are reasons that he won't be leaving entirely-- by retiring, Bigby is

"freeing" himself of all the menial tasks that come with being a principal—namely, paperwork. More freedom will give him the chance to be out in the community as an advocate for Central—a much larger advocate than he can be while sitting at his desk.

And he can keep watch over the school while experienced educator Bennett takes over the role of principal—after all, Bigby is one of the people responsible for picking him. He refused to allow a principal who lacked appreciation for Central and who could potentially cause things to go downhill again-- "That I could not let happen," Bigby said.

"I have a great product," he continued, clearly still a marketing teacher at heart. "It is the young people and the staff in this building. And I believe in this product with my heart and soul, and no matter where I go or what I do, having a great product that I believe in, I could sell this thing all day long to anybody."

### Back to the Basics

With the addition of time to his schedule, Bigby has lots of "deferred maintenance" to take care of at home. He lives in an old house that has to be worked on, and in the past few years upkeep has been neglected.

"I need to paint, I need to do some roofing, I need to do some things that I have wanted to get to for quite a while," he said.

It's also time for him to return to his roots to take care of his grandparents—a promise he made to his mother before she passed.

"We have farmland, and I have a spread of about 20 acres...where my mom grew up," Bigby said. "There are a bunch of 70 and 80-year-old people waiting for me to get done because I promised I would do some things for them."

He is looking forward to getting out to his land (altogether he owns about 100 acres), where the family often goes to "get healthy" by doing things like four-wheeling and simply spending time outside. Apart from physical work, Bigby has some familial maintenance to take care of. He was raised by a single parent, and said that "the one thing I have learned is it really becomes important to be a parent. Not having a dad has made me very conscious of the role that I play." He wants to be able to give as much time as possible to his three daughters.

"I'm looking forward to being a dad again," Bigby said. "It's been a few years, and I feel pretty guilty."

He wants to be a supportive spectator at his daughters' soccer games, and wants to "be there to guide. I want to be sure they get it done."

It may also mean going back to school. Coming from a family of teachers and lawyers, Bigby has "always wanted to go to law school" and is "tempted" to see if he has what it takes. "I love education," he said. "I get to go back to school. I haven't really had the opportunity to take classes since I got into the principal business. I've got five degrees. I love school."

Among those things, Bigby also said that he loves downtown Omaha, the kids that he has gotten to work with and how he has gotten to spend his career. And he is thankful that he is able to end his career at Central. "It's a very strong constant in my life," he said. "Everything I'm doing, I'm doing for a reason. It's about this institution."



Alumni Peggge Georgeson gives her class a mischievous smile. She can be seen substituting at Central fairly often.

## Enthusiastic alumni still involved at Central

Continued from 'GEORGESON' on page 1

Central's happenings. She still is active with Rock the Nest, supports the Roadshow and all of the plays that are performed by the student body.

Upon graduation Georgeson ultimately decided to become a teacher. Georgeson was a speech and drama major.

"I student taught at Central and then became a drama teacher," she said. Georgeson shared that she is credited for starting ESL in the OPS school district. In addition to her contribution in expanding the education at Central for international students, she taught Vietnamese students with just two weeks of training. Those achievements are reasons why she was annexed to the Hall of Fame.

During her years of teaching she made her Roadshow dreams come true.

"I had never made it into the Roadshow before but

a student auditioned and I assisted in the act and we made it!" Georgeson enthusiastically shared. She also shared that it was one of the highlights of her teaching career.

She retired in 2001 and took a year off. She then began substituting, and has been ever since for the Omaha Public Schools district. However, home is where the heart is for Georgeson. She is genuinely excited about the future endeavors of Central High and no less than enthusiastic about subbing for Central High School's teachers as she is extremely familiar with the Eagle way and proudly exhibits her school spirit.

As a result of her endless support, optimism, and scholastic achievement while attending Central, Mrs. Peggge Georgeson earns her way onto the wall that every alumni knows of. Georgeson will be displayed along with those like Henry Fonda and Gale Sayers.

"It is such an honor," she said, "and I am very humbled."

## The Register Staff

2012-2013

HILLARY BLAYNEY  
Journalism Advisor



JENNIFER ROONEY  
Editor-in-Chief



EMILY BECK  
Executive Editor-in-Chief



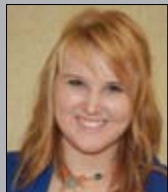
MEKENZIE KERR  
Copy Editor



GISELLE TRAN  
Business Editor



JHALISA ROBINSON  
Staff Photographer



STEPHANIE PAUL  
Staff Writer



SETH ARTER  
Staff Writer



ELISSA WEINER  
Staff Writer



TIA SPEARS  
Staff Writer



MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN  
Staff Writer



SAN JUANA PARAMO  
Staff Writer



CHEYENNE ALEXIS  
Staff Writer



SYDNEY HALONEN  
Staff Writer

PHOTO BY TIA SPEARS/THE REGISTER

# Editor's Enchanted Evening

Senior staffer attended the Omaha Press Show and had the opportunity to sit with Warren Buffett. See how she shares her experience with the Oracle of Omaha.

**JENNIFER ROONEY**  
Editor-in-Chief

"Being 82 and still loving what I do makes me very happy," said Warren Buffett, the Oracle of Omaha.

On Thursday, April 4, I attended the Omaha Press Club (OPC) Show at the Holland Performing Arts Center. Cocktail hour started at 5:30 p.m., but knowing that I'm underage, I arrived at 6:30 p.m. because dinner started at 7 p.m. This event was called the "Nebraska's Rat Pack: Legends, Lovers and Liars."

I arrived at the Holland Center very nervous for what would happen that night. I was invited to sit at Warren Buffett's table right in the front of the stage, probably the most expensive tickets there, but I was given one for free.

It was very nerve-racking as I walked into the Holland Center. There was supposed to be only three other students at the OPC Show. All of the adults were huddled together drinking wine and talking to each other, laughing and having a great time like everyone was their best friend. I was just walking through everybody looking around and trying to figure out if I should talk to someone yet.

There were also many raffles throughout the night. They were also very crowded by the many people drinking wine. An auction was held later during the dinner. Someone bought a private wine and food pairing dinner for eight at Brix Midtown Crossing from the Omaha Wine and Spirits Experience for over \$1,000.

I saw another student walk in the room. She walked around a little while, but then suddenly went upstairs. I then followed her, but lost her in the crowd so I went back downstairs to myself walking clueless once again. Finally, I was brave enough to go upstairs and find my own way after watching a few people walk up there.

I arrived at the ballroom. There were tables surrounding the entire room and I was enthused when a man walked up to me asking at what table I was sitting (table 3). He opened his arm wanting me to hold on to him as he escorted me to my table. I had never felt so important in my life.

I was sitting right in front of the glorious stage with bright lights and many microphones and the place where the band will play. I also found out later that the band is filled with Journalists from all over Omaha. Even the drummer was from the Omaha World-Herald.

Right when I arrived at the table, I was impressed by its setup. There were wine, water, bread, desserts, candles, and five utensils (three forks, a spoon and a knife). I have never even attended a wedding that was that fancy.

The same girl that I had followed earlier was sit-

ting at the table. Her name was Christy and she is the editor-in-chief at Benson High School. She, too, was invited anonymously.

I was relieved when she said she was nervous as well and didn't know what to expect because we were in the same boat. We talked for a long time but were then interrupted when two other students arrived. They were the children of the chairman of the event. The oldest was a freshman at TCU and the youngest was going to be attending the University of Notre Dame soon.

Christy and I talked to these students for a while when I suddenly heard an older man say to me, "Why don't you move over one seat so I can sit in between you two."

It was Warren Buffett. He was finally at the table.

I was thrilled. He already knew Christy and I would be there because he asked who was from Central and who was from Benson. Throughout the night he would keep adding things about each school; for example, he told me that all of his children went to school at Central.

Some other people also arrived at the table when Buffett got there. They knew him personally. A lot of people kept on walking over to talk to Buffett and take pictures with him. It seemed like he knew so many people at the event.

There were a few announcements before food was served. We first had a small salad. I was clueless to what fork to use first so I watched Buffett. It looked as though he felt so natural with everything like everybody else did. This is when I started to realize Buffett really likes to talk, but it was amazing to just listen to what he has to say.

"My greatest achievement was having my children grow up successfully and being a part of that," said Buffett.

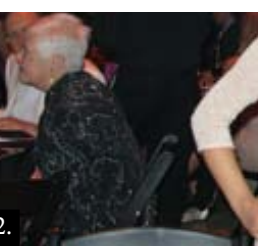
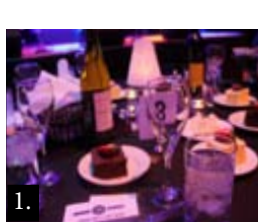
We were then served the entrée; it was chicken with fettuccine noodles. Buffett's meal tasted different from everyone else's at the table because he covered it with salt.

"He puts salt on his salt. That is how much salt he has," said one of the people sitting at the table.

During dinner, gift bags were sold for \$50. These gift bags included a gift card worth \$50 for Elisa Iлама's dazzling diamond collection. A few of them included grand prizes that had more gift cards for jewelry, so we weren't allowed to open them until it was announced.

Buffett bought four of the gift bags, two for Christy and me and one for the other student. The last one was for one of the other ladies sitting at the table. Although none of us were grand prize winners, it was still awesome to be able to have one and I felt so grateful to Buffett.

After the plates were taken away, we enjoyed our dessert, which was a lemon or chocolate cake. Then the show began. The band arrived and played a song



1. The tables were set elegantly with wine, water, bread and desserts for the Omaha Press Club Show. 2. All of the students who sat at Buffett's table stand up for a picture taken by Marcus of Omaha Fine Photography. 3. D. Kevin Williams, Michael Lyon and Jeff Shields were the main performers in the spoof show after dinner.

and the three main characters of the cast, Michael Lyon, Jeff Shields and D. Kevin Williams, walked onto the stage. The whole show included over 15 different people and four "gemstones," the dancing ladies.

The performances included songs and jokes about the media. They performed spoofs of silly events happening in the media and sang about them. It was a "Grand Evening of Music, Mockery and Mayhem." One song was about Jim Flowers, the weather man of channel 6, including his latest locations, if he was fired or retired, and how the weather has been completely bi-polar these past weeks. Another song centered on one of the last Omaha Public Schools superintendents sending naughty emails during her term.

In the middle of the songs, "The Mayoral Match Game" began, which included Jim Suttle, Jean Stothert, Dan Welch and Dave Nabity.

These mayors were asked a few ridiculous questions relating to the media. For example, "How would you feel if you were underneath a dog pile of policemen?" (relating to one of the recent arrests of Omaha). Most of the candidates answered ridiculously to play

along with the game.

The last performance included the entire cast on the stage singing a song of Nebraska, "My Kind of Town."

The cast members sang of how even though there may be some horrible events here in Omaha, none of us will leave here because we all love it.

The whole night finally concluded and everybody was prepared to go home.

I had learned so many facts I never knew before, especially about Buffett. He plays bridge every night and used to play trumpet. He told me a funny story of how he sang at during a previous OPC Show while throwing papers into the audience, but knocked over wine glasses in the process.

He invited Christy and me to attend an event at Century Link many journalists would attend, and we both agreed that we would be happy to join.

The whole night was filled with surprises and knowledge, but also a lot of fun. I want to thank the anonymous person who donated the ticket that allowed me to join the night of many laughs.

## The Seniors of the Journalism Department

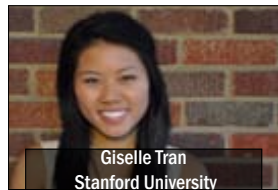
See how the senior journalists have made their way in journalism and how it will affect the rest of their lives. The five reflect on the past and look to the future.

### Jarel Allen

They say that one of the hardest things in life is decision making. At first I did not believe it, but when senior year hit I realized that I have a lot of decisions to make and not that much time to come up with answers. Although it has taken a while I have decided to attend the University of Kansas. I figured it was a safe place to go considering it is not that far from home, but far enough that I will be on my own.

Ever since middle school I was interested in journalism, but it was not until my junior year that I joined the yearbook staff. I had goals to be a part of the tradition of the O-Book by capturing all the memories and summarizing all that happened in one school year. It was my goal to work my way up to be editor of the O-Book and it feels good to say that I have done that. Overall it was a great experience and it showed me my growth from when I entered Central's halls all the way up to today. Although it was her fist full year of being the journalism advisor, Mrs. Blayney has been very successful at her job. I am glad that I got the opportunity to appreciate her as an advisor, teacher and somewhat as a friend.

I believe my destiny in life is to help people in any way that I am able to no matter where I end up in life. Yes, I've had goals of becoming a doctor one day, but before that can happen I have made the decision to start by giving back to my country by joining the Navy after college. Once I do this, I believe it will be then that I can say that my life has been successful. All I want in life is to end up doing something that I am passionate about.



### Mckenzie Kerr

What at one time seemed to be relentless and never-ending is drawing to what feels to be, an abrupt ending. I didn't realize it my first day of senior year, senior homecoming, or any other main event - but between the "last firsts" and stress - my time in high school is finally coming to a close.

Walking into Central nearly four years ago was the scariest thing I had done up until that point in my life. Overwhelmed by feelings of anxiety, fear and a lingering anticipation for a fresh start, high school marked another major chapter in my life.

I can safely attest to the fact that being a student at Central High School has shaped me educationally, but even more importantly, my character. One thing that I appreciate the most from Central is that it has taught me that there is always more to a person than our initial aesthetic judgements, to accept them as they are - friends can be found in unlikely places.

Fast forward four years, now I'm facing new beginnings once more: college. And while I'm excited, I'm also slowly and steadily starting to feel the pang of loss as I realize that in a matter of weeks I'll be leaving behind a school, a legacy, friends and teachers that I may never come into contact with again. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Central and will never be able to repay the people and student body that has built me up the past four years.

As I get closer to my official last day and walking across the stage to accept my diploma, I wish everyone remaining at Central the utmost and utter best. Departing from Central is heartbreaking, so embrace your time here. Please, cherish every up and down of every facet of high school, for while the future is uncertain - the present is assured. Good luck.

### Jennifer Rooney

I want to be a professional journalist, but I didn't possess that moment of "I want to do this for the rest of my life," until this year.

I didn't become a student journalist until the start of junior year when I joined *The Register*. My friend wrote for it my freshman year and I saw what she was capable of and was intrigued by the work she created. She also inspired me to do the same.

After I was just a staff writer last year, I became Editor-in-Chief this year and it was the best decision I have ever made in my high school career. I was perfect for it. I love learning new things, including from other publications in the world, my staff writers, my favorite advisor Mrs. Blayney and even journalists around the country.

When I write a story, I put every one of my best thoughts into it. I love features because I love telling people's stories. I want to make a difference. My dream is to tell the world of a scandal so big, it creates national discussion, like the Watergate scandal.

Every time I witness someone enjoying the paper I created and the stories I worked for, my heart pounds and it's the best feeling in the world. I love to know people care about my work and that it wasn't for nothing.

Journalism has changed me so much. I'm not that shy, timid little girl anymore. I'm a leader and I can communicate to anyone I need to, to create the story needed. It has taught me so many things in just these two years even things I can use for the rest of my life.

Journalism is my passion and my dream. I can't wait to make a difference and become a professional writer someday. Many people have left an impact in my life and I hope I do the same to others, my staff writers, so they can make a difference in the world and create their path just like I did.

### Jhalisa Robinson

Most students want to be a doctor, lawyer, or superstar when they grow up, but I just want to take pictures. The most sacred things are the memories that one can share with others. I would love to be able to capture each and every moment that will inspire people.

That's why I have dedicated my life into being a photo journalist, or a free-lance photographer. Currently, I'm the Register's photographer, but I've only been on the team for one semester. To my pleasant surprise, the Register is more of a family than a class. I love the staff, and how they cooperate with each other. Aside from graduating, I plan to attend UNL, achieve a bachelor's degree in photo journalism, and travel the world.

Working on the Register has been an absolute pleasure. The class has granted me the opportunity of winning 2nd place for Best News/Feature Photograph. Planning ahead is the best possible way for success, and the sooner you know what you want to do with your life, the better. If I could turn back the hands of time, I would take Newspaper my freshman year. The best advice you can possibly get is the feeling in your gut. Most students stop listening to their gut, and lose sight of their true potential. I will never lose sight of my gut or my true potential, and never lose sight of my dreams. Evolving and transforming myself as an individual throughout my adult will be my greatest accomplishment, as well as my greatest challenge I will have to face.

I want to dedicate this to my mother for being my support system. She always has my back, and she is always there for me.

### Giselle Tran

I'm writing this the day after senior prom, where I experienced a lovely night in the garden of Paris. It's certainly bitter-sweet, the end of high school. On the one hand, I'm joyful to graduate and join my future alma mater, Stanford University, but at the same time, I'm leaving something I loved behind.

I'm nostalgic looking back over these past four years. I recall the excitement and new prospects of freshman year, the familiarity and calm enjoyed during sophomore year, and the hustle and bustle of junior year. My experiences with tennis, Poetry Out Loud, DECA, and *The Register* seemed to go by in a flash.

Without a doubt, my senior year has been the apex of my high school career. First semester was spent on the go as I applied early to Stanford and also spent in anticipation as I waited to receive my decision. Lately, I've been dedicating my time to tennis and treasuring my senior year.

I've grown so much during these past four years. I take heart in the fact that I've become a better person as a result of attending Central. While I know that I am not as good as I could be and I am not as good as I should be, I am better than I was.

I look to the future with optimism, and I'm eager to attend Stanford this coming fall. While I'm interested in applying to medical school (though I'm not fully certain), I plan to major in International Relations. It's never easy to say goodbye, but I can say thank you to everyone who has supported me through the years, especially to my parents. I am grateful to Dr. Bigsby, the administrators, the teachers, and of course, the Class of 2013 for helping to create such fond memories here at Central.

PHOTOS BY JENNIFER ROONEY AND PHOTO COURTESY OF MARCUS OF OMAHA PHOTOGRAPHY



1. Rita Ryan smiles up at her class as she teaches. She has been teaching Latin at Central for 42 years. 2. Jane Taucreti has fun while helping her art students. Her favorite class to teach is AP 2D Studio Art. 3. Marlene LaRue helps one of her freshman biology students with a lab. She has plans to volunteer time and travel. 4. Jeffrey Sill assists a beginning French student with an assignment. He is known for his colorful and creative clothing.

# LEAVING BEHIND

Eight staff members--a caring counselor, a lively Latin teacher, a motherly math teacher, a loving librarian, an ardent art teacher, two

## RITA RYAN

**SAN JUANA PARAMO**  
Staff Writer

Rita Ryan, Central's Latin teacher, first taught in 1971 and now, 42 years later, it is time for her to leave a legacy at Central. "She is a true professional," Erica Meyer, Head of the Language Department, said.

Ryan received her Classical B.A. at Creighton University in 1971 and went to William and Mary in Virginia for graduate school. Ryan did her student teaching, here at Central the same year.

"I decided, 'I might as well stay,'" Ryan recalled. She liked the two Latin teachers who taught at Central before her, and the teachers overall. "They were great, so I decided to stay, not thinking that I would be here for 42 years," she said.

Ryan was always interested in archeology, especially Egyptology. "If you're going to go into archeology, especially ancient, you need to know Latin and Greek," Ryan said. That is what got her interested in Latin, and she ended up majoring in both at Creighton.

Ryan said that her students are why she chose to teach at Central. "I have top-of-the-line, I've always enjoyed teaching them," she said. She hasn't known anything other than teaching in high schools, which is what particularly made her stay. The "students and colleagues" she's had over the years are what makes teaching enjoyable for her. The same reason makes Ryan feel teaching is more than a job, "it's a passion, and career."

"Entertain first and teach second" is Ryan's motto that has helped her for so long.

Ryan recalls the first day she taught at Central in 1971: "the Latin room was Dr. Bigsby's office...I walked in and Channel 3 came to video tape the opening of Omaha Public Schools, and the principal sent them to my room," Ryan said.

Ryan was positive that after her student teaching, she would "continue teaching at Central," though never for so long.

"I think she puts in an amazing amount of work to make sure her students have a great experience with Latin in high school," Meyer said. Doc Moller, the principal at the time, was a huge part of Ryan's decision to stay at Central.

Ryan was offered teaching jobs at other schools but turned them down. She "enjoys teaching and what I do." She likes the fact that she can incorporate archeology along with Latin and Greek. The culture and history of the language is what attracted Ryan most to Latin.

Ryan has taught 5,460 students in Latin, Homeric Greek and Word Studies throughout her career. Ryan has been a part of many different clubs at Central, in particular the Latin Club, which was founded in 1903, throughout her career here.

From the Junior Classical League, to Central Student Democrats and even the Central Philosophy Club, Ms. Ryan has left a "sense of tradition."

Along with her students, Ryan has taken a total of 15 trips to Europe, "mainly Italy and Greece."

"This summer's trip is to Italy and Paris," Ryan said. The back wall of her classroom serves as memory of all those trips taken, picture after picture of students' summer memories.

Ryan has done a lot of work at Central, and none goes unnoticed, she has been awarded Central High Teacher of the year in 2007.

"She is a legend and a pillar of what Central high school is," Bigsby said.

Ryan was awarded the Susan Buffet Award in 1990 and 2003. "She has a mischievous passion for teaching, she is one of those unique teachers that students love," Bigsby said.

She hosted a Central Latin Centennial Banquet to celebrate 100 years of Central Latin. Belly dancers and singers in togas entertained and a seven course dinner was served to the 400 alumni that were present.

"She is going to be hard to replace," Bigsby said. Ryan's students have talked about throwing her a retirement party at Elmwood Park. Ryan didn't mention her retirement to her students earlier in the year. "I waited and told them the same time I told everyone, right before parent conferences," Ryan said. Her students have been nervous about getting a new teacher, but "they'll be fine once they get to know them," Ryan said.

It was time for Ryan to "do something else, I got tired." She wants to be able to things she wasn't able to because of teaching. "I'll do a lot of traveling," Ryan said. She will miss her students, her colleagues ("friends") and Dr. Bigsby.

"He's been fabulous, I've been lucky to have some great principals," Ryan said. Moller was the one to "save Latin"; he kept it going "while it could have died easily...They both have to do with my staying here," she said. "It's not going to be sad," Ryan said, though others care to disagree.

"Definitely sad to see her go. When I first got to Central, I turned to her experience often for guidance. I also traveled with her to Europe in 2006. I thoroughly enjoy Ms. Ryan," Meyer said.

Like students, teachers have been "surprised" to see her go. Her students are "a little upset and sad," but "they'll be fine," she said, smiling.

"It is like losing a sense of tradition. Everyone I meet who learns here, everyone who teaches at Central, asks me about her," Meyer said.

Ryan's retirement as gone around to all her past students as well. "I received a bouquet of flowers from a student (Christina Price) I taught between '81 and '84," Ryan said.

She will be reunited with some of her former students at a retirement party on May 8.

"It'll be a fun time," she said.

Ryan does plan on being involved with Central in some way during her retirement. "I'll be coming to the games and events," she said.

"Whatever we do in this life echoes in eternity," Ryan said. "Quid agimus in vita voci respondet in perpetuum."

"Whatever we do in this life echoes in eternity."

-Rita Ryan

## JANE TAUCRETI

**MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN**  
Staff Writer

Jane Taucreti, art teacher and the head of the Art Department at Central, has announced her plans for retirement. It's bittersweet for her because of her love for Central, but she says it's time for her to go.

Although Taucreti is an art teacher now, that has not always been the case.

"For five years of my working career I was a legal secretary, and for 13 years I was a computer administrator for a computer company," said Taucreti. It was not until later in life that Taucreti decided that she wanted to become a teacher. She then chose to go back to school to get her teaching degree.

"I have always enjoyed art," she said. She thought that it would be a "natural" progression for her to combine two things that she greatly enjoys: art and teaching. She said that everyday teaching is "hard work, but it's so much better than sitting behind a desk all day."

Taucreti has been making her own art for many years.

"I like a lot of things in art. I like to make things--3D things, but my favorite thing is painting. It's so calming and relaxing. It's easy to get lost in it," she said. She primarily paints portraits of people, but still is open to painting various things.

Taucreti has enjoyed her time at Central. "My favorite thing about Central is the sense of community and the sense of pride. There's a lot of pride in Central and outside of it too," she said.

"Alumni are very proud as well as just people in the community. The history in the building is great too. The building has been around a long time which

makes it so much more meaningful. You can feel the history. It's not just some brand new building I that I teach at. It's deeper than that."

Taucreti teaches different art classes during the day, but her favorite to teach is AP 2D Studio Art.

"Many students in this class are in their third or fourth year of art. It's fun to watch them blossom into something great. I'll see what they're working on, and that'll help me get inspired. I love how confident they are with their work, that's also inspiring," she said.

Taucreti plans to focus on her own art after she retires. She also plans to focus more on her family.

"I want to help out with my granddaughters more," said Taucreti. "I also want to be able to visit my son, who lives on the East Coast, whenever I want, not just during the summer when I don't have to work."

Although Taucreti is retiring, that doesn't mean that she is done with Central.

"I may sub next year. A lot of my students will still be at Central for a few more years, and of course I'll know the staff. I would only sub at Central," said Taucreti.

Taucreti is impressed by the art program. "The art program at Central is a strong one," she said. It has won national art awards in the past.

"I had the opportunity to go to Carnegie Hall in New York City where the awards were presented," said Taucreti. She was awarded a medal because of a previous student's outstanding work.

"I have been so blessed to have been able to have taught here at Central," said Taucreti. "The staff is great, the students are great, and I am just going to miss it so much."

## MARLENE LARUE

**SAN JUANA PARAMO**  
Staff Writer

Marlene LaRue has been Central's freshman biology teacher for 16 years. After a considerably long career at Central, LaRue has decided that it's time to say goodbye.

After 14 years of teaching junior high, LaRue "got tired of the immaturity of some of the students," and was ready for a change.

LaRue grew up on a farm, which led to her passion for biology, which grew throughout her time in high school. "It was a subject that came easy, I thought it was interesting," she said. "It seemed logical" for her to continue with biology, ending up becoming a teacher of the subject.

Being able to work with students is what makes teaching enjoyable for LaRue.

"Their enthusiasm, their curiosity, you are working with different people, different personalities every day," she said. "Every day is different...and I like that."

LaRue will miss teaching and working with the students, but it is also one of the other reasons she wants to retire. "I still feel very good about what I am doing and I've had wonderful students," LaRue said. She will miss her co-workers and "the identity of being a teacher at Central."

For LaRue, retiring will most definitely be a sad

goodbye. "Just clearing out my room, it's been my classroom for many years, it's been my second home," LaRue said. "I'm going through things and saying 'this will be a good idea for next year, then realize, no wait, there isn't a next year...This fall is when it will really hit me,'" she added.

Many staff members, including Dr. Keith Bigsby, were surprised when LaRue announced her retirement. "Another quality teacher, in the area of biology she works really great with students, she understands the Central way, we're going to miss her," Bigsby said. "We're going to have to work to make up her loss, you're losing that kind of experience that's hard to replace. Whoever is going to take her place has some big shoes to fill," he added.

LaRue won't be involved with Central once she retires.

"I will dedicate some time to my parish and volunteer," she said. She wants to be with family and be free whenever she needs to, adding "And I wish to travel with my husband."

"I'd like to think that I am leaving them with some fond memories and some knowledge to help them," LaRue said "But I also have to be a realist, I've heard about other teachers say 'once you leave these halls, we're forgotten.'" She added that teachers come and go and she hopes she is leaving an impact on the school and students.

## JEFFREY SILL

**TIA SPEARS**  
Staff Writer

French teacher Jeffrey Sill will be retiring for the 2013-2014 school year. After 40 of teaching, 13 of which were spent at Central High School, Sill will spend his time taking care of his 97-year-old mother and doing work around the house and the yard. Amongst several others who will be retiring, Sill is one who will definitely have left a unique remark. Halligan Kilroy, a junior at Central and a former student of Sill, shared some of her thoughts.

"His humor, charm, and sass will be missed greatly," Kilroy said. "He never fails to greet his students with a smile or engage in conversation." Sill came to Central in 2000, but began teaching in Amesworth, Neb. in 1973.

"I've pretty much been teaching the same classes since I've taught here," he said. When Sill first came to Central, he was able to teach one

class of Spanish and the rest of the classes he taught were French. "I've always had one to two Spanish classes, but I primarily taught French," he said. After Mrs. Lawton, a former staff member, left to go to North High School, he then became solely dedicated to teaching the French language.

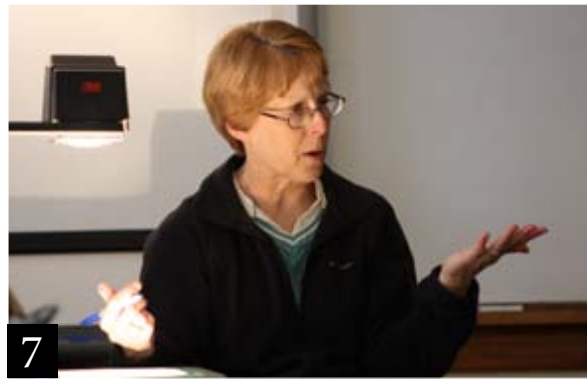
Nonetheless, Central is not the only place Sill has spent his teaching career. He's taught at Wahoo Neumann, Lincoln High, Tekemaha-Herman, Mercy and Skutt Catholic, and is ending his teaching career at Central High. "I will not be coming back to sub," Sill said. His generosity, personality, and willingness to help his students is something Kilroy said she'll miss the most. "Mr. Sill is a kind soul," Kilroy added.

Sill explained that throughout his teaching experience, the greatest moments were seeing the successes of his former students. "I've got three former students who have been or are currently French teachers in OPS," he shared. "Two other ones [teach] in Minnesota and Illinois." Sill commented that he is proud of students who've been able to use language in

their careers and keep up with many of them through Facebook.

In addition to teaching memories, Sill did an advisement program during his years spent teaching at Mercy and Skutt. "You got to spend one-on-one time with the kids and over a period of time, you got to really know them," Sill said. Seeing the development of his students serves him a sense of gratitude. Sill commented that he enjoyed teaching at every school he worked at, but had the best teaching experiences at Skutt, Mercy, Central and Wahoo Neumann.

Kilroy is one of the students who will have a rather humorous and lasting memory of Sill. She said, "Mr. Sill stopped me in the hall and giggled, 'You know I had those exact boots in high school!'" Kilroy added that Sill will definitely be missed and "deserves to take a break." It goes without saying that Sill's vibrant personality, fashion sense and notable sense of humor are attributes that will be missed in the Central High School atmosphere.



5. Linda Brock subconsciously gives a thumbs up as she teaches her students. Brock has been at Central for 13 years. 6. Sue Devlin beams as she looks over some of the books in Central's library. Devlin formerly served the district as an art teacher. 7. Susan Altman (formerly Drumm) instructs one of her Pre Calc/Trig classes. She is one of the only teachers to still use an overhead. 8. Rick Richards smiles by his window. He has been at Central for 10 years.

# THEIR LEGACIES

brainy biology teachers and a fiery French teacher--look back on their time at Central as they prepare to leave the nest.

## LINDA BROCK

**GISELLE TRAN**  
Business Editor

In mid-February of this year, Linda Brock made the decision to leave Central, including her regular and honors biology classes, as well as her honors anatomy and physiology course.

Brock taught at Central for 13 years and has been with the district for 33 years. Before teaching at Central, Brock taught at Benson High.

A heart problem caused Brock to take a year's leave from Benson. Upon her return, Brock was given the option of teaching at Benson or at Central. However, the job opening at Benson was to teach chemistry, while Brock knew she would rather teach biology at Central. Her decision was also influenced by the connections she had retained to Jean Whitten and Dr. Gary Thompson, Central's principal at the time. Brock has previously taught with Whitten at Lewis and Clark, where Dr. Thompson had been the principal.

Brock commented, "Central was the no-brainer."

Brock is also the head coach for the girls' varsity golf team. Ben Mihovk has been her volunteer assistant the last five years, and Brock hopes Mihovk will have the opportunity to take over her position as head coach.

As far as her academic classes, Brock is uncertain who will take her place. John Morley began teaching anatomy and physiology this year, but Brock remains unsure whether he will continue and take over the

program at Central.

Although Brock sent in her letter of resignation only this semester, Brock's thoughts on leaving Central began earlier.

"It was something I had always kind of wanted to do when I hit eligibility to leave early so that I could look for another job to do other things, try other things," said Brock.

The many changes taking place in the district motivated Brock to send in her letter of resignation and search for a different job. Brock interviewed for a position at Marian High over spring break and was hired the following Tuesday.

"I am looking extremely forward to teaching at Marian High School. I get to help build it [the anatomy and physiology program] up from ground-zero. I'm looking forward to the change and that challenge actually," said Brock.

The district has been making several major changes in order to improve the overall education its students are receiving. Brock doesn't believe these changes will be easy on teachers. She commented, "This is a good time to leave and try something else."

A few of the requirements the district is compelling of teachers are new lesson plans, which Brock calls "extremely detailed and time-consuming." Additionally, the district decided that students' grades will reflect on teachers' teaching ability. In response, Brock said, "I don't agree with that."

It was a scary decision to make, but Brock said, "I decided to take a

leap of faith and trust that something else will open up."

Thinking back on what she will miss the most, Brock said she will miss the camaraderie she enjoyed at Central. Among her coworkers at Central, Whitten has been one of Brock's closest friends; in total, they have taught for 20 years together.

"I think back on it and what I'll miss the most are the people that I work with. They are truly friends and have been friends for a long, long time," said Brock.

However, Brock will also miss the students. "The students have been a lot of fun. I just love laughing with them."

Brock has graduated one daughter from Central, Katie Brock, and is set to graduate one more this year, Allie Brock.

As the daughter of a teacher at Central, Allie noted, "It comes with a lot of perks." Whenever Allie walks in the hallway, she's never asked for a pass because most teachers know she is Brock's daughter.

However, Allie recognizes the downsides, saying, "It's always nice to have your mom right there in case you need anything, [but] sometimes it's a challenge just because she knows everything that goes on."

Before Brock leaves the nest, she would like to give some final advice to Central students: "Take advantage of the opportunities that you have at Central. You have the opportunities to get the best education you possibly can get in the state—I truly believe that. Embrace the diversity. And enjoy the journey."

## SUE DEVLIN

**MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN**  
Staff Writer

Sue Devlin has been the librarian here at Central for a number of years, and this year she has decided it's time to retire. Devlin, originally from Wisconsin, opened up her heart to Central. "I love Central," said Devlin.

"I have worked in OPS for 20 years, and have been at Central since 1998," she said. Originally she began her career as an art teacher.

"I taught in the elementary schools," said Devlin. After that she went on to teach at Lewis and Clark. After a few years she transferred to Bryan High School. She taught art there for one year, then she came to Central as an art teacher and has been here ever since. Devlin decided to become the librarian because it "combines my two favorite subjects: books and art," she said.

As librarian, Devlin does much more than look at books. She teaches students how to analyze literature, how to search for books, and she also teaches them how to research using online databases.

"I collaborate with the classroom teachers, then they will come into the library to schedule a time to come back in with their class so I can help them work on citations," said Devlin.

Another part of Devlin's job is to make sure books are current. "There's a lot of new material surfacing and we have to make sure we have the most recent books," she said. Devlin also works with alumni

authors, facilitates a book club and assists and facilitates after-school homework help. "We are open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. and there's always something going on," said Devlin.

Her retirement is bittersweet. "It's time," she said. Having been at Central for many years, Devlin knows that it will be hard to leave.

"I'm ready for the next challenge. I'm not sure what that will be, but I'm ready for it," she said. Devlin hopes that with her newfound retirement, she will take on a part time job.

"I may sub here at Central, or find a different job," she said. Retiring will give Devlin more time to focus on her own art and give her more time to focus on doing works for galleries in the area. "I have worked with the Artist's Co-Op, the 13th Street Gallery, and the Nebraska Artists. I'd like to do more of that," she said. Devlin paints mostly on canvases and greatly enjoys oil painting. She prefers creating abstract artwork.

"What I will miss is the people, the staff, the students. They are all wonderful. There are good teachers and good leadership. The academic atmosphere is marvelous, the students know how high the expectations are for them," said Devlin.

"And the students have many choices on what classes they may take. Overall, Central is exceptional. You can see that everyone has a lot of respect for one another. I am going to miss it."

**ELISSA WIENER**  
Staff Writer

In 1999 Central gained one of the best math teachers it ever had and now, 14 years later, Susan Altman is ready to retire. Whether students know her as Ms. Altman or Ms. Drumm, there is one common fact about her that never changes: she is one of the best math teachers around.

Altman taught both math and P.E. at Lewis and Clark for 16 years before joining Central. Every student who takes Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry has the privilege of being her student. She also teaches Algebra 5-6.

"Ms. Drumm is a fantastic teacher," said senior Tal Margalit. "She cares about every student and doesn't hesitate to help in any way she can. Not only does she create a comfortable learning environment, but always has a way to make everyone laugh."

Altman loves teaching at Central; she said, "My experience at Central has been wonderful. I have worked with so many excellent teachers and so many talented students. The parents, administration, students, teachers are truly a caring community."

With her excellent teaching techniques and great personality, Altman is a memorable teacher. She has quite a few trademarks and quirks.

She almost always wears her "lucky" sweater before a possible snow day and when school is canceled she is just as excited about it as all of the students.

She always shares the occasional cheesy or nerdy

joke to get the class laughing.

The most notable and memorable thing that she does, however, is her drinking and driving speeches. Unlike other teachers who might just say don't drink and drive once during the school year, Altman always delves into the topic before every dance of the year.

Not only does she give the regular advice, but she also offers to pick up a student if he/she is drunk and can't drive. Not many other teachers are willing to drop everything late on a Saturday night and willingly pick up a drunken student. This is just one of the many things that will be missed once Altman retires at the end of the year. Altman will be missed next year, and although she will miss Central as well, she is looking forward to her upcoming years.

"I am retiring simply because I am eligible to retire," she stated. "My plans are to get another teaching job, hopefully in math, in a smaller school system. I will also be volunteering my time with either the Nebraska Humane Society or Hearts United for Animals. I hope to become a rescue/foster home for dogs."

"[Ms. Drumm] taught me the most in a way that made sense," senior Samantha Wiener said. "She really values education and educating her students and she always makes herself available to any student who needs any help... I've had numerous math teachers since sixth grade and I can say 100 percent that Ms. Drumm was the best of them."

## RICK RICHARDS

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

After 20 years as a music teacher and 16 years as a counselor (10 of those at Central), Rick Richards is ready to retire.

"After 36 years, it's time," said the counselor, who takes care of students with B, I, K and Y last names. He has also led Central's Gay-Straight Alliance for nine years, a "privilege" he named as "the highlight of my time at Central."

"It's been such a positive experience for me," he said. "Watching kids come in and get involved with the group as freshmen and sophomores, many of them being unsure of themselves...to watch them gain confidence and mature and grow and start figuring out what direction they want their life to take...their energy and their enthusiasm feeds me."

Along with GSA, Richards will also miss working with fellow counselor Leslie Hill. The two have worked together for 13 years, and Richards described her as "a very dear friend."

Before Central, he made the rounds in Nebraska with various jobs as a vocal music, band, strings and orchestra instructor at schools like Auburn Middle, Wahoo Jr/Sr High, Rising City and Benson before setting down his music stand and becoming a counselor. Richards' kids were reaching high school, and he found that such an involved job—"High school band directors are busy, you know"—was causing him to miss out on their activities.

Even while teaching music, Richards felt a pull to help the troubled kids he came into contact with. "When I was a band director, I knew I had kids in my classroom that had problems and issues, but I didn't have the time or the skill to help them," he said. "And I always knew they would do better in school if they had all of that other stuff more under control." So he took the steps to become a force with the capacity to make a difference in the lives of young people. The road has been largely rewarding, but it has not been a snap. Richards said that "The crisis stuff is really hard sometimes. Suicides, abuse, pregnancy, those sorts of things are always difficult to deal with. Despite the mental anguish and uncertainty, ingrained parts of these situations, Richards said that "In some ways, they're also the most gratifying."

"Sometimes kids come to you who really need somebody to intervene for them or advocate for them, or help them with a problem that they're overwhelmed with. It might be something big and scary but you still know that you helped somebody who really needed help," he said. "And even though those crisis situations are really tough sometimes, at the end of the day you go, 'I really made a difference with a student today.'"

Richards doesn't want to stop making those differences. He plans on continuing to work with kids, and has applied for several different counseling jobs. He said that he is "not ready to just sit at home." But right now, everything is up in the air.

He may pick up another organist job (he currently plays the organ

for Holy Cross Lutheran Church) or take organ lessons. He may end up with a part-time counseling job at an elementary school or as an employee at Mulhall's. "I'm just really open," he said. "I may go back and do something with music. There are just all sorts of possibilities, and it's a little scary not to know what I'm going to be doing next fall. But it's kind of exciting, too."

Richards doesn't plan on cutting ties with Central. He "probably will still come to activities and games and concerts and plays," and he will keep in touch with Hill and Lisa Donahoe, as well as several other close friends at Central.

While his time at Central has come to a close, a part of the place will stay with him. The special qualities that lie in Central students have not been lost on him; Richards recognized that Central kids are different. If he goes to another school, he said that it will be interesting to see how those kids compare to the ones he has known for so long.

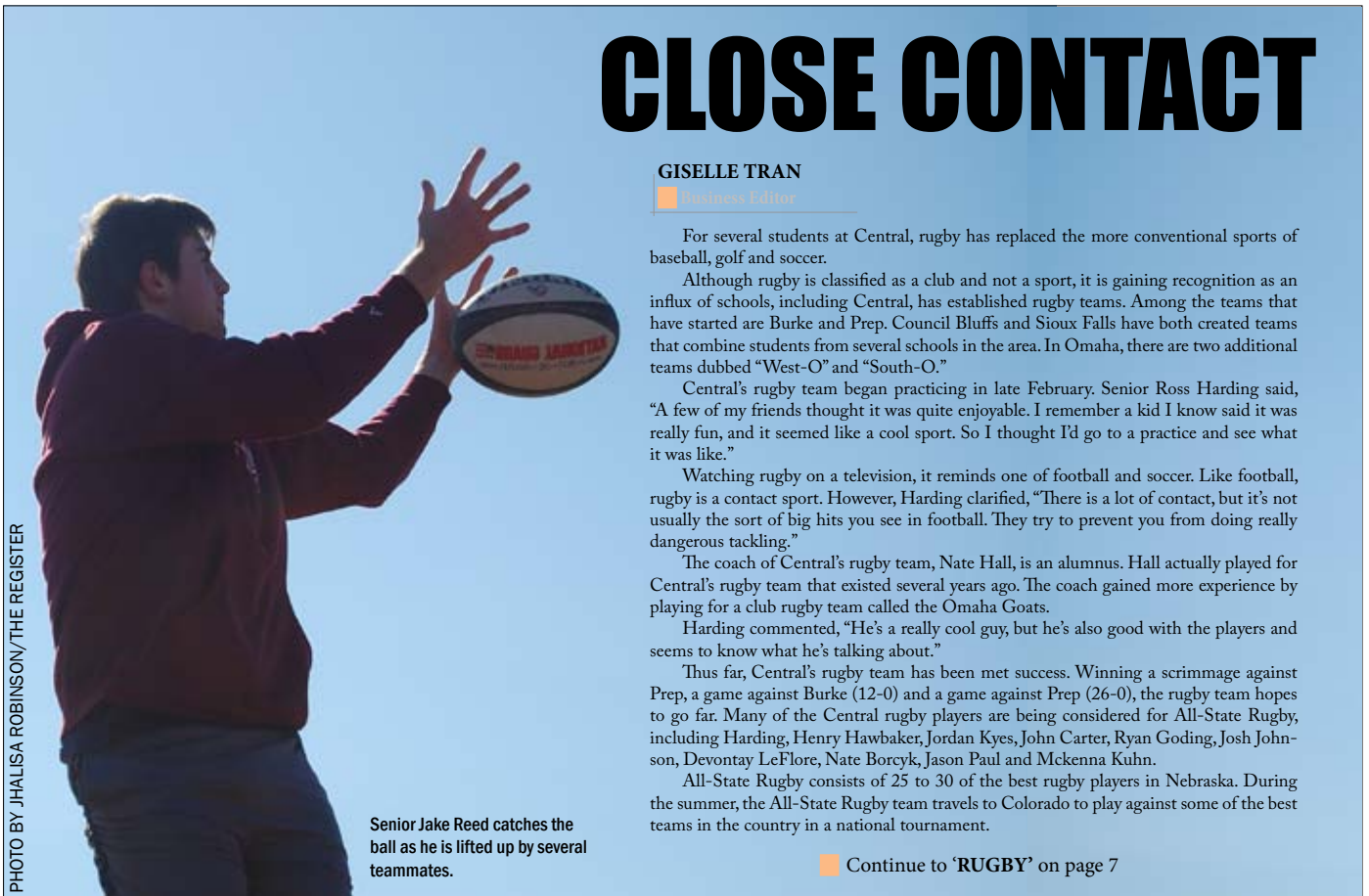
"Kids are kids. Teenagers are teenagers," Richards said. "I've worked with teenagers for 36 years, but there's something different about Central kids...it's kind of like the history oozes out of the walls and influences them in some way...Central kids are at a different level." Along with the avant-garde students, "I'm going to miss that Central air," said Richards.

"I get ready to cross 20th Street every morning, and I always look up the hill, thinking 'Wow, I work there,'" he said. "Just being part of something that has so much history...and has such a great reputation in the city—I'm going to miss that."

SPORTS



PHOTO BY JHALISA ROBINSON/THE REGISTER



Senior Jake Reed catches the ball as he is lifted up by several teammates.

# CLOSE CONTACT

**GISELLE TRAN**  
Business Editor

For several students at Central, rugby has replaced the more conventional sports of baseball, golf and soccer.

Although rugby is classified as a club and not a sport, it is gaining recognition as an influx of schools, including Central, has established rugby teams. Among the teams that have started are Burke and Prep. Council Bluffs and Sioux Falls have both created teams that combine students from several schools in the area. In Omaha, there are two additional teams dubbed "West-O" and "South-O."

Central's rugby team began practicing in late February. Senior Ross Harding said, "A few of my friends thought it was quite enjoyable. I remember a kid I know said it was really fun, and it seemed like a cool sport. So I thought I'd go to a practice and see what it was like."

Watching rugby on a television, it reminds one of football and soccer. Like football, rugby is a contact sport. However, Harding clarified, "There is a lot of contact, but it's not usually the sort of big hits you see in football. They try to prevent you from doing really dangerous tackling."

The coach of Central's rugby team, Nate Hall, is an alumnus. Hall actually played for Central's rugby team that existed several years ago. The coach gained more experience by playing for a club rugby team called the Omaha Goats.

Harding commented, "He's a really cool guy, but he's also good with the players and seems to know what he's talking about."

Thus far, Central's rugby team has been met success. Winning a scrimmage against Prep, a game against Burke (12-0) and a game against Prep (26-0), the rugby team hopes to go far. Many of the Central rugby players are being considered for All-State Rugby, including Harding, Henry Hawbaker, Jordan Kyes, John Carter, Ryan Goding, Josh Johnson, Devontay LeFlore, Nate Boreyk, Jason Paul and Mckenna Kuhn.

All-State Rugby consists of 25 to 30 of the best rugby players in Nebraska. During the summer, the All-State Rugby team travels to Colorado to play against some of the best teams in the country in a national tournament.

Continue to 'RUGBY' on page 7

## Harsh accusations on basketball team by columnist disputed

Everything I love about watching basketball can be summed up in two words.

Omaha Central. Dubbed "Champ High" by students and staff, Omaha Central High school's basketball team won their fourth straight basketball state championship title during the weekend of sweat and tears on March 7-9. A "4peat" down, the Eagles brought in their Class A victory passionately, with all the flustered thrill that a four-year-in-a-row win could bring, and quite frankly, they did it right.

While Central's players, students and faculty celebrated over the induction of another set of rings - schools other than opponent Papillion-La Vista began the criticism. Criticisms stemmed from other fellow high school students on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram, but arguably the most offensive and unreasonable comments were made from an adult, a writer for the Papio Sun Times.

It's safe to say in the state of Nebraska and throughout various parts of the United States that the Eagles basketball team has made their name highly respected and well known for all the facets of what makes up a quality team. From vigor and athleticism to the players' treatment of rival teams, Omaha Central's boys' basketball team has become a pretty professional group of young men when it comes to the court and court etiquette.



**THIS IS RANDOM BUT**  
A Column by Mckenzie Kerr

Other teams, namely Papillion-La Vista, haven't quite had the experience to focus and hone these skills, so therefore we don't blame them.

A previous season game where the Eagles faced the Monarchs, Papio winning 67-58, showed the attitudes of sore losers - dismissing the commonality on the court that, maybe, shaking hands with the other team is just the polite thing to do.

Sure, it's fine for Papio's students to storm the court and

gloat over ending the Eagle's 52-game in-state streak, but it's also just a common courtesy to acknowledge your opponents.

And although acknowledgement and hand shaking may be petty to even bring into question, I might also note that Central has been criticized for a player hopping into the student section post-state game while Papillion-La Vista accepted their state runner-up awards. In no way is it fair to shoot malice at a Central player, full of adrenaline from just winning his fourth state title, as doing so to "keep the focus on him" when the Monarchs' entire team overlooked simple acknowledgement of the Eagles in a previous game. Is it reasonable to justify a lack of respect from the Monarchs dodging handshakes because the "student section stormed the court to celebrate that night," yet call out a player for so-called "diving" into the student section during the awards? No, my friends, it is not.

Not only did the Monarchs previously demonstrate poor sportsmanship, but also highly unsportsmanlike con-

Continue to 'REBUTTAL' on page 7

## Future UNL track star Chelsea Baker brings energy to team

**TIA SPEARS**  
Staff Writer

Tenacious at heart and wise with the mind. These are the very words that sketch senior Chelsea Baker's persona as an athlete. This free-spirited individual is one of the key runners on the varsity girls' track team, on the path to an invigorating college experience.

The sprinter signed with UNL's track team and is a prospective primary education major. Despite Baker's track successes, she primarily aspired to be a basketball player or cheerleader. "I thought I would do either basketball or cheerleading, but it just didn't work out," she commented.

Baker's uncle noticed her talent early on in her childhood and persuaded her to run. Baker officially began her track career in the seventh grade. She admitted that her very first coach, DJ, had an influential role in igniting this passion of hers.

"He used to work me so hard at track practice. I feel like he made me continue," she said. She also credits her mother, grandmother, and uncle for supporting this endeavor. However, she credits herself for making her track career truly blossom into what it is today.

Baker's current coach, Trent Lodge, is another key figure in her track journey. He commented that he believes he has instilled a lot of commitment and hard work in her. That exact dedication and productiveness is apparent in her performance.

"She's become quite a good 100 runner. Ever year she's improved her times and gotten stronger," he said. Lodge has experienced Baker's high energy and love for her sport from the moment she transitioned from middle school to high school.

He stated that Baker brought a lot of energy and enthusiasm to the team. Lodge wouldn't comment on his thoughts as to who would replace Baker's vibrant personality and head-turning speed next year, but left a lasting

comment that he is "most proud of her with sticking with it and going hard."

"Ever since she was a freshman she's medaled in events," he said. Because of her remarkable performances within her events and the amount of dedication and commitment instilled in her over her five year track career thus far, she attracted the hearts of division one schools.

Ultimately, her school of choosing was the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. "On an honest note, I really didn't want to run at a college level at first, but then people kept encouraging me and so I decided to continue," she said. Baker commented that it'll be a challenge physically adjusting, but she will be adamant in her efforts to become proficient at the division one level in order to match or surpass the athleticism of the runners that have already been training.

Baker is reluctant in her efforts to become a better track runner. The 100, 400, 4x1 and 4x4 are her events and the main thing she promotes is physical growth. She says, "My expectation is for myself to get better, for my team to get better as one, and for us to take state." Baker is assuredly an advocate for personal development and perfecting the skills that coincide with being an athlete. Subsequently, she tries to be an impeccable role model for the other runners on the team. She explained, "I'm always getting compliments like 'Oh, I wish I could run like you', so that makes me work harder."

In addition to the admiration of her teammates, she makes sure that she is always a positive role model. "When I first started high school I was just goofy all the time and didn't take anything serious. Now I care about more stuff," she said. "I'm more serious now." Baker said her hardships surround procrastination and allowing nervousness to impact her performance. Nonetheless, her teammates and coaches still think just as highly of her. A prime example of their appreciation is the response she got from them when she signed to UNL. "I didn't know it was going to be a big deal, but seeing your peers congratulate you a lot is a good feeling," she said.

Continue to 'BAKER' on page 7

## The only downside to water skiing: it can't be done in the winter

I hate when people say they can't play sports until the summer. What does the summer have anything to do with becoming athletic and working out your body? It doesn't. But this time I will contradict myself.

I love water skiing. The only bad thing is that I can't be involved in it during the winter unless I could make a speed boat that could glide on ice, which could never happen even if pigs start to fly. Until that day, I will just live my summer days in heaven while water skiing and keep waiting and hoping for summer to come during the winter.

Most people would think that water skiing isn't a sport, but then why am I so sore that I can barely crawl out of bed the next day? It's like when people work out and feel sore through their entire bodies for a long period of time afterwards. Both ways we are working out our muscles and building strength, but it's just in different ways.

I remember the very first day that I tried to water ski, like it was yesterday. I was 10 years old, and my family had bought our very first boat. We all wanted to try to water ski because my dad claimed he was only four years old when he went out on the water on his father's shoulders, yet I never believed this. And every time he would water ski on somebody else's boat, he would "show us up," lifting one of his skis in the air or speeding swiftly out of the wake like the water wasn't even there or

even jumping on the water. It was all just amazing to us. My family and I wanted to be just like him doing tricks and "showing each other up." It was our time to be the better ones.

So after my mom learned how to wate ski a little while after, she taught me step by step right in the water next to me while my dad drove the boat. She even finally taught me how to put my skis on, which after seven years, I still have trouble with.



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

It only took me three tries to get out of water and glide for a few feet. It was such a great feeling that I had to do it again and again and again, and now look where I am, speeding outside of the wake just like my dad, with my friends every summer.

When I first learned how to water ski, after I would get out on the water I would repeat to myself "I can do this, I can do this. I can do this . . ." Finally

I didn't need that pep talk because I had taught myself that I could do it all along.

Right now I am trying to lift my ski in front of my body outside of the water. I seem to be a bit clumsier then I thought I was. I'm not that great at keeping my balance, which I have come to live with now.

Someday I will defeat this trick and be able to show my kids just

what they can learn in the future.

I love to go skiing with one of my friends because he challenges me to do more tricks and challenge myself. For example, when I wouldn't go out of the wake for the first time, he literally just came gradually and gradually closer to me until I was practically riding the wake, pushing myself out. I was not only yelling at him, but I was very scared of getting hurt.

It made me actually try something new, and, to this day, I love going out of the wake. We both do. We both swerve in and out of each other wanting to show off. The greatest thing is that we may fall, but just one minute later we will be back up again doing the same old tricks that we just fell to.

Going water skiing is just one of those things that makes me feel good inside because I'm good at it, and I also strive to be better each time. I never give up. It gives me strength in myself and in my body. I will never stop water skiing because someday I will be just like my dad, 50 years old and still having the best tricks in town out on the water and someday I want to teach my kids as well.

But this time, I have something on my dad because, just last year, I learned how to wakeboard.

We'll see how this summer goes, and I'll prove that not only is water skiing a sport, but wakeboarding is too.

See what *The Register* has to offer in a full calendar of important sport dates for this summer.

**Sweating with Activities**

See Inside, Page 10

**Dedicated Runner, Coach and Teacher**

Spanish teacher Audrey Faltin, has put her love of running into the Central cross country and track team.

See Inside, Page 8

**Running Away**

Why does Central have to host track meets at other schools? See why Central's track is different.

See Inside, Page 7



## While track isn't regulation size, stadium still satisfies

CHEYENNE ALEXIS  
Staff Writer

The track field at the Seemann Stadium is open for every sports team to practice on, including the track team, of course. But one thing is for sure; Central does not host track meets. Some people must wonder why, because it looks like any track, so why does the track team have their home games elsewhere?

There is a very thorough and elaborate reason as to why this is so. Principal Dr. Keith Bigsby has a vast understanding of the history of the stadium, and why the track is not a regulatory one.

The Seemann Stadium was built in 2005 through a donation by alumni such as the Seemann family and Susan Thompson Buffett.

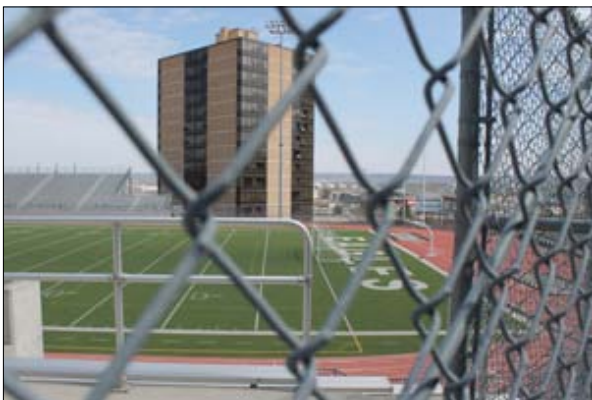
"When the stadium was built, it was pretty much Central High alumni who put all of those dollars together," Bigsby said. "The actual stadium belonged to Creighton. Once we acquired the property, then it was Central High alumni led by Warren Buffett's first wife, Susan Thompson Buffett, she died, but she made a donation of five million dollars, which was then also matched by the Seemann family, and a number of other people that basically said 'we're gonna have an athletic stadium here at Central High School.'"

Before the stadium was built in 2005, "We owned a football stadium right where Joslyn sculpture field is; Joslyn wanted that for parking. We needed more athletic facilities, and Creighton was looking for some money from some of the Joslyn people." Central gave Creighton the previous practice field, and Creighton gave Central a piece of their property.

Really, architecture was the issue afoot when building the Seemann Stadium. "The problem was the land was very small and it took a lot of work to be able to create that thing; in fact it was two years graded. We had to build up," Bigsby said. Where the stadium was actually built, Bigsby said, "that was actually a street that went through there, and they had to build all this up, 'cause that street; if you went down there in the winter and it was icy, you slid all the way down to 20th."

Another issue to deal with was available parking for the teachers; otherwise they would have to sacrifice parking elsewhere, maybe even somewhere downtown.

"The principal at the time was a guy by the name of Gary Thompson, who's a good friend of mine. He said, 'We have to have parking for the teachers.' We have to have parking for the teachers, because if you've noticed the field kind of sits cockeyed, but if you sit it straight, you eliminate about 50 parking spaces, and at that time we had no place to park," Bigsby said. He claimed that, "the worst thing you can do as a principal is to have teachers who have to go looking for parking spaces around downtown. So in order to



PHOTOS BY JHALISA ROBINSON / THE REGISTER

**The track field is not regulation sized. It's smaller than other fields because of the space available when it was built, one of the disadvantages of being downtown.**

accommodate parking, what they gave up was the track."

Space and parking play a big role as to why the stadium does not have a regular track. The track, instead of being six lanes, became four lanes, and the football and soccer field is tight-packed.

"If you go to new stadiums today they can accommodate both soccer and football, ours can, but it's very hard," Bigsby said. "The tradeoff was parking versus four lanes of track, and if you think about it we park there every day, and how often do we run the track?"

Regardless of not having any track meets on the field, all teams still practice on the field.

"They still practice on the track; you can still practice on the track." In order to hold a track meet, Bigsby said, "You have to have six lanes, and I don't think our track is actually regulation in order to run the four hundred meters. We can do four-forties, which is 440 yards, but 400 meters is a little longer on one lap and we can't do that, it's a little short. But like I said, you can still practice there, and our track team does."

A good thing is, Central is still able to use another track meet. In order for us (Central) to hold the Dick-Jones invitational track meet coming up, Central has to go out to Burke, "but it's a nice place to go to because they hold the state track meet. And they have a phenomenal facility," said Bigsby.

"One of the disadvantages of the downtown is that land is premium and the further out you go you see schools with lots of land and they can do lots of things. We're pretty tight. What I can say is if we would have had that parking lot on 20th and Dodge when we built that stadium, my guess is that stadium would have been full-sized, but we didn't," Bigsby said.

Even though the track team is limited space, they are still able to thrive and perform wherever they go, and Central does not need a full track to prove so.

## All-State Rugby feels "incredible"

Continued from 'RUGBY' on page 6

Coaches have been watching schools' games and practices in order to determine who deserves to be on the team. These same coaches invited the rugby players being considered from Central to a practice with the current All-State team.

When asked how difficult rugby was, Carter replied, "Four syllables—incredibly." A cross country runner, Harding also loves rugby. His favorite part is trying to pick up a new game.

Harding said, "We're learning the rules while we're learning to play. It's a very interesting process."

Hopefully, the rugby team will not fade into nonexistence and will instead regain its status as a tradition at Central.

## Papio accusations unwarranted, rude

Continued from 'REBUTTAL' on page 6

duct when Papio player Nate Maloley was called for an intentional foul.

I don't care what anyone "expects" out of a player who is "frustrated," or how quickly his coach acted – a player must learn to have a little self-control on the court. Basic maturity standards and athletic conduct do not justify, what appeared to be, the strangling of an opponent.

Why accuse OPS administration, teachers, coaches – or whoever – for not stopping the "antics," when the Monarch's coach hasn't warned his players that going and hooking a player's neck with your elbow isn't very classy?

Omaha Central's basketball team has gained recognition not only for their skill but professionalism in and off of the court with fans.

Even Papio Sun Times columnist himself said, "No one can deny Central is the best team in the state" – so if anyone is so concerned about the cockiness of Central's players, don't go around publishing articles that present them with a compliment.

## Baker aims high

Continued from 'BAKER' on page 6

So far, Baker has no regrets except for one unfortunate placing at state. "If I could go back and change anything it would be me coming in second at state last year," she said. As one could expect she is working as hard as ever in order to prevent that from happening, all while still exhibiting good sportsmanship in order to be the positive example for her younger fellow track teammates.

As for the moment, she is simply working to end her high school track career in a way people will remember. Baker's one huge piece of advice for herself and for other runners is to finish all the way through. "Instead of thinking you're tired just tell yourself to push it. If you think you're tired you're going to be tired so just don't think about the race."

## Loyalty, pride are forgotten when it comes to Major League Baseball's cash flow

In 2012 the St. Louis Cardinals suffered a devastating blow when Albert Pujols left the team to join the Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim. Then this year, they lost Lance Berkman to the Texas Rangers. The New York Yankees always pick up new players from different teams. Players are constantly leaving their home teams for a separate team.

And what for? Money. Now I obviously understand the appeal of money. Anyone who says differently is lying. And, yes, major league baseball players do tend to make quite a bit of cash, but what is the big difference between 200 million dollars and 203 million dollars? Either way, you're super rich and everyone knows it. So what is the big difference? Please tell me.

For me, Albert Pujols leaving the Cardinals was a devastating blow. He had been my favorite player. I loved waiting to see him at games and going over his stats with my dad. He was such an amazing player that was adored by the entire Cardinal fan base. And then he was gone.

I had only just begun to really get into baseball a few years before, so his leaving was the first big team switch that I'd really cared about. The thing that made me the most upset about his leaving wasn't the fact itself that he left, but the reason why. He left over a matter of several million dollars. Now to anybody, the difference between \$210 million and \$254 million is vast, but to a player who is going to be a millionaire either way, why does it matter?

Loyalty used to matter the most. I know I sound like an old grandpa being all nostalgic about the good

old days, but it's true. Back in the 1970s none of the Cards would have ever left the team for a bit more cash.

My mom was complaining to me the other day about the lack of team loyalty. She never would have thought that major players would leave teams over the matter of some money. She told me it was a major reason that she stopped watching baseball for a while.

Of course, the Cardinals aren't the only culprits. Not by far. Every team has had key players "stolen" by other teams for some extra cash. The team that is best known for buying all the top players is the New York Yankees. Most everyone knows the Yankees as 'cheaters' because they buy all of their talent. Whether or not you actually like baseball is a different matter.

Don't get me wrong, I actually love the Yankees. I'm a New Yorker and therefore have to support my team, but I don't support the means by which they get their players.

Almost every person I've met in Nebraska despises the Yankees. Even though they are a great team the reason (some say) is because they 'buy their talent.' That is basically the Yankee trademark.

Like I said, though, it isn't just one or two teams. It seems as if the players no longer have a sense of pride and loyalty for the teams they are a part of. Loyalty is, it seems, like chivalry, disappearing with the ages. It would be nice if my team didn't lose another key player each year.

Despite what people seem to think, baseball isn't a dying sport. It's the opposite actually. It is just as big as ever. And it would be nice if players would stop choosing teams and playing the game for the biggest wad of cash. It's time to go back to playing for the love of the game and staying true and loyal to one true team.



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

## Boys' basketball team honored with official day declared by governor

SAN JUANA PARAMO  
Staff Writer

The boys' basketball team received a special recognition at the State Capitol on March 18. The team traveled to the State Capitol over spring break to receive the recognition of an official day by governor David Heineman.

Central is not the only school in Omaha that has been honored with an official day. There are other schools in Nebraska who have been honored with an official day, whether it is for sports or academics. The proclamation presented by the Governor to the coach and team declares March 18th as Omaha Central Eagles Basketball Day.

"It's the desecration of the governor, he wanted to do something special to recognize the team," said Jen Rae, Communications Director to Governor David Heineman. There are no special requirements; it's all the discretion of the governor.

It is something that is not done very often, "In outstanding situations such as this, it is certainly appropriate," said Rae.

The boys' basketball team did a tremendous job on the court this year, winning their fourth straight state title. They are one of two Class A teams in Nebraska that had such a feat, Lincoln Northeast being the other. "I feel very honored," coach Eric Behrens, said "This team certainly has an outstanding record of accomplishments and the governor felt it was appropriate to recognize the hard work and dedication that went into accomplishing the State Championship for four years," said Rae.

"It is very exciting and on behalf of me and the team we feel very honored to receive such recognition from the governor," senior Akoy Agau, said. It is a memory that "someday we will be able to tell our kids," he added. "It was a very nice honor, they (the team) are proud of their accomplishment," Behrens said.

It was a big surprise to the team as a whole, after winning, no one expected to be honored in such a way. "No, not at all, getting invited down to the capitol and meeting the governor, it was very special," Agau said.

While a great honor for the team, it also puts pressure on the coaching staff and new incoming players. "It puts the pressure the team to be able to come out and to do the exact same thing next year and hopefully it pushes the team so they can hopefully win again," Agau said. The boys' basketball team has set the bar high for staying and incoming players, as well for other teams. "I hope our team sets the bar," Behrens said.

"The governor attended the championship game in which Central played, our office was contacted to see if the governor would do a recognition ceremony for the coaching staff and student athletes, the governor was happy to do so," said Rae.

"Almost like the legislature, and the entire state government of Nebraska said 'We agree, there needs to be a Central High Eagle day,'" Bigsby said. It is a very unique thing to do to have politicians all agree.

They varsity team was in attendance as they received their recognition and watched as Agau and Behrens spoke to the small press conference that was held.

"I thanked the governor for the recognition, and having us at the Capitol. I was very honored," Behrens said. "He made a lot of tall and short jokes, he was laid back. We were joking back and forth, I didn't know the governor could be so laid back, it was very fun," Agau said.

The team was congratulated by the governor and personally gave Agau advice to "keep his head in the books." He was "proud of the team," and said they were "the most dominate team he's ever seen." The governor told Agau that the team's "maturity and communication on the court and team play was special." Something that led to the teams four state wins and the recognition. "He thought our chemistry on the court was very special," Agau said.



Coach Behrens speaks on behalf of the team, while being recognized by the governor. The event was held at the Capitol in Lincoln.

PHOTO BY JOHN BEST

## Torn between two teams: how a choice risked an identity



**HAKUNA MATATA**  
A Column by San Juana  
Paramo

If there is anything that I'm passionate about, it has to be soccer. I grew up watching and playing the sport. All my family and family friends would get together and watch "El Clasico: Chivas vs. America." It was one of the biggest games we would watch. Arguments and all types of bets were made, and I was left with the most difficult decision. Who would I cheer for?

My dad has to be the biggest America fan in the world. I grew up cheering for them, subconsciously though. Growing up, I realized that my liking for the team wasn't as strong as my dad's, and to say that about me, who grew up wearing the yellow and blue since I was born, was just wrong.

I started to lean more towards Chivas. I liked their players, they played well and they won more times than not. "El Clasico" was always difficult for me. I never knew who it was appropriate to cheer for, and so I never did and acted uninterested. Though I was always cheering for Chivas secretly, it became difficult mostly because half my family was torn between Chivas and America. There was no way both sides could be happy together during game day.

As I got older, I realized it didn't matter. Sure, soccer was a big part of my family, but it didn't matter what team I cheered for as long as I was enjoying the game. It wasn't until two years ago, the same conflict arose, but this one was one without a solution. It just didn't become a team rivalry--it started to affect my nationality.

I was always teased when I was younger by my Mexican relatives because I no longer was a Mexican citizen. When I was five, I became a United States citizen. I was then taking on the role of two citizenships, Mexican and American. I define myself as Hispanic, and I define myself as Mexican-American, because that's who I am and that's what I believe.

It was never a problem for me to choose which teams I cheered for or which I booted for. It came naturally; it was always what my family believed was the right one. It had never occurred to me that at some point in my life, choosing a team would also make others doubt who I was.

I started two years ago. Mexico was playing against the United States, and, to add to that, I was in Mexico while the game was happening. One simple question changed my life for the worse: "So, who you cheering for?" For half a minute all the attention was on me, and really, who was I cheering for?

Would I cheer for Mexico, because one, I'm in Mexico and two, I'm Mexican? Or would I cheer for the United States, the place that has been my home for the last eleven years? I chose the most reasonable at the moment: Mexico. I didn't want to get beat up. That question has literally haunted me, and it wasn't until recently that it arose again. Those people took it to a whole new level; they said my choice defined who I am. If I chose Mexico, it would make me a proud Mexican, and it would make everyone proud. Yet, if I chose the United States, I was a traitor, and I was no longer Mexican. I was to be shunned.

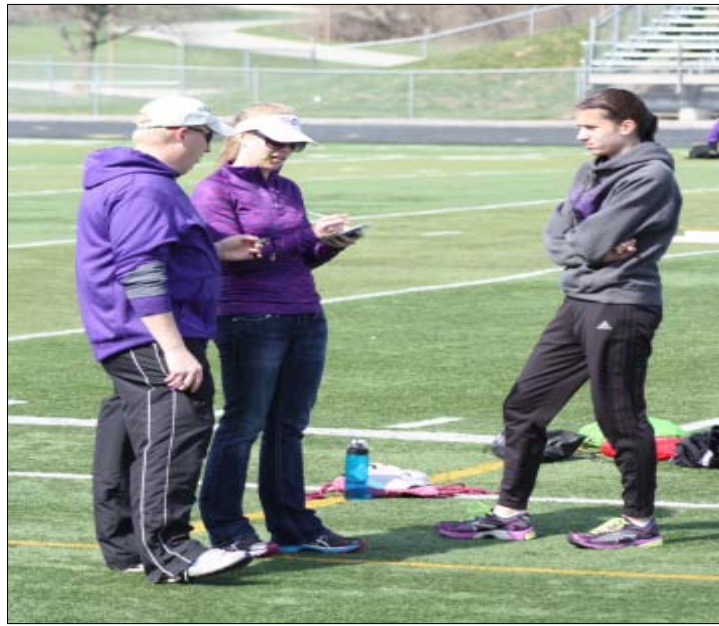
Arguments sparked up, and I walked away. It was a madhouse. I just didn't know choosing a team could make you rethink your own nationality.

For the next few years of my life I was conflicted and I thanked heaven above for not letting them play against each other for a time. Back in March, the arguments began again. I watched the game hidden in a corner, not daring to utter a word. They tied, and for some reason, that was a huge relief for me.

Not until I got to school and everyone was angrier than those angry birds.

I kept quiet and agreed with both sides, whatever each argued. I eventually found myself hating soccer, and I didn't want anything to do with it. I decided to put my foot down and tell everyone to just shut up. It made no difference, nor does it matter who I cheer for. It's my own personal choice not theirs. I can decide to cheer for Tokyo if I choose to. Choosing between a soccer team would not make me more or less Mexican.

Maybe my mood will define who I decide to cheer for that day. The point is that I enjoy the game and should not be worried about who I am as a person. It is my choice, no one else's. You know what, from now on I won't cheer for either of them. Congratulations to whoever wins. I, just for one day in my life, want to sit down and watch them play without my nationality being questioned.



Coach Audrey Faltin talks to fellow coach, Trent Lodge, during the Bellevue West Track meet last week.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL/THE REGISTER

## RUNS WELL WITH OTHERS

Spanish Teacher Audrey Faltin dedicates her time as track and cross country coach because of her love for running and her students.

**Natalie Nepper**  
Contributing Writer

Dedication, ambition, and school pride. Omaha Central High Spanish teacher and avid runner, Audrey Faltin, is the definition of an ideal sports coach.

Faltin co-coaches the girls' cross country team in the fall and the girls' track and field team in the spring. She works specifically with the distance team members for events such as the 800, 4x800, the mile, and the two mile.

"I started coaching my first year at Central, because I wanted to interact with my students outside of the classroom," Faltin said. "I have a passion for running and knew I wanted to inspire that passion in others." She has been dedicated to sports ever since.

This coach not only expresses a love for running but a positive and encouraging attitude to the sport as well. Members of the track and cross country teams thoroughly enjoy her fantastic enthusiasm and school spirit that cheers the entire team up.

Faltin finds enjoyment in the fundamentals of being a coach. In addition to "getting to know my runners" and "have fun spending time with them," she prepares for practices and meets with everything she's got.

"I enjoy the strategizing that goes into deciding which girls should run in each event, taking into consideration each runner's strengths and weakness, and creating workouts to address those weakness to help each runner improve," Faltin said.

A typical high school sports coach would seem intimidating, demeaning, and strict. Faltin is the exact opposite. She is relatable and comical as well as fully understands each runner's capabilities. Her excellent coaching abilities truly pay off during the season. Julia Gigliodorio, a freshman on the track team, appreciates Faltin's consistent help during daily practices.

"She's given me tips on how to run, like stride out and use my arms on the hills {during cross country season}. When she's running behind you, she's pushing you to not stop running," Gigliodorio said.

She is a part of the 4x800 relay with teammates Seni Adekunl, junior, and freshmen Abby Suey and Laura Poeckes.

"I believe we have the talent to make it to state and place in the 4x800," Faltin said. She also has high hopes for individual events such as 800 and the mile.

Constant practice has been in effect for the distance girls. Hand-offs and tempo runs pre-

pare the team for the meets. The competitiveness that takes place during these events can often intimidate the runners, thought it doesn't stop our lady eagles from doing their best.

"We're either on the track working on speech and technique or out doing long runs to build endurance, depending on the day," Faltin says. It comes in handy to run downtown, offering lots of streets and space to run about without getting too far away from campus.

As the girls prepare for the JV and Varsity meets, Faltin always keeps an eye out for future cross country runners. Jessica Vorhmann and Aisha Udofia are two of the many track runners who trained with the cross country runners in the fall.

"Any girl that is willing to show up for practice and work hard to get better each day would be a wonderful addition to the team!" Faltin said. "We welcome anyone who is willing to 'go the distance.'"

During high school, Faltin participated in cross country, track, and swimming.

Her drive for sports continued into college where she was involved in intramurals and ran local 5Ks.

Faltin's running ability has been consistent throughout her entire life, even now.

"I try to run at least 2 half-marathons each year and have recently begun competing in triathlons. I also do 5 and 10Ks or fun runs when I get the chance," She said.

Faltin runs 4 to 5 times each week "which includes running with my girls at practice during long endurance runs."

Coaching has been a real enjoyment for Faltin. She has the pleasure to work with the 3 other track coaches: Trent Lodge (head coach), Thomas Lee (sprinters), and Jessica Renshaw (throwers).

Coach Faltin has proven worthy of mentoring such a great group of young ladies who enjoy running just as much as she.

Faltin's dedication towards running and great attitude towards the athletes has made her one of Central High's finest teachers, coaches, and mentors. The track team is lucky to have such a fantastic person be a part of the success.

"I love my job as a coach because of the people I work with- both the other coaches and the student athletes!" she said. "It's a really fun, positive atmosphere, and a great sport to get involved with."

I love my job as a coach because of the people I work with.

~ Audrey Faltin

## Workouts, personal fitness differ greatly between genders



**PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS**  
A Column by Seth Arter

When it comes to males and females, there are usually topics in which the two genders disagree. Some females say their gender is superior while some males say they have the superiority. I personally don't believe that either gender is superior over the other. However, I do believe that some aspects of life are easier in life than men. A perfect example is working out.

The typical girl and typical guy usually have much different work outs than one another. Before one even joins a gym or starts exercising, they must do a self evaluation and contemplate their goals. If you're an average sized girl, you probably just want to maintain your image. If you're an average sized boy, you probably want to gain muscle in order to achieve a bigger and fuller image.

If I was an average sized girl and wanted to work out, I would probably do a decent cardio and core workout when I go to the gym. As a guy, it depends on your goals, but it's more complicated than just running a few miles or doing a few sit-ups. Not only do guys want to build muscle, but if they really want to be in shape their overall image has to be in check also, this means weight management and control. To a girl, she may just think that a guy can just lift weights and turn all of their fat into muscle.

Unfortunately, lifting is only half of a solution if you want faster results. On top of an intense weight lifting work out, guys who want a healthy body should partake in cardio and core exercises as well. Especially for those guys who are athletes or that have tedious, physically challenging jobs.

Is it really fair that females have less work to do at the gym? Not really.

It's not fair, but it certainly does not make one gender superior over the other. Unfortunately, there is no way around it. I think it's still necessary for men to do cardio and core workouts even if they are in the best shape they've ever been in.

Yes, cardio and core keep you in shape, but it's also so much more than that. Running and other types of vigorous cardio exercises are extremely beneficial to heart health. It would be easy for men to choose one form of exercise and roll with it in a daily routine, but if you really want to look and feel good, you have to do it all.

Now, there are plenty of girls who lift weights. It's a great thing to see females lifting weights. It's beneficial for females, of course. It's just not as beneficial for them as it is for men. It burns fat and tones the most vital body parts. That's what most females want out of weight lifting.

When a guy lifts weights, he sees it as something that he has to put effort into it or else he won't get what he wants in return. With girls, it's different. Due to the fact that they aren't specifically lifting for muscle gain, most females are lifting for toned body parts, which does not require vigorous effort (that is, if you are a fairly small individual).

When men lift weights, it has to be 'give it your all' to gain muscle. I think that's how it is with girls and cardio workouts. Having to do both is a lot of work, and it's not easy.

I think girls have the misconception that most guys can eat whatever they want and burn it off or turn it into muscle while working out. That's not always true. Just because younger males have higher metabolisms that does not mean they can eat whatever they want. Eating right is always the other half the equation when it comes to being healthy. I know this firsthand.

My parents have to practically force me to eat fruits and vegetables. If I don't feel like eating healthy, I just don't. I'm not saying that I gain a lot of weight because of my unhealthy choices, but it does have an effect on how I feel.

Eating right gives me so much more energy and I wish I did it more often. Working out and eating healthy has ups and downs for both genders, but I feel that working out is much more challenging for males.

Gaining muscles and weight for males is harder because of their high metabolism. It would be easier if males and females just switched metabolisms. Girls could easily keep the weight off and eat what they want while boys could gain the muscle and weight they wish. Due to females' low metabolisms that many men wish they could gain, I hate it when females complain saying they wish they could eat what they want.

Both genders have difficulty with fitness at times, their problems are just different from one another.

## Young player shows her dedication on the varsity soccer field



Sophomore Leslie Mercado takes the field. She has had a love for soccer since a young age.

PHOTO COURTESY OF PRECIOUS GASPARD / O-BOOK

**Diana Castillo**  
Contributing Writer

"It's in the Mercado blood," saying by a young dedicated soccer player to describe her talent on the field. Leslie Mercado has an obsession with soccer. She plays and talks about it every day and she has a growing collection of soccer shoes.

Playing soccer since the age of eight, Mercado began by watching her sister play soccer. She thought it was fun and wanted to do so herself. Now 14, Mercado has been playing soccer for six years and currently plays for Viva Illuzion as a center-forward. Only a freshman at Central, she also plays for the school's varsity team as center-forward.

"When I get asked about what do I want to be when I grow up, I say Pro Soccer Player. People tell me that is not a career, or that doesn't count, but that is what I really want to do," said Mercado.

She looks up to Lionel Messi, who plays soccer for Barcelona. "I like how he controls the ball and moves on the field," said Mercado. "And if I were to ever meet him I would be starstruck." This soccer player obviously plays on her favorite soccer team, FC Barcelona. She likes the style of how the team plays and watches their soccer games because she can learn a lot of things that make her a better player.

Mercado traveled to Barcelona, Spain where she visited the FC Barcelona's home Camp Nou their soccer stadium. Unfortunately, she did not get to see them play there, but it still was a cool experience.

"I still cannot believe I went. I cannot describe my feelings but it

was all positive! Go Barca!" said Mercado. As a fan of the team she also has a collection of gear and other items.

Mercado's life mostly revolves around soccer. When she wins a game, she feels joy, and she is glad that her and her teammates were able to accomplish winning the game. When a game is lost, she thinks of what could have been done better so she can improve next time.

Before her games she likes to take a short nap which might seem unusual for a soccer player, prays, and during her warm ups, she concentrates to get into moment of the game. Winning tournaments, scoring goals in important games, getting MVP and playing with varsity are Mercado's exciting moments about soccer. "Scoring first goal of the season, I think, it's going good!" said Mercado about playing for Central's varsity soccer.

Throughout the first 14 games of the season she has scored four total goals, three of which were headers. The downside to her season has been not being able to play the whole game because of a minor injury, but once she feels better she is ready to back in the game.

Every soccer player has their difficulties; For her it's not being able to play when she is recovering from her injuries. She has only been injured once where she has had to sit out of a couple games because of her ankle.

Soccer is her life, but there is other sports she likes. "I like to play beach volleyball. A little bit of basketball," said Mercado. She just excels at soccer and loves to play soccer. This sport is definitely important to her as she says, "Soccer over everything!"



# Central golfer relates his game to his life, hopes to join PGA Tour

MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN  
Staff Writer

The smell of the freshly cut grass overwhelms you. You hear the swift swing of a club and a hollow bobble sound as a small ball attempts to land perfectly into a hole. This is golf, a sport that takes a lot of hard work and mental, as well as physical, preparation.

Senior Nathan Morris has been playing golf for about eight years. "My dad introduced it to me in California in sixth grade," he said. Morris' dad also got him into a club golf group, and he has "been hooked ever since."

At Central, Morris has played golf all four years of high school and has been on the Varsity team each year. At golf tournaments the rankings are one through five.

"Fifth ranked is the lowest player, and first is the top player," said Morris. In golf one wants to have the lowest score possible.

"In tournaments it's basically the same in every school," said Morris. "You're playing with and against people who have the same skill levels as you."

Having team spirit is not a problem for Morris. He helps out with JV players and shows them what to work on. He corrects the players and plays with them, doing all this to help improve their golfing, as well as his own.

The team has several traditions. Of course they will celebrate going to state if they do go, but if not they have other traditions.

"We have a cookout every year at the assistant coach's house," said Morris. The assistant coach is team member Miles Russell's father, who has had much experience with golf in the past, which helps Mor-

ris to improve as well.

After a bad tournament or just an individually bad day, Morris tries to improve upon his game.

"I try to go out the next day with the fundamentals to get my score lower or to do better the next time," said Morris.

Morris also says that golf is more of a mental thing. "It's like a life lesson," said Morris. "Let's say I have a bad shot. I have to move on from that, which is a lot like what you have to do in life."

"You also can't be 'hotheaded' about it," he said. "Although it may be nerve racking that you may do bad in a tournament, you can't have that fear of doing bad. You just have to focus on the game."

A major golf inspiration for Morris is Rickie Fowler, who is involved in the PGA, which is something Morris would like to pursue in the future. Fowler was the No. 1 ranked amateur golfer in 2007 and 2008.

Morris' best competition was last year at The Player's Club, where he faced the challenge of many area golf experts.

"I had to keep up with them. I shot a 78, and the best person shot a 76," he said.

To better himself, Morris practices at Shoreline Golf Course for two hours everyday after school. Morris and the other players have one to two tournaments per week, with State quickly approaching.

"State is May 22 and hopefully we will be able to go to it," he said. Morris' plans for the future are to play at Midland and perhaps someday make it onto the PGA Tour.

"I just like to go out there and play," he said. "The smell of grass-- it's calm and peaceful, and I just like being on the court."



PHOTO COURTESY OF BEN MIHOVK

Senior Nate Morris competes in the Millard South Invitational in Bellevue.

# Over the years, gym classes transform from bonus recess to necessary pain

When it came to going to gym class, I enjoyed every bit of it except for when I got into high school.

Elementary gym class was probably one of my favorite subjects. At my school there would be five different periods for every day of the week; library, music class, computer class, art and P.E. For one thing, in P.E., I didn't have to change into different clothes, which saved plenty of time in school. Of course, when little kids sweat, it's not as intense as a teenager, so body odor was never an issue.

The gyms were small, but from what I remember, the gym at my elementary school was always cool. Plus the gym teacher was really nice and knew everyone's name.

He would let us choose what we played, which at times would be sports, or sometimes we'd go outside, or we'd do stations where we played different games with a partner. Another fact: everyone was friends in my classes, so no one had to fight to get a certain partner.

Everyone participated because when we were little, we loved to play in the gym and exercise, so there would be no bad sport sulking in the corner. In fact, in elementary school, everyone would rather play than sit out.

The games we played were always fun, from riding on those floor scooters, playing with that big, colorful tent and hiding under it and chasing each other while playing "Sharks and Minnows."

Of course, as everyone got older, the lazier they became and the more they didn't want to get dirty or smelly (I'm talking about the girls).

So when everyone advanced into middle school, it was a whole different story while being in gym class.

Middle school P.E. wasn't that bad, but the only difference was we had to change our clothes, and for one unit we had to swim (the pool was really gross, by the way). At my school we had block scheduling, so every other day we had gym class, and I couldn't argue with that. The biggest problem was that my gym class had expanded to the maximum and tripled in size, and the gym wasn't big at all.

What is a gym class to do for 90 minutes? Well, all the teachers made us do was walk around the gym or go outside on the track field for half the period, and then we had the decision to either walk around some more, or play whatever we wanted.

Luckily, for my eighth grade year we only had gym for one semester and we didn't have to swim, but gym was pointless because we did nothing but walk around.

One great thing was that the teachers let us change early, so we had about five minutes to get ready; which was plenty of time. Also, we didn't have to share a locker, which was great since they were so small.

High school gym periods were the worst times of my life.

For one thing, for my freshman year, I had it first period after the cheerleaders finished practice, so it was always full of girls, and my locker was right in the middle. Actually, I never exactly used my locker, since it

never opened for me.

The girls in the locker room were monsters and the rudest creatures I've never met in my life. They pushed, yelled at you, and gave you dirty looks if you accidentally bumped into them.

No one participated in class (including me), but there were way too many kids in the gym, and it's really not that big.

The guys were so competitive, and if someone messed up, there would be a huge argument.

What made me extra mad was the fact that I had to deal with this for one more year. Luckily for me, I had gym last period for my sophomore year, and this time I took aerobics.

There were way too many girls in that class, so hormones were on a rise every day. Many of them irritated me, but I could tolerate aerobics more than the one the previous year.

What sucked, however, is the teachers decreased our changing time, so everyone had three minutes to change. For me it was no problem since it was the last period of the day, but I felt bad for the girls before then who actually had a class to get to. Again, my locker was smack in the middle, so I had to push my way out of the girls checking themselves in the mirror (and for what? They were leaving school anyways) and putting on makeup.

I am glad that I took gym class beforehand and I'm finished forever, but sometimes I just want to go back to elementary and middle school when gym class was actually fun.



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

# Step Team performs at Hartman Elementary



PHOTO COURTESY OF JAYME PRISBELL

Front : Destiny Epinger, Randi Westberry, Dallas Sims, Dani Jones, Lyric Johnson and Makayla McDonald. Back: Ty'isha Davis-Ewing, Chianda Young, Naima Oz, Augie Welch, Mecca Slaughter, Elazhia Gray and Ashley Swift.

JENNIFER ROONEY  
Editor-in-Chief

Central High's Step Team performed at Hartman Elementary school on March 25 at 3:30 p.m. as a kick-off for the elementary's NeSA testing. Hartman Elementary wanted to get the kids excited for testing.

The staff of Hartman Elementary had recently witnessed a performance of the Central High Step Team and they loved what they were capable of. The principal, Shelly Burghardt, is a Central alumni. Hartman then contacted Jayme Prisbell, English and Speech teacher, and also the Step Team's coach, so they could arrange for the Step Team perform at the school.

The Step Team believes they haven't been out involved in as many things this year, so they wanted more opportunities for themselves.

Originally the performance was supposed to be for grades three through six, but they let everybody sit in on the performance and celebration because they believed it would be a very interesting and entertaining way to kick off the NeSA testing. After the Step Team performed, another singer arrived to sing "Celebration," originally done by Kool & The Gang.

It started off with Step Team captain, junior Destiny Epinger, saying "We're the CHS Step Team and we have come to perform for you all."

Although the children weren't listening, as soon as she made the first stomp they suddenly got quiet and were ready to listen. This is the very first time the Central High Step Team has ever performed for another school.

"It was good for us because it was a different audience instead of high school students and parents," said

senior member Mecca Slaughter. "It was also a good practice for Roadshow arriving."

The team performed their routine that they have been practicing for Roadshow because it was the day before the Roadshow tryouts. Their Roadshow routine consists of a dance, a step, and a whole skit based off of the military. The song for the dance was "Soldier" originally sung by Destiny's Child. For Hartman Elementary, they just performed the step because there wasn't enough room or a "good enough" sound system for the dance or skit.

"They were mesmerized by our stepping. They were shocked because they have never seen something like this," said Slaughter.

The kids really enjoyed the entire performance that Step Team brought. Middle schools and elementary schools do not offer step teams at their schools, and simply don't offer as many diverse extra-curricular activities for the students.

"You don't have that feeling of being on a team in middle or elementary schools," said Slaughter.

Throughout the year the Step Team practices four days a week, from 3 to 4:30 p.m.

To prepare for the Hartman Elementary School performance, the team just kept re-doing their Roadshow routine, trying to improve anything they could to make sure it was spot-on. All of the steps were a creation of joined efforts of every member, but the dance was created by junior Ashley Swift.

For right now, the team is preparing for tryouts for next year, and rehearsing the Roadshow routine as well. The tryouts were held April 15-19 for two hours after school.

"In all, the kids of Hartman really enjoyed the performance," said Prisbell. "They even want to create their own Step Team."

"They were mesmerized by our stepping. They were shocked because they have never seen something like this."  
- Mecca Slaughter

**HAND STRETCHED NEW YORK STYLE PIZZA**

**THANKS FOR VOTING US #1 AGAIN**

CALZONES · PASTA · SALADS · HOAGIES · APPETIZERS · DAILY SPECIALS

**344-2222**  
1109 Howard St.

**330-1444**    **391-1881**  
12997 W. Center    7834 Dodge St.

**TRY OUR DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS!**  
*We deliver downtown!*

**WWW.ZIOSPIZZERIA.COM**

# FILL YOUR SUMMER WITH SPORTS

Looking for fun things to do this summer while your favorite Eagle teams are off season? Look no further! Try one (or all) of these events.



**2013**  
**OMAHA BEEF**  
RALSTON ARENA  
PHOTO COURTESY OF OMAHA BEEF

**OMAHA'S OWN INDOOR FOOTBALL TEAM: OMAHA BEEF**

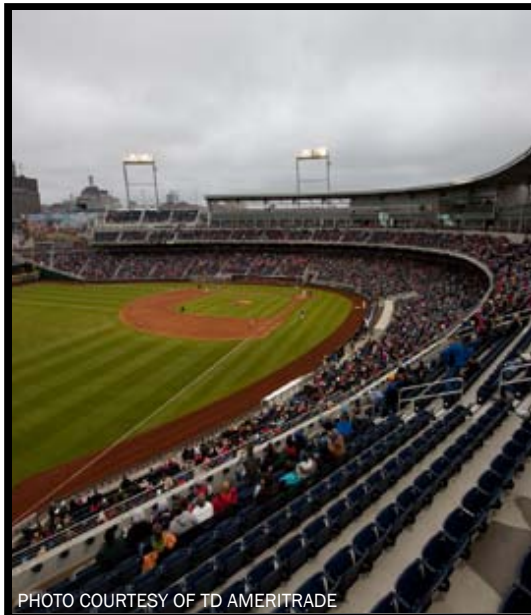
**FOR TICKETS, CALL 402.346.BEEF**

MIDMISSOURI OUTLAWS | MAY 05, 2013  
3:00PM

LINCOLN HAYMAKERS | MAY 11, 2013  
7:00PM

OKLAHOMA DEFENDERS | MAY 24, 2013  
7:00PM

KANSAS CITY RENEGADES | JUNE 07, 2013  
7:00PM



**THE OMAHA ROLLERGIRLS**  
AT THE RALSTON ARENA

MAY 18, 1:00PM (HOME) VS. BREW CITY BRUISERS

JUNE 8, 7:00PM (HOME) VS. NO COAST DERBY GIRLS

JUNE 22 (DES MOINES, IA) VS. DES MOINES DERBY DAMES




**COLLEGE WORLD SERIES 2013**

**JUNE 14: OPENING DAY**

JUNE 15: OPENING ROUNDS BEGIN

**JUNE 24: CHAMPIONSHIP SERIES BEGINS**

FOR TICKETS VISIT [TICKETSNow.COM](http://TICKETSNow.COM)

## No pain, no gain: the road to health doesn't always include weight loss

There are shows such as Mythbusters that "bust" old wives' tales and common myths that pervade our society. For those who worry about losing weight, bulking up, and overall becoming healthier, I'd like to explain why certain exercise theories are only myths.

At the gym, many of the cardio machines, including the treadmill and elliptical, supposedly "count" the calories you're burning. Some of these machines don't even ask for weight, height or gender.

These machines don't know your body composition, including body fat percentage. And very few people know their body fat percentage. These numbers those machines are spitting out are likely inaccurate.

For women, some fear that lifting weights will cause them to "bulk up." Because of the amount of estrogen women naturally have, it is extremely difficult to build large amounts of bulk.

You have to overload your muscles constantly in order to become "ripped." Men build muscles faster because they have testosterone. Don't fear the barbells! Lifting weights is a good way to become toned and fit.

For those who worry about losing weight, don't worry about it so much. I'm not saying weight isn't important, but weight if not the end all, be all. Genetics play a major role.

Oftentimes, people notice that, week after week, they are not losing weight. What they don't realize is that they are healthier because they've

reduced risk factors such as blood sugar levels. Also, muscle weighs more than fat, so people who have gained muscle but have lost fat may be healthier at the same weight.

Many people believe they can spot reduce for tight abs or toned arms. By spot reducing, I am talking about the myth that fat can be targeted for reduction from a specific area. You can't get a rockin' six-pack even if you do 500 crunches a day because of the layer of fat on top of your abs.

You may have beautiful abs; they might just be hidden beneath fat. Instead of spot reducing, try to "spot reduce" everywhere. Don't focus on one body part; try to get them all!

"No pain, no gain." We've all heard that, haven't we? Well, it's true to an extent. It's normal to feel some discomfort or a little pain when exercising, especially if you're not used to it.

But exercising to the point where you pass out isn't healthy. In fact, you're at an increased risk for injuries or burnout. Try exercising smarter, not harder. Also, don't kill yourself during a workout one day and wait for a few weeks before you exercise again.

A myth that is slowly disappearing is stretching will help prevent injuries. Dynamic stretching like high knees and lunges will help get you loose because it focuses on movement. But static stretching like touching your toes won't.

Static stretching is great for releasing the lactic acid that builds up in muscles (which makes you feel sore).

Another myth: don't let your knees go past your toes during exercises such as squats and lunges. In 2003, University of Memphis researchers showed that knee stress was 28 percent higher when knees moved past toes during squats. However, when knee movement was restricted, hip stress increased nearly 1,000 percent!

When squatting, push your hips back as far as you can and keep your torso as straight as possible.

When lifting weights, don't draw in your abs. The theory was that drawing in your abs would provide more back and spine support. Instead, tense or brace your abs. This activates all three layers of your abdominal wall, improving stability and performance.

Some people believe that yoga is not a real form of exercise because they are stuck with the image of a person sitting cross-legged, holding his or her hands in the shape of finger cymbals.

Yoga is a great form of exercise, and it is not completely and totally gentle or safe. Yoga can be quite physically and mentally rigorous and demanding, and careful instruction is necessary for a quality workout.

There are many myths when it comes to exercising, often because people like a get-rich-quick workout. Exercise, diet, and genetics play key roles, and it's important to look at the big picture instead of focusing on one aspect of health.



**UNCOMMON NONSENSE**  
A Column by Giselle Tran



## A Special Thank You to Our Adopt-A-School Partners



# OPINION

## UNNECESSARY SODA BAN EVIDENT OF GOV'T CONTROL

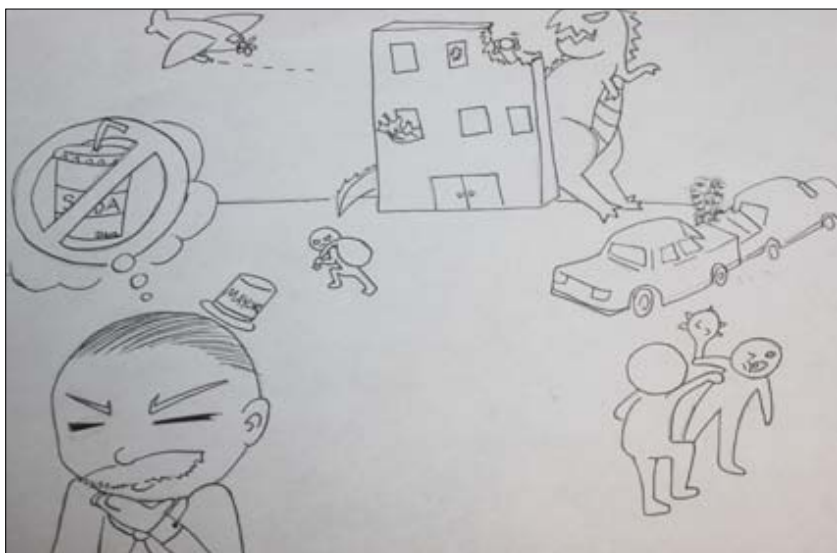
A ban on sugary drinks could lead to restrictions on more important freedoms. Lawmakers should focus on more important things.

How would you feel if you were informed that your state had a plan in action to control how much soda you drink? If this happened to Omaha I would feel angry and extremely violated. On March 11, officials in New York City had a plan to ban sugary drinks that contained 16 or more ounces that was to go into effect the next day. Despite their plans, it all fell through as Supreme Court Justice Milton Tingling forced that plan to an instant stop as he expressed his disagreement.

We agree with Tingling 100 percent. This incident is the perfect example as to why America has gone downhill from what it used to be. To have the government tell Americans how much soda they can or cannot drink really bothers those who truly care about their rights. Government officials have no right to tell us how much soda we can or cannot drink.

Besides that, they are trying to take away Americans' freedom. Aren't there more important things the government has to worry about? There are so many terrible tragedies happening across the globe every day, and government officials are concerned about banning sugary drinks? There are bigger fish to fry. There are so many other events going on that are much more vital than some stupid ban on sugary drinks. What about crime, hunger, poverty, jobs and the economy? Those are just a few topics that need tended to first.

You really have to look at this not only from the freedom aspect, but also from the economic side. Do these people not understand that large soda and fountain drinks are a huge part of the economy? You can't say that restaurants and public concession stands don't thrive on these drinks. Concert/sport arenas and stadiums also use these large drinks as ways to earn money. Think about the companies that create the large containers. This is a vital marketing point for large and small business owners that are involved in the food industry.



CARTOON BY IMANI BROWN/CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

Don't take this wrongly, Everyone is fully aware that obesity is a major issue on the country and it makes healthy individuals happy to see that government officials are trying to aid in the fight against obesity. However, taking away a certain sized soft drink is not going to help control this. If I was declined a soda because of its size, anyone could simply go to a store and buy a 24-pack or two medium sized drinks so they are equivalent to the size they wanted. There are better solutions to obesity than taking away certain things.

Another key point that ties back into the loss of our freedom: this is way too much government control. The government is becoming way too involved in citizens' decision making. First after the Sandy Hook elementary shooting they try to take away guns, and now they're trying to monitor how much soda we have. It's almost as if

the government wants to control everything we do. Hello, as citizens of America we pay taxes Everyone knows that taxes pay for many things including all government employees' pay checks! Someone needs to give these lawmakers and politicians a friendly little reminder that they work for us, not vice versa.

Tingling also overruled the ban of large sugary drinks due to several lawsuits that were filed. The New York State Association of theaters and the American Beverage Association sued the state of New York over the petition to ban large sugary drinks. These people who started this whole thing have caused chaos for no good reason. All it's done is upset restaurant and other types of business owners. These lawsuits could have easily been avoided if these lawmakers would have just kept their mouths shut and focused some something that's actually meaningful.



## FAST FACTS

Info from KicktheCan.info.

The average American consumes 45 gallons of sugary drinks each year.

A 20-ounce soda has 16 teaspoons of sugar.

Soda consumption has more than quadrupled in the last 40 years.

Every additional daily serving of soda increases a child's risk for obesity by 60%.



## Daylight savings time should be eradicated

Twice a year we experience daylight savings time. The oddness that follows with setting clocks forward or backward an hour comes with the nation's need to savor every ounce of light we can get. However, in a world of electricity and power, is daylight savings time even needed?

First established in 1918, the main goal of daylight savings was to preserve candles. However, the idea was practiced on and off until 1966 when the United States established the Uniform Time Act of 1966 to conserve energy across the nation.

Daylight savings time has been in effect since then, working on 'saving energy.' This statement, in fact, is incorrect. More is spent on running air conditioners in the warmer climates during daylight savings because people stay up later.

The extra hour of daylight added onto our lives means that people are up and active for longer periods of time. The longer people are out, the more likely they are to drive cars. Greenhouse gases emitting into the atmosphere, the burning of gasoline and fuels, and cranking up the AC aren't exactly ideal for the environment.

Plus, daylight savings time can throw off routine farming and schedules in agriculture. A day's work from a farmer can be completely shifted, even to the point where farm animals are confused during the feeding times. In addition to these points, daylight savings time leads to lack in productivity and alters the sleeping patterns of people across the nation. Seen as a real nuisance, many believe that daylight savings time needs to be abolished. A recent petition on the White House's "We the People" crowdsourcing platform is seeking to get rid of daylight savings time. However, without 100,000 signatures, a response will not be prompted and the plea will join the list of failed petitions.

There are even certain states that have voluntarily chosen not to participate in daylight savings time due to various reasons. Arizona and Alaska opted out of the trend due to their weather issues and strange time zone patterns.

A study from the Michigan State University showed that during daylight savings time workplaces had 5.7% more injuries, employees slept approximately 40 min. less, and lost 67.6% more work days because of work related injuries.

Clearly, daylight savings time only causes harm to a majority of the population. However, some may argue that the energy saving establishment is actually very helpful to the nation.

It was noted through a U.S. Department of Transportation study that daylight savings trimmed electricity usage by one percent. Considering that there are 313 million people currently living in the United States, one percent of electricity is more significant than one may think.

Another study performed in 2007 by the RAND Corporation shows roughly a ten percent drop in vehicle and transportation related crashes.

Saving lives from these crashes can be a big plus to daylight savings time. We can enjoy sunny spring days longer without the fuss of bedtimes.



GRAPHIC BY SAN JUANA PARAMO / THE REGISTER

Daylight savings time is not observed in Alaska, Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, and Arizona. However, The Navajo Nation participates in daylight savings even in Arizona because of its large size and separation into three different states. If these patterns were shown on a map, a donut-shaped area of Arizona would not observe daylight savings while the "hole" in the middle, The Navajo Nation, would.

Oddly enough, the U.S. Law Enforcement Assistance Administration has found that crime is down 10 to 13 percent during times of daylight savings. This is because of the extra hour of light that diminishes crimes that occur in the dark such as muggings and break-ins.

Regardless of the interesting studies conducted, daylight savings time energy conservations are insignificant. For example, the state of Indiana believed that by observing daylight savings time, they would save \$7 million in electricity costs each year. To their surprise, the results were actually opposite because of the increased use of air conditioning when people get home from work.

Due to all the facts that disprove its use, daylight savings time should technically be abolished. However, whether you support it or dislike it, daylight savings time seems like it will be sticking around for quite a while.

## Happy endings depicted in movies are not realistic



HAKUNA MATATA  
A Column by San Juana Paramo

Over break I ended up watching a movie everyone was raving about, and though my expectations were low, it was really worthwhile. Not only was the movie perfect as a whole, it had two of my favorite actors. The amazingly beautiful Jennifer Lawrence and the god-like Bradley Cooper starred in "Silver Linings Playbook," a movie that really made me think and take things out of proportion.

This is not a movie review, let's get that straight. Now that that is settled, let the rant begin.

The movie is mostly about Cooper's character who is bipolar and won't take his meds and obsessed is with exercising. Meanwhile, Lawrence's character is a depressed widow who is addicted to sex, and both end up forming a special kind of dysfunctional friendship that ends up in a relationship.

All is good in movies, everyone has their happy endings, for the most part, and all conflicts are solved with a tidy wrap-up in the end. But in this case (this is where I take things out of proportion) the ending shouldn't have been happy. I understand, it's a movie adaptation of a book, what more could I expect, but still two people who are both cuckoo (for lack of a better term) would have not made it to the point of a relationship.

They both have a myriad of mental problems and in the short time that they know each other one, if not both, would already be fed up with the other. Right off the bat you can tell they don't like each other, and it doesn't take long for fights to start. It is possible to be in a relationship with someone who shares your mental illness, but just how long will it last?

Just like a Disney movie makes little girls everywhere believe that they will find their Prince Charming, in "Silver Linings Playbook," people with mental illness have that Disney love. In no way am I saying that it's wrong, just that I don't ever see it happening. I believe people are able to love whoever they please; it's just sometimes we have to realize that it does not always work out.

In the movie, Tiffany (Lawrence) is basically a pathological liar, she

Continue to 'ENDINGS' on page 12

**Suttle or Stothert**

Who is your ideal candidate for this upcoming mayor election?

**VOTE**

See Inside, Page 13

**Marketing to Children.**

**Good of Bad?**

The Register believes that parents should step up before their children are brainwashed.

See Inside, Page 12

**Beauty and Brains?**

Russian Beauty Queens stirred medial scandals to have opinionated statements in a pageant.

See Inside, Page 14

## Some credits, classes unnecessary for life



**PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS**  
A Column by Seth Arter

At some point in high school, most of us sit in a class in which we do not care for and wonder why we are required to take this class if it has nothing to do with our goals we wish to achieve in the future. If you could change that, would you? I know I would. I would have a plan in action that would eliminate the frustrations of having to take pointless courses. High school students should have three career based classes that will help them prepare for college, find interests, and prepare for their future.

Students shouldn't waste four years of sitting in classes and put hard work in if they won't get anything out of it. Sorry to say that the rule "you get what you give" just doesn't apply to pointless classes. Sure we're going to use these classes to earn our diplomas and move onto bigger and better things, but why wait for that? Now take a break from reading this and I want you to ponder your high school career. Reflect on all the classes you've had to take and all the tests, quizzes, homework, and projects you've had to complete. Last thought, how many of those classes that you've put your effort into really pertain to your future goals? If you're anything like me, not many.

Now, let's replace those pointless classes with some useful ones that actually pertain to the classes we want to take in college and earn some college credits. If we used block scheduling, we could have A days and B days with periods that are approximately 120 minutes long. This way lunches, study halls and electives could also be included. Students would have a wide variety of classes they could take that could pertain to their goals. Three college-like classes per year would be so helpful. I understand that students have to work their way up to college level courses, which is why those who believe they aren't ready for that yet could still take classes that have to do with their future goals, however their classes would be less intense than those who are taking the standard college classes. Students could take these less intense courses their freshman and sophomore year, and work into the more difficult classes their junior and senior year.

Not only would this benefit those who want to get ahead, but it would give a great visual of what your major would be like. (If you chose to go onto college and finish your courses) I don't just want students to sit there all day in a class room, I want them to also get hands on, real-world experience. If my school was really the way I'm imagining, there would be job shadowing programs and chances for internships for those who work hard in their classes. By grades and a teacher recommendation, students should be allowed to use the A and B day schedule to alternate between the class room and an internship or job shadowing. Of course classroom instruction is necessary, but have that actual hands on experience is what's going to teach students how to be prepared for the real world. Throughout a career, there are obviously going to be unfortunate situations that occur and the class room setting doesn't always teach all of those aspects. Job shadowing/internships would give students the once in a life time chance to learn how to handle tough situations.

Outside of that, life is hard enough. Not knowing what careers interest you is very frustrating. However, with the power in our hands to choose what classes we want to take that will give real world experience, the decision has just become that much easier. Students will get a feel for the pros and cons of a job, the daily tasks they must carry out, and of course learn about the salary and possible promotions. With this type of schooling, students will be able to learn about all kinds of different jobs and easily eliminate the ones they don't like.

## 'Happ ever after' too played out in movies, storylines

Continued from 'ENDINGS' on page 11

calls them white lies; and she lies to Cooper's character as if it's easy as breathing. Just when in their relationship will that be a breaking point? Or the facts that Pat (Cooper) doesn't take his meds and his mood swings aren't really that well managed? There is hope though, for people who suffer from a mental illness and want to fall in love—it just wouldn't follow this movie.

Pat and Tiffany could have the most perfect relationship if each took care of themselves properly. If each took their medicine, went to therapy and weren't as violent then it could work out. The way the movie portrays it just does not seem realistic.

The other thing that irks me is the way they portrayed each character. Don't get me wrong, both are tremendous actors, they did an amazing job. My dislike is more so towards the directors. They made people with mental illnesses look bad, way too violent and at times like kids. This, in a way, is right but their portrayal as that made the audience in the theater laugh, not at all what I was expecting. The way the directors portrayed Pat's trigger sure got a heck of a laugh from the audience, it could have been that or the crude reactions of the audience. Either way, that really made me uncomfortable, I'm sure I wasn't the only one too.

There is no way I'm going to say that the movie was bad, or that I did not enjoy it. I did, it deserved its nominee and Lawrence deserved her Oscar. I'm just saying that I didn't like the way their characters were portrayed. Overall the movie was good and I do recommend it.



CARTOON BY IMANI BROWN/CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

## Marketing to Kids Proves Unethical

In 2009, companies were spending about \$17 billion a year on marketing to children, according to CBS. That number has surely gone up since then. The reality is that this much advertisement is negatively affecting kids.

The increase in fast food advertisements has no doubt had a hand in the increase of childhood obesity, and toy advertisements certainly have had a hand in putting parents further in debt. Subsequently, it is becoming easier to reach kids as their dependency on technology increases. Marketers do not only have to focus on newspaper and television advertisements anymore—now there are web page ads on sites like Google, Facebook and YouTube, as well as many others that kids frequent, such as the Disney or Nickelodeon websites.

Kids don't have any way to fight this infiltration because they don't know that it's bad.

The Register believes it unethical for companies to market so heavily to children. They are easily influenced to want something, and their parents are heavily influenced by their desires. They don't know what is good for them and what isn't because, frankly, they have been brainwashed.

In turn, parents are also being brainwashed by their kids—they are more likely to buy unnecessary objects if their child expresses desire for it. And often these parents will purchase something to shut their kid up, who may annoy or embarrass the parents by incessant asking or throwing tantrums.

The question of money and children arises—should kids even have their own money? Do they need to be consumers so early in life? Are they ready for financial responsibility? Pocket money could cause children to misconstrue the value of money later in life. It could cause them to become frivolous buyers, to rack up credit card debt as adults because

they believe they can have it all.

This is because as a child, it's just you and the money. There is nothing that you absolutely must pay for—no bills, no rent, no loan payments, no mortgages—so you can go as hog-wild as you like. You can buy anything, and the knowledge that you have this power is exhilarating. But it can also be dangerous; your situation with money will not always be this way. In the real world, you have to split up the money that you have into funds for making payments and for simply living. There are car payments, grocery bills, utilities and all the extras, like cable. Children know nothing of this.

And, of course, they don't need to—they're kids. They're innocent and naïve. But their parents should be wary of what they're doing.

Some parents require their children to split all of the funds they receive from birthdays or holidays into different categories. A certain portion goes into savings, while a portion goes to charity or serves as spending money. This is a step in the right direction to teaching financial responsibility. Using this tactic will help kids to realize that, when it comes to money, there are obligations—spending without thinking is not an option.

The Register believes that parents should do this—or, if they don't, they should be more conscious of what their children are doing with money. This means both keeping track of what kids are buying/how much they are spending and teaching them to be financially conscious consumers. The only way for kids to avoid being brainwashed is if their parents step up and teach them what they need and what they don't need.

If this doesn't happen, who knows how high the national debt will be for the next few generations?

## No end to reading benefits

There is no doubt that many people despise having to take a book home from their English class. They will read it with a scowl, finish it, and never think about picking it up again. Of course, there is a reason why English teachers require reading a book once in a while, and that is simply to teach real literature to kids.

A real question is, do kids even think to read outside of school? Besides reading a book they are forced to read, do they browse around a library and bring home a stack of books to read? Will they even think about going to a bookstore? More than likely, many people won't think about doing these things.

Many people may not realize how important reading is; it's the only way people can learn, right? No one can learn if they can't read anything. In a kindergarten class, there is nothing but shelves of books, and they get so excited when a teacher piles them on a comfy mat to read to them.

Does all of that reading excitement sizzle when they reach adolescence? Is their only source of reading those dreaded English novels they are forced to read?

There are many benefits to reading independently, whether it is a tough book, a fiction novel, a comic book, or even a magazine or newspaper. For starters, reading just generally makes people smarter, and it keeps people sharp as they age.

Reading reduces stress, and anyone can have that confirmed simply by sitting down after a hard day of work or school and picking up a book. The best part about books is that they can not only wash away stress, but if the story is good enough, hours can go by when a reader is fully immersed in the book and before they know it, they forget all about their stressful day. While reading a story, they remain still, and overall content to be over with the day's events.

Having a book in front of you can increase vocabulary, and reading helps people pickup vocabulary faster than actually being taught face-to-face. It is even better if the story is very good, because then the reader will pay more attention to the words and they will grasp it better. In reality, a children's book probably has more sophisticated vocabulary than an everyday conversation between teenagers. Reading is especially important for writers, because they are the ones who provide the reading material, but in order for them to receive their career, they had to read as well. Of course, increased vocabulary is not only crucial for writers, being that regular people need to be able to speak and understand people as well, and it just makes people sound smart overall.

## Being a spoiled child ironically led to hoarding money, frugality

"Maya, you are so frugal and indecisive," she said. Wow, I thought. No one has ever found a more accurate description of me than that. It was true I am very money conscious and hard at making decisions, but it hasn't always been this way.

When I was a little kid I remember going to the store and almost every time I would get whatever I wanted there. Whether it be a toy or a special kind of food, more than likely my parents would let me get it. Now maybe this was because I was only a child at the time, and I was still used to getting my way. Even when I would throw temper tantrums or fits, they would still buy me things. I think it also could have been the fact that they only had one kid to deal with instead of the three children they now have. I felt entitled to what I wanted, and that was sort of bad, because looking back on those times it makes me seem like a spoiled little brat (which I am totally not).

Then as I got older my parents got me less and

less of whatever it was I so desperately wanted, with good reason. They had another child now, and I was not the center of attention anymore, which was hard to deal with. I begged for their attention with my constant showing off in front of my new baby brother and tantrums. This didn't work. I think it made it worse actually. I did not know, but at the time I thought that if I did not get whatever I wanted it would be the end of the world, but it just was not at all.

This changed my view of things. I finally realized that my parents had more than one mouth to feed, and that I was no longer the one shining light of their lives. I was not an only child—I was a

child who had another sibling. That was difficult for me to deal with for awhile, but I finally figured it out.

When I realized that I could not always get what I wanted, I started to become more frugal and money conscious. I got that from my dad who tries to save as

## Drama ruins a networking site



**MY NAME IS PAUL**  
A Column by Stephanie Paul

Let's face it, we are all addicted to Twitter. Well I am at least. Twitter is probably the most used app on my phone and the most visited website on my laptop. I love Twitter. I love how fast paced social media is and how mobile it is as well.

The tweets on my timeline are mostly from my friends and me. It is safe to say my friends and I are tweetholics. I love following my friends on Twitter because a lot of our subtweets are about inside jokes we have with each other. We even subtweet about each other when we are sitting right next to each other. I know it is kind of sad sometimes that we do that.

Even though I follow my friends, I follow some celebrities' accounts as well. I follow just two celebrities right now who are Josh Peck and Scott Michael Foster. These two guys have hilarious tweets and great updates on their acting careers.

Other than those accounts, I also follow some classmates of mine from school, which can be the most regretted decision I have ever made.

Some of these classmates have a lot of Twitter drama and you can see everything that happens in their life. Yes, I know that Twitter is supposed to be updates on that person's life and that is perfectly fine but if it's about drama, I just don't care for it.

I am not a very dramatic person and I don't have a lot of drama in my life, which I love. My friends who I do follow on Twitter we never fight so we don't have drama and it is great.

Whenever this Twitter drama starts I just roll my eyes and just ignore Twitter for a while. The worst thing about the drama is that it is never the same people who have this drama on Twitter. Everyone seems to have drama at some point in their life.

Even though people fight on Twitter they just need to stop. It's quite unnecessary. I say it's unnecessary because I love Twitter and I don't like drama.

This Twitter drama is always girls who start it and it just enforces the stereotype of girls being dramatic and that like drama. But I am a female and my friends are females as well and we don't fight or have drama in our life, but if we do have drama in our lives we just don't tweet about it.

Other than the stereotypes girls bring out with having drama on Twitter it just shows how not classy someone can be. So guys, here's a tip: if she has Twitter drama she's not classy at all which is not cute at all.

I truly love Twitter, just not the drama, and let's just not have it any more.



GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK/THE REGISTER

Writing essays in class can be tough, but of course, combined with an increased vocabulary, reading can improve writing skills. Obviously, everyone will not become a writer when they are older, but more than likely, they will write emails, cover letters, resumes, the works. Having a great vocabulary enhances the writings.

Despite the many learning benefits, reading is simply enjoyable. Sitting in front of a television or a computer all day does not do the mind justice. Reading a book, magazine, comic, you name it, is like a miniature computer or television; only you are more likely to benefit from it. There are a myriad number of books, the choices are infinite. Choosing a good book can result in a vast amount of different adventures, and to think you do not have to be faced with the television impairing your vision.

There are plenty of authors and books and with that being so, no one would get bored with their book. It's simple; go to a library and check out a book (they'll always be free) and see what comes out of it. Watching television or staring at a computer for hours a day does not feel as refreshing as opening up your mind to a great read.

much money as possible when buying things.

I also get my decision making skills from him, which are not bad, just slow. It takes me a long time to decide on something and many times when I decide something I still end up second guessing myself a lot. It could be the littlest thing like picking what to eat, or what to do that weekend— I will second guess it.

I started putting all of my money in a box in my room. I would tell myself not to spend it unless it was an absolute emergency. This worked... sort of. It worked until I had a lipgloss emergency, but still that was only a couple of dollars out of the box. I think what also helped was that at the time I was not paying for much anyways because I was a small child.

When I turned 14 my frugal behavior became more evident. I always say, "Oh I don't want to spend any money." That statement is sort of true because I would like to have my money for as long as I can. Even though, more often than not I need to borrow money from my parents which makes me feel bad. I like the independence of having my own money brings me. I am able to do what I want with it. It's my money and I can be frugal if I want to.

# 2013 MAYOR ELECTION:

Two candidates prepare for the election on May 14. They were selected from the primary election that was held in the beginning of April. The Register represents what each candidate has planned for Omaha.

JENNIFER ROONEY  
Editor-in-Chief

## JIM SUTTLE

VS.

## JEAN STOTHERT

Two people. Two backgrounds. Two views. One race. The current mayor of Omaha Jim Suttle and City Council member Jean Stothert will compete for the mayoral election on May 14. The candidate who wins will begin their term in June.

The candidates come from very different backgrounds. Democrat Suttle was born in 1945 and attended St. Albans High School in West Virginia and West Virginia University. He has a B.S and M.S. in Civil Engineering. Suttle's professional associations include the American Society of Civil Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers. His wife's name is Deb and they have two adult children and five grandchildren. The mayor is a former executive Vice President of HDR and Vice Chairman (The Board of Directors). He is the 50th Mayor of Omaha and has held the position since 2009. Suttle is Presbyterian and attends the Dundee Presbyterian Church.

Republican Stothert was a graduate of Seattle Pacific University. She began her career in nursing. She spent 12 years as a critical care nurse and nursing manager that included serving as the head nurse and the Department Head of Cardiovascular Surgery at St. Louis University. After she moved to Omaha with her former husband Joe and two children, she was appointed to the Millard School board in 1997. She was re-elected for three terms including becoming president of the board for three years. In 2009, she was elected to the Omaha City Council.

In 2010, an uproar began in Omaha over Suttle. Claims of excessive taxes, broken promises, and union deals were claimed that it had cost the taxpayers millions and "threatened Omaha's economic future." The recall election began. The

next year, Suttle defeated the attempt to recall him in a close result with those voting "No" to recall 38,841 and those voting "Yes" to recall the 37,198 people.

Stothert's plans are to lower taxes, reduce city spending, fix union contracts, create a safer Omaha and modernize the government. Stothert also says she will bring union pensions in line with the private sector. According to Stothert's website, she believes that "the city has headed in the wrong direction with higher taxes, higher spending and misguided labor union deals. When it comes to city hall, I believe we can do better; in fact, we must do better." She wants to build confidence in the city and take on the special interests who have convinced others to raise taxes rather than make tough choices. She believes that the businesses, families, communities and institutions have built this city, not the government.

Suttle believes that education and opportunities for all people are keys to a successful Omaha. He also believes that by placing emphasis on learning at every stage that we the people are reducing poverty and crime, promoting economic development and creating new jobs. He wants to reduce truancy and lower the drop-out rate and is a strong proponent of mentoring, internships and youth jobs initiatives in cooperation with private businesses.

Stothert believes that she is a strong leader and with a conservative approach to the government, we can re-energize Omaha's businesses and neighborhoods. Suttle believes in a strong approach to furthering teenage education. Which mayor is the right choice? Be at the polls on May 14th to choose.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KPTM

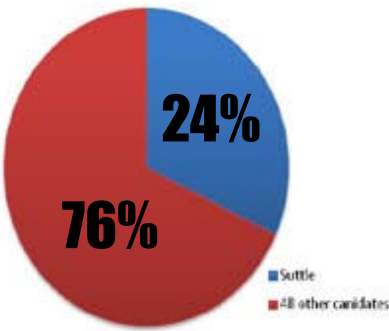


PHOTO COURTESY OF LEAVENWORTHST

### Quick Facts

- ◆ Jim Suttle is the 50th mayor of Omaha.
- ◆ On Nov. 24, 2008, Jim Suttle announced his candidacy for Mayor of Omaha.
- ◆ Mayor Jim Suttle has kept the unemployment rate at 3.7%.

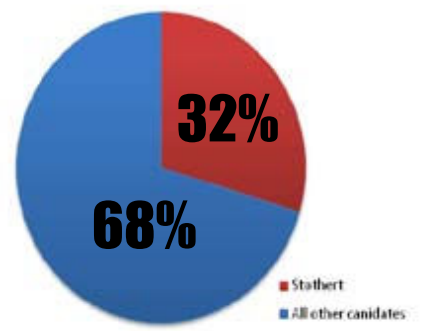
Votes In 2013 Mayoral Primary



### Quick Facts

- ◆ Stothert won the five-way primary election with 32% of the vote.
- ◆ Jean Stothert has supported the pro-life movement throughout her entire political career.
- ◆ Jean Stothert has been endorsed by Nebraska Right to Life.

Votes In 2013 Mayoral Primary



## Teenagers not invincible, prone to the dangers of drunk driving

Since a young age most everyone has been given the same advice over and over to them until it is drilled into their mind: don't drink and drive. While kids are young, most willingly agree to never do drugs or drink and drive, but as they get older this 'rule' becomes less important until it is ignored altogether. Many teenagers these days are going out with their friends and drinking an excessive amount of alcohol.

That by itself is a terrible decision. Not only is it illegal but it's simply a stupid thing to do. The actions you perform when your system is flooded with alcohol are often some of the stupidest things you will choose to do in your life. However, if you do choose to drink, then stay away from the wheel. Drinking and driving is of course illegal too. There are major consequences that follow getting caught behind the wheel with a high blood alcohol level, especially if you're underage.

Getting caught isn't the worst thing that can happen from drinking and driving though. Everyone knows the possible consequences of drunk driving and everyone claims to know that it is a bad idea yet it still happens regularly. Everyone has heard stories about a guy who was wasted but decided that he was fine to drive home and

instead of landing safely in his bed that night, he landed on the hard cement twenty feet from a three car pile-up that his alcohol-infused-self caused.

No one cares about that random guy, though. Most everyone sees themselves as invincible and believes that things like that could never happen to them or to anyone they know. The fact of the matter is that people don't seem to care until it affects them or until it's their friend or family member in the morning paper's obituaries. People need to open their eyes and realize how damaging drinking and driving is and recognize that anyone can be the victim.

The fact is, according to Drunk Driving Facts & Stats Tips, "one person is killed every half-hour due to drunk driving. Each year approximately 16,000 are killed in alcohol related crashes." I could list statistics and facts for pages but it wouldn't make a difference. If it doesn't directly relate to you or someone you know then why should you care?

I recently heard a story about a drunk driving incident that gave me goose bumps as it was told. It was a few days before spring break and I was not paying attention in class I was simply waiting to go home.

Then someone started telling this story and I couldn't help but listen. He started by simply saying "Don't drink and drive." He named the usual facts about drunk driving and how damaging it is but it wasn't until his story began that he really hit home.

He told us first about his best friend whom he had known since he was young. They had been like brothers even years and years after their first encounter. Fast forward to 2013 on a Sunday night. The man who was telling the story had been home while his friend had been out having a drink with some other friends. He had one drink after another until he was extremely drunk. Yet, he still thought he was well enough to drive home.

The speaker got the call in the early hours of the morning. His best friend had been speeding and his car had completely wrapped around a pole he. He died on impact. The hardest part of the story for me was seeing a completely heartbroken stranger talking about his best friend and the last thing he had done. I barely knew who this speaker was; in fact I don't even remember his name. What I do remember, however, is the achingly miserable look in his eyes as he said that his friend was gone and he would never see him again.

The loss of a loved one is never something anyone sees coming and is never something anyone wants to happen. The pain is unbearable and you never truly understand it until it happens to you. According to Drunk Driving Facts & Stats Tip, "alcohol is a factor in almost half of all traffic fatalities." The accidents can never be predicted and often times the victim is not only the one who was drinking, but the unlucky driver they happened to run into.

If you do decide to have a few drinks with your friend, don't get behind the wheel. Catch a cab, phone a friend or even a teacher, or stay over at someone's house. But never assume that you're sober enough to drive because chances are you're not. Never rely on the chance that you might not get into an accident. Rely on the fact that it is probably that you will get into an accident. The risk just isn't worth it.

I know quite a few teachers and other adults that would rather have someone call them and ask them to come get them because they are too drunk to drive rather than seeing their memorial page in the year-book. Happy Cab will give you a free ride home if you're drunk. It doesn't matter who you are, you aren't invincible, even if you think otherwise.



TO INFINITY AND BEYOND  
A Column by Elissa Wiener



GRAPHIC BY STEPHANIE PAUL / THE REGISTER

## Addition of extra school days ineffective

As the end of the year quickly approaches, most of the students are either becoming completely immersed in their studies in order to finish the year with a bang, or beginning to unwind and forget about school altogether. The forethought in everyone's mind however is the hot summer coming rapidly closer and closer within their grasp. But what if that release date got pushed back further out of reach?

Next year the Omaha Public School district has decided to put several extra days into the calendar. Of course, this decision has probably been met with arguments from both sides. In the long run, however, adding extra days to the already long school year would not be helpful, especially since it would only be three or so days.

There are quite a few cons to this particular issue. "Extending the School Year..." points out a few different points. "Extending the school year will completely burn out students as well as teachers. Teachers have families and lives to attend to. With the school year extended their home life is cut short. Teachers look forward to summer just as much as kids do. It's a break from work. Eventually teachers are going to become so tired and burnt out that their teaching abilities will be rendered."

This is a problem that not many students usually think about. If the teachers are not up to teaching then it doesn't matter if the students are interested in the topic or not. An overworked teacher is a recipe for a disaster. Now, the student portion of this subject is something everyone is fairly used to hearing about.

According to "Extending the School Year..." Kids will become so horribly bored that they won't even learn or pay attention. Kids need time to grow up and be kids and take a break from school. Accord-

ing to Stuart Brown's study in Scientific American, 'a lack of opportunities for unstructured, imaginative play can keep children from growing into happy, well-adjusted adults.'

This is a good point that many people fail to realize. Yes, many kids do want to get out of school simply to be out of school but that's not the only reason. It is extremely easy to become bored and tired at school in the summer heat while going over the same material once again.

Another point made in this article is as follows. "Students nowadays go to school and then directly after report to sports or extracurricular activities. Most kids don't get home until late. If we extend the school days, then kids would be getting home later and having less time for homework and family time. Plus, those kids who do complete their homework will be up well past [a reasonable] bedtime. This would drastically decrease their sleep at night. Lack of sleep affects learning."

This point is seriously underappreciated. What adults don't seem to grasp is that teenagers are unable to go to school at 7:30 a.m., pay attention and do work in class, go to after school activities, complete ALL their homework and study for tests. Not to mention sleeping and eating. The lack of sleep really hurts teens and the extended school year, no matter how short, will negatively affect students.

Attempting to extend school by three days creates more problems than it solves, and the solutions it bring are miniscule. Lengthening the school year would really have little positive effect and would, in all honesty, only serve to annoy all the students and teachers, whether or not they admitted to it.

## Young journalist prepares for future while recognizing the past and how it all changed

I am a student journalist.

I remember the day I decided to become a student journalist. It was two years ago and this girl inspired me. I loved what she was capable of and I wanted to be just like her. To this day, she is still a very good friend of mine. It was the best decision I have ever made.

I remember wanting to be a vet or biologist or even an animal rescuer. I loved animals and I still do. They were my passion, but that changed when I met myself in writing. Writing defines me, just like how songs define how songwriters are.

I believe everybody paints the world in a completely different picture. We all see it differently which corresponds on the way we present ourselves. I present my thoughts and discussions in my writing. I never hold anything back and I will tell the world what I truly feel and tell the real facts that can blow their minds. When I write a story, I put every one of my best thoughts into it. Most people take notes before they write, but if the story is of my personal opinion I walk into my room, pick up my computer, turn on my music and just start typing and I don't stop until it's finished. Some people would call it my happy place.

Some people believe the media is a waste and just gets in the way,

but really what does it get in the way of? I do find the lame stories of stars' personal lives not amusing. I don't care if a Kardashians has a baby, and I really don't think anybody else does. But when I find something that does matter, it blows my mind.

As I grow older and pursue my dream in becoming a professional writer, I want people to see what good journalism is about, and that we aren't just media getting into the way of things and that we are actually important. I want to teach more students that journalism is a way of life and changes people's lives each day. What would the country have been like if the media wasn't there in Newtown, Conn. where over 20 people were murdered at Sandy Hook Elementary School? This took national attention and brought the Second Amendment of the Constitution into consideration. The media has saved many lives like this, warning people that they might be into trouble or even in danger.

Journalism is a way of life, and it's my life in a nutshell. It has taught me several things over these short two years. Not everybody will read what you write and not everybody will care what you write. But I have to say when they do read it and do care, it is the best

feeling in the world. I always say to myself "I wrote this for a reason." I developed skills like communication and teamwork abilities. I use to be that shy timid freshmen walking through the halls underneath everybody just wanting to get to class without a push or shove. Journalism teaches you so much in such a short period. Years later you can look back at yourself remembering what you used to be.

Knowing that I'm ending my senior year with my passion and heading into my life of a career in it makes me happier than ever. I'm so glad I became a student journalist and if I had a chance to go back and change this decision, I wouldn't do it in a million years and I wouldn't do it for all of the money in the world. High school has been four years of learning who you are, what your plans are and who your friends are. And I completed it and I'm ready to end high school to pursue my dream. I have hated and loved these four years and it is my time to leave.

I want to be that person that saves a community, or even the country as a whole. Saving people's lives and making a difference is what I live by and I will never stop releasing the facts to the public to make a giant contribution to the field of journalism. It is my passion and my dream and if I'm not perfect for it, than I plan to learn each day to become that way. I can't wait to make a difference and become a professional writer.



NEVER WOULD I EVER  
A Column by Jennifer Rooney

# Politicized societies must allow pageant contestants to speak

Recent statements by two different Miss Russia winners show that there is more to beauty queens than just beauty.

Can a public figure separate her views from politics? Better question, can a beauty queen in Russia be both beautiful and opinionated?

Some fashion industry gurus say, no, while others ask, why not?

Apparently, a beauty queen isn't supposed to have any opinion more inflammatory than "peace on Earth." However, a couple of Russian beauty queens have stirred media scandals over their political comments. They've been sharing their thoughts during interviews about issues that have polarized Russian society. What's worse, their opinions haven't exactly been mainstream.

Recently crowned Miss Russia, Elmira Abdrazakova is a student at the Siberian Railway University. During an interview with the independent Russian News Service, Abdrazakova criticized the government's punishment of two members of the Russian feminist punk rock collective, Pussy Riot, delivered two years ago.

After performing a number that criticized Russian President Vladimir Putin in a mostly empty church last year in February, the Pussy Riot women were arrested and charged with a hate crime, which meant jail time, instead of a more lenient ruling of disturbing the peace.

Abdrazakova stated her opinions with reserve, but also with resolve.

"I finished Sunday school and for me, a church is sacred. And to do something like [the Pussy Riot performance] is unacceptable," Abdrazakova said during her interview with the Russian News Service.

"But the punishment was still too severe. Perhaps they should have just worked with them to change their view of the world."

Irina Berzhnaya, president of the Star Lab production, an agency that prepares women for beauty pageants, cautioned against such political declarations from women.

"I'm really surprised to hear political declaration from these girls. They shouldn't do that," she said.

Berzhnaya continued, saying, "I don't think it's a good idea for women who hope to make a career in show business to talk about politics; this will not be good for them."

But others disagree. Years ago, beauty queens would never have been asked such controversial questions. Today, anything goes, and these women respond to such polarizing issues the best that they can.

"Russian society is becoming intensely politicized, and these girls are getting dragged into it," said Alexei Makarkin, deputy director of the independent Center for Political Technologies in Moscow.

The 2010 Miss Moscow beauty queen, Natalia Pereverzeva, has also instigated a media scandal over an essay she wrote as part of her entrance into the Miss Earth beauty pageant, taking place in Manila, Philippines.

During a phone interview with ABC News, Pereverzeva said, "I wrote it from the bottom of my heart, from my soul."

The essay was written in response to a question about why she is proud of her country. Naturally,

Pereverzeva started out with the expected praise of Russia. But she then shifted into polarizing waters.

"But my Russia—it is also my poor, long-suffering country, mercilessly torn to pieces by greedy, dishonest, unbelieving people," wrote the Russian beauty queen.

"My Russia—it is a great artery, from which the 'chosen' few people are draining away its wealth. My Russia is a beggar. My Russia cannot help her elderly and orphans. From it, like from a sinking ship, engineers, doctors, teachers are fleeing, because they have nothing to live on," continued Pereverzeva.

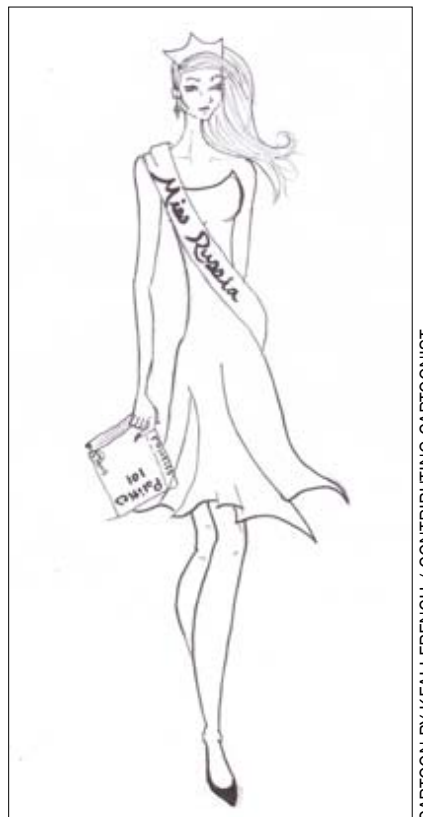
As expected, Pereverzeva received criticism from many, including Russian editorials that have attacked her for defaming her country.

In the interview with ABC News, Pereverzeva said, "It was my civic opinion and I wrote it with huge pride for my country. I love Russia and I am proud of its people, its history and tradition. I think every Russian would agree with what I wrote."

Back to the question, can a public figure separate her personal opinions from politics?

Pereverzeva believes so, saying, "I am so disappointed that it became so political in Russia. My life has nothing to do with politics."

Is it not perfectly reasonable that a woman can be both beautiful and opinionated? These women, especially, are placed in the public spotlight, and then expected to withhold their opinions and not speak for themselves. Any woman, whether she be CEO or beauty queen, should be allowed to be both beautiful and opinionated.



CARTOON BY KEALI FRENCH / CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

## Importance of popularity amongst peers will fade as the years go by, will not define us

What determines popularity? And why is it so important?

At Central, I take it for granted that our school isn't "cliqey." While some may disagree, I'd like to point out that we don't have the chosen few who dub themselves "CKs"—Cool Kids (yes, I, too, was surprised to hear that's even real). Instead of one tight-knit group of popular kids, we have many, diverse groups that coexist peacefully. Some students intermingle and meander from one group to another, and that's natural.

Most of the time, our status is based on our appearances. The saying goes, "You can't judge a book by its cover," but we also hear, "You never get a second chance to make a first impression." First impressions are dominated by our looks; there's simply no way around it.

At Central, though, personality matters. I think most people see through a pretty face, right to a rotten personality. The guys who are funny and genuine and the girls who are kind and laidback win over people who are perfect plastic. (Side-note: I was going through another high school's yearbook, and a girl listed "Barbie" as her nickname. I was taken aback, to say the least. I hope that it's just a joke among her

peers because no one should really call anyone or be called "Barbie.")

Sometimes, popularity just comes down to luck, the draw of the cards, the way the dice roll, how the cookie crumbles, whichever hackneyed saying fits best. I personally like the proverb: "The only sure thing about luck is that it will change."

But back to my original thought, who decides popularity? Someone who is completely acceptable in appearances and personality may simply be ostracized by a more popular person because... actually, for no reason. I could go on about bullying and how it defines some people's lives because it affects the way they choose to see the world and themselves, but I won't.

I don't believe popularity is as important as it was a decade ago, but we still see and feel it every day. I won't say that the so-called popular kids fit the stereotype of the jocks who are inconsiderate of other's feelings because they're physically allowed to be. And I won't say that popularity isn't important. But I don't think it should be the highlight of our high school careers.

But why am I writing this column? I'm jotting down all this (which may come across as completely sensible or complete nonsense) mainly

because popularity (and if not popularity, then at least social acceptance) seems extremely important to students.

Honestly, I see the appeal, but at the same time, I don't. To most things that make someone feel less popular, that person should think, "So what?"

Someone thought my pants weren't in style. So what? In another ten years, they will be! (I remember when flares were in and skinny jeans were embarrassing. Some parents are laughing now...)

Someone ignored me and wouldn't let me sit lunch with him/her. So what? That person clearly doesn't realize how cool I am.

No one wanted me on their dodgeball team, and I was picked last. So what? Half of the kids who disliked me won't be laughing when they realize we're playing DODGEBALL.

I won't sit here tapping away on my computer and pretend that popularity doesn't matter. Prom court and class president make people feel great about themselves. (About prom court, I didn't even know there was a court. Honestly, I thought there were just a king and a queen. Is there a jester? Because you can't have a "court" without a "court jester.")

But at the same time, popularity shouldn't define us. So we weren't popular in high school. So. What.



UNCOMMON NONSENSE  
A Column by Giselle Tran



THIS IS RANDOM BUT  
A Column by Mekenzie Kerr

## Becoming legal age: responsibilities can be stressful, but many perks should be celebrated

Double-digits. The shudder of a new era of life went through my entire body the night before my tenth birthday, entering into, what I considered to be, a pretty important age. I had always been in the single-digits, but ten, now that was something worth noting. Then came sixteen, license to follow and then, senior year, 18 – with more legal rights than I had ever been granted before.

Birthdays have always been a key-focus in my family – a time to celebrate the day you came into the world. And quite frankly, birthdays are ten times more thrill-invoking when you're younger, the idea of growing up being much more irresistible than staying a child.

This idea I had – the idea that all little kids would rather grow up, a mentality carried by many – was challenged as I carried on small talk with a nine-year-old girl. I'm turning 10 on April 8' she informed me, which was followed by a slight pause, and as she pushed her sandy-blonde bob-cut out of her face she collected her thoughts and said, passionately, "... but I don't want to grow up, it's not fun when you get old."

Let's be honest though – this pint-sized cutie had a very valid point, something beyond her nearly 10-years of age: growing up is scary (no matter how old you are).

While I always awaited my next birthday, my next chance to claim and add another year to my age, I started realizing the responsibilities that come with those added digits. Like anything, the chase is more enticing than the moment and times to follow that you actually have it – exactly like growing up.

Once I arrived at 16 I started seeing less excitement in birthdays, other than the privileges that come along with them, the years only become more stress-inducing. Getting your license is simple – but saving and finding a car, insurance, gas, curfews – all the stressful things that follow. And now, 18, when I'm awaiting college, initially a fabulous gulp of freedom – slowly overshadowed by living on my own and paying for things on my own.

But what boggled me most about the little girl is that, while I didn't realize these stresses of getting older until I was the actual age they came, here she is at only nine, already contemplating the negatives of getting, well, old. Not only, according to the girl, is getting old stressful just because, but also because 'I have to get married'.

Why, of all things, is this little girl facing (what sadly is the truth) the fear of growing up? I, for one, can safely say at nine I wasn't worried about marriage or relationships with the opposite gender of any type. I had a passionate love for animals, and frankly that's all I fretted over.

"Why?" I kept asking myself, 'why'? Well, because society subconsciously forces growing up. From clothing for tots to eight-year-olds with cellphones that aren't just plastic with beeping buttons – mature things are pushed on small kids. Disney shows promote relationships and sarcasm, things that aren't bad, but being displayed to very, very young generations.

This attitude that growing up has a lot of opportunities is semi-accurate, but dually might also be instilling a sense of weariness to growing up – at least to those in-tune with their insight levels turning up. This, honestly, saddens me. Growing up should be something to be sought after, something, that while, yes, incredibly stressful at times, is something to be proud of – not feared.

I've entered the lovely, legal age of 18 – exercising one of my new rights and celebrating with a septum piercing – and while there's a lot of stress that has and will cloud my views on 18, I'm still going to try and see the beauties of growing up.

As Walt Disney said, "Too many people grow up. That's the real trouble with the world, too many people grow up. They forget. They don't remember what it's like to be 12 years old. They patronize the brave souls who as inferiors." – it's all about keeping a childlike outlook on life, faithful and ever-curious, even through the endeavors each year may bring.

### AP Teacher Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree
- College Board Authorization
- Lots of background Knowledge
- HEART

GRAPHIC BY EMILY BECK/THE REGISTER

## AP Teachers not always qualified to teach

"A person who teaches, especially in a school", the textbook/dictionary.com definition of a 'teacher'. This simplistic eight word definition of one word almost serves to nullify the validity and responsibilities of being a teacher, an educator, a shaper of children's futures. While the definition is as basic as basic comes, some teachers in America do not even begin to deserve the mere definition that Dictionary.com provides.

As we have all gone from grade level to grade level we have experienced the good, the bad and the ugly of teachers. There are teachers who go above and beyond in both relating to students, staying an authority figure, while enriching them with scads of information prevalent to the subject. Yet there also exists something that is becoming a paradigm with the decline of America's education system: insufficient teachers.

Teachers in America are required to graduate with a Bachelor's degree (four years of college education) as well as student teaching to get a hands-on feel of the teaching world. Richard M. Ingersoll, who conducted a comparative study on the "Teacher Preparation and Qualification in Six Nations", states that "One of the most prominent viewpoints...holds that

the problem of low-quality teaching can be traced to inadequate and insufficient pre-employment training and licensing or certification of prospective teachers."

Perhaps the loss of seemingly qualified teachers is derived from the merit teaching positions hold in each society, from country to country. Asian countries hold a special esteem for teachers, a high-class position in many societies. Yet in the United States, according to Ingersoll's study, "teaching has been considered a less attractive and less desirable line of work [in the US]".

Ingersoll says that "Many Asian nations have a tradition of respect for teachers" – something we find less prominent among citizens of the United States. Many times parents, when confronted by the teacher about their student's lack of ability in an area, return simply, something about the teacher's ability to teach well. Perhaps the criticism of teachers has a negative effect, making teachers resort back into a "non-abrasive" approach to teaching.

There are teachers who take full force and take the quality time to ensure their students know and understand content, yet there are also teachers who simply lecture and expect understanding to follow.

## Overuse of phrase 'that's racist' diminishes meaning; needs clarification or elimination

We've all heard that one dreadful statement "that's racist," said after an ethnic-based statement has been made in class. It is by far the most annoying, ignorant and unnecessary statement of all next to "that's childish" and "you draggin' it." As a student who prefers to look at things from a point of view that disregards ethnicity entirely as a factor, it really gets under my skin. Once again, another word has had its definition twisted by kids who do not understand the dynamic of what they're saying.

Racism is a noun meaning "a belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human races determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one's own race is superior and has the right to rule others." Quite frankly, I cannot name one example of that at Central High being that it's conspicuously culturally diverse. It's something we pride ourselves in.

When people hear the word "racist" or "racism," almost automatically they think of African Americans and Caucasians. That is another result of the failure to see what racism really is. It doesn't exclude blacks and whites, but it most certainly doesn't highlight the history of animosity between the two cultures. There are many other countries who have had similar, though not as massive, instances and it would be selfish to think otherwise.

This leads me to another thought about what racism is and is not. In middle school, I vividly remember rewards given to specifically Native American students and African American students for scholastic achievement. At a school that was predominantly Caucasian, something seemed unjust in my eyes. I'm a very level headed, fair person and I didn't feel completely honored for my achievement

with those feelings as I walked across the stage.

I'm not saying that history of struggle and civil disruption is something that people should forget or brush away as if it never occurred. I take great pride in my heritage and I appreciate the brave souls who stood up against all of the hatred that took place. However, I do not feel like I need a special distinction just because of the fact that I'm an African American student. I feel it would be best to alter the kinds of academic distinction.

I'm in no position to say the cliché "everybody is equal" rant, but I just find a flaw in what is inadvertently proposed when I am distinguished as an "African American" scholar. Am I and all the other kids of my ethnicity being rewarded because of sympathy for something that I never underwent? It's as if they're saying, "Sorry your race endured mistreatment. Here's a special award! But what did I earn?"

However, there is a shift that I appreciate. In my Human Geography class, it was brought to my attention that there has been an incline in multicultural births, so many that there will be very few people of a pure ethnicity. In a way, it's disappointing because the traditions of these cultures may fade. Also, physical descriptions may be harder to give. The beauty of it is that maybe people won't consider race so much because it will be nearly impossible to recognize certain traits of an ethnicity in the way someone looks.

Collectively, what I'm trying to project is that society is stuck in this idea of race and has lost all insight of what "racism" really is. Throughout all racial distinctions still made, I feel like there's a need for a shift in the way things are supposed to be viewed. Unfortunately, only time will allow that to happen, and waiting for this evolution is all that can be done.



GOOD KID, MAD CITY  
A Column by Tia Spears

# NEW POPE IS HUMAN TOO

Global citizens should look to themselves before expecting perfection from their leaders.

After the controversial resignation of ex-Pope Benedict XVI, the Catholic community was left with no one to lead their faith and the Catholic Church. Quick to act the Papal Conclave set off to work on electing the new pope. After a few weeks without a pope, Jorge Mario Bergoglio was chosen from five people to become the next leader of the Catholic Church.

Benedict's resignation was rare. The last pope to resign as head of the Catholic Church did so 600 years ago. After a tedious election done by 65 cardinals, and constant black smoke signals, Vatican City breathed a sigh of relief when at last the black smoke turned white, declaring a new pope. Not only was it a controversial resignation and election, but the new pope is quite controversial himself.

Pope Francis, the name he took after being elected, is Latino and of Italian descent. And he has done many controversial things in the time since he was elected. Many of the decisions he has made have been greatly criticized. No one has let his past slide either; many of his actions from long ago have popped up and everyone was quick to judge how they will affect him now.

Many small actions that should have been over looked without a second thought set the bomb ticking into a great explosion. One example was calling Pope Francis the "Black Pope" only for his choice in color. It has been a long tradition for Popes

to wear red shoes during their first appearances; Pope Francis opted for black. That made everyone talk, and all of a sudden his election was questioned. There are far more important things that people need to worry about rather than the Popes preferred style of shoes.

A Pope's past shouldn't be brought up to belittle his power. Rather, it should be brought to humble him and let the public know that he hasn't forgotten them. That is also why Pope Francis chose his name; he was reminded by a friend, a cardinal who told him to remain humble at all times. He took the name Francis in honor of Saint Francis of Assisi.

People had to be reminded that Popes are humans too. They make mistakes too, yet they are under the public eye and with a responsibility this huge it's easy to forget that they have feelings like a normal human.

There have been many rumors concerning the new Pope, rumors that go beyond absurd. Though those rumors don't seem to faze his followers, they are deep believers in the Catholic faith and they love the Pope.

It does not matter how many rumors there are floating around, they know just who to believe and know that His Holiness will clear anything up if the need arises.

People should be more worried about their religion and how the Pope is handling it rather than the



CARTOON BY KEALI FRENCH/CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

idle rumors that have no substance. The Pope knows what he is doing, it should not matter what the media or people who don't believe in religion are doing to belittle him and his religion.

With a new pope come new changes. Pope Francis has been one of the many Popes who is bringing new light into a controversial ministry. Pope Francis visited ex-Pope Benedict XVI, something that has never been done by any pope. They spent the day parrying and enjoying a breakfast. "We are brothers," Pope Francis even said.

His is bring new aspirations to the Catholic Church, from how he has taken

charge and his actions so far it is clear that he will be a good Pope. He is leading the Catholic Church in the right direction.

Like before, no one knows better than the Pope, especially when it comes to his actions. The public should not be concerned with those idle rumors; they should pay more attention to what the Pope is doing, and believe him. With that being said, the media should also stop taking things out of proportion, they should focus more on his Papal career and portray that to the public. If the public should be worried, they should worry about the Pope, his decisions and his health, nothing less.

## A 'Romance' ended with band break-up, members moving on

Listening to music has always been a favorite activity to do while I'm bored, doing homework, or just walking to school. I have bundles of favorite artists and many genres to choose from, so I am hardly ever bored of my music selection.

I can scroll through the many artists and come across one particular artist that I've been listening to since sixth grade- My Chemical Romance. Wow, the memories I have with the band- from crying when I lost my favorite CD by them, finding it a few weeks later and rejoicing, learning lyrics from their CDs and being way too proud of it, and just sitting back and listening to them for hours. Also, another important aspect about the band is that their bassist, Mikey Way, quickly became the one man whom I would want to marry when I was older. No man would ever compare to him.

To me, My Chemical Romance was by far one of the greatest bands ever. It saddens me to say "was" because they recently broke up on March 22, announcing it on their website with a single paragraph. Yes, the band I looked forward to hearing new music from, with the utterly gorgeous bassist, recorded and produced four studio albums, made a handful of music videos, went on world tours, and was nominated for a Grammy, broke up with a paragraph.

The night I heard about it, I had to research it. I was desperately waiting for the band to log into their website and say, "Sorry, we had a hacker in our website, we're not breaking up!" But alas, every fan was probably hoping for the same thing, but was sadly disappointed when it was confirmed.

Not a single letter of remorse for the fans was given, just a paragraph. Yes, while there are other worse ways they could have broken up, it didn't make any sense to me at all. I was on the verge of tears, and I wanted something to clear things up for me, but all I had for closure was that stupid paragraph.

When breaking the news to people, of course no one would care too much. "It's only a band," they would say, "who cares?" Well, to answer the question, I care. This band and I have gone through so much together, in only a few years. I used to be so mad when they would be hidden from the world, more than likely making music for the fans to enjoy.

I could never say that I could sing to a whole CD (very poorly, by the way)

and not mess up a single lyric, which I could only do with My Chemical Romance.

The band has been known to save people's lives, and it's no doubt that the statement is true. The lyrics are so captivating, and enchanting, and most of all, inspiring. The band has such a great reputation of being great guys, and again, saving lives with their powerful lyrics.

There were even rumors of a new CD, but obviously, that was short-lived, considering. When I was waiting restlessly for their newest CD released in 2010, I thought I was going to be disappointed. In fact, a few friends of mine were disappointed with that CD, and eventually stopped listening to them forever. I, on the other hand, was disappointed in the friends, because the CD was one of their very best.

After years of collecting the four CDs, I finally had them all, and I could sing to the first three. The fourth one was one I could continuously listen to, and I was excited for more. I wanted so much more from them, and though they had to sacrifice a few drummers in the past, I knew it wouldn't make a difference, that they would release an amazing CD in the future and I'd love it regardless.



BIG BOW STRIKES AGAIN  
A Column by Cheyenne Alexis

The members are all in their thirties, some married and bearing children, but even so, I felt that they would still focus on making music because they knew how much people loved them, including me.

Of course, the day they broke up, I stayed in shock, and to this day all I can think about when their songs come on is, "I can't believe it's really over." I also remind myself that they're actually very great guys; being that they broke up peacefully, from my understanding.

What I can assure myself is that they will return one day in the future, because that's what all great bands do, and My Chemical Romance fits that category. It saddens me that I never received a special moment to see them in concert, but I know that one day, they'll return to the stage.

I have such respect for this band, and though they are no longer making music, I know for a fact that I'll always listen to their music, and even more, never give up hoping that they'll be back.

## Working moms not harmful for child's development



CARTOON BY IMANI BROWN/CONTRIBUTING CARTOONIST

In previous decades when women were seen as unsuitable for work outside the home, they became stay-at-home moms. They cared for their children and household. However, in recent times this has changed. Many mothers are now choosing to work outside the home.

According to the New York Times, a few years ago researchers at Columbia University did a study in which they learned that kids whose mothers left their home to work full-time during their child's first year were much more delayed in comparison with the mothers who stayed at home during their child's first year of life.

The research was almost used to guilt trip the 60 percent of mothers who work outside the home during the first year of a child's life.

Recent research, however, shows that mothers should not be too worried. In an issue of Monographs of the Society for Research and Child Development, researchers followed the children studied from their first year of life up until they enter the first grade.

The article is called "First Year Maternal Employment and Child Development during the First Seven Years." It helps show mothers that the cognitive gap is more mild than originally thought. It goes on to prove that the effect on children is actually overall neutral. This is great news to all those working moms out there who work to support the lives of their children.

Being a stay-at-home mom can be seen as quite luxury, but this is not always the case. Many of the

mothers who are staying at home have no choice but to do so. A lot do not have any job skills, have little education, and some even have a more traditional view of what family life should be like. This is according to a Census Bureau report that analyzed changes in stay-at-home mothers from 1969 to 2009. This report also showed that 18 percent of stay-at-home moms lacked a degree compared with 7 percent of moms in the work force.

In the United States, 70 percent of married women over age 25 with kids work outside the home. According to an analysis by Andrew A. Beveridge, a sociologist at Queens College of the city University of New York, the income for those houses is greater in those homes with a working mother, seeing as the median income is \$87,200. In households where a mother stays at home, the median is around \$64,000.

"Those with the least education are the most likely to stay out of the labor force as stay-at-home mothers," according to the Census Bureau's 40 year old report. The report also concluded that the majority of the stay-at-home mothers' ethnicity is Hispanic.

For some, being a stay-at-home mom is a necessary choice. In an article that appeared in the New York Times, Jeanie Maez described why she became a stay-at-home mom. In 2004 Maez was laid off from her job, but instead of searching for a new one she chose to stay at home with her son.

"...my youngest son who is autistic needed his Mama," said Maez. To make ends meet she sold her car, paid off her credit card debt, and was more restricted with her purchases. Maez's husband took a second job to help his wife stay home. Maez like many other stay-at-home mothers says, "I wish I had more education, I think that would have made a difference."

Being a stay-at-home mom could potentially be okay, but being a working mother would be more ideal. It would be better because of the money intake for one's family would increase greatly, and so would that woman's education.

## Minimalist lifestyles are anything but bare



I MADE THIS FOR YOU  
A Column by Emily Beck

Do you ever have the desire to throw away everything that you own? To empty every single one of your junk drawers into a dumpster, to shred all those loose papers on your desk, to clear your closet of every seemingly unnecessary article of clothing that you own? Do you ever want to paint your walls white and start over?

You're not alone.

In recent years many individuals have been embracing what is known as a minimalist lifestyle. Basically, this means living 'minimally'—living with less. Less clutter, less stuff, less mess.

A minimalist doesn't lead a bare life—on the contrary, these people who are striving to live with less are helping themselves to live more.

By eliminating all of this extra baggage that we tend to carry with us, we are allowing ourselves to embrace life more fully—ideally, we will be focused on the more important things, like family, instead of when we're going to get more stuff, and where we're going to put it all.

Don't confuse the minimalist lifestyle with the minimalist style—while they are in some ways similar, they are at the same time very different.

Many designers have begun creating 'minimalist' clothing or accessories that are extremely simple. No patterns, no glitter or sequins, nothing complicated at all. Just straight lines and often a lot of white. In fact, if you look up 'minimalist' on Google or Pinterest, that's what you're going to see—a lot of white.

In reality, the idea of minimalist clothing somewhat compromises the whole point of minimalism, which is to live with less. Shouldn't a self-proclaimed minimalist be focused on living life rather than shopping for clothing to meet his or her minimalist lifestyle? Just a thought.

On the other hand, though, buying minimalist clothing also involves buying multi-use garments and not having so many of them. That's probably the most difficult part for me. The more, the merrier, I often think—you can never have too many dresses.

My closet may disagree, though. It has become increasingly bloated over the years as I add to it. Don't get me wrong, I'm not addicted to shopping—in fact I went most of this winter without shopping—but it's something I do enjoy. It's way too easy to buy things that will end up being useless, though, especially if one likes to frequent thrift stores.

Often I'll find a treasure that is just a little too big, and I figure that I can either have my mom fix it to be smaller or take it to a tailor to have it custom fit. I tell myself that these things will happen, but they never do.

My mom barely has time to alter anything, and taking my clothing to a tailor seems like such a daunting task. So the items sit in my closet, basically useless, until the day that I decide to do something about them.

I'm not looking to become a full-out minimalist, but I really like the ideas that go along with that lifestyle. Clearing out my closet would probably be the most difficult, yet most necessary, task.

The reason: humans tend to attach emotions to objects. I have some shirts from 8th grade that I've attached memories to; I don't want to give those away! Sure, I never see or think about them, but if I ever want to look at them they're there.

Why is this necessary, though? I'm not going to wear those shirts.

While it's difficult to actually get rid of stuff, one has to remember that most of that stuff isn't really that important in the first place. Giving it away won't kill you—it's entirely possible to live without that shirt you haven't worn for four years, or that holey pair of jeans with paint splattered all over them.

"But the stumbling block in that, is that most of us are not really sure what we truly need. We are so used to being told what we need by others, by advertisers, by companies, that our minds are cluttered and we believe, on some level, that we have to have certain things in order to be happy." This comes from 'How to Begin Living a Minimalist Lifestyle' on a blog entitled Living the Life Fantastic. And it has several valid points.

The way that Americans live is heavily influenced by advertisers who tell us that we need more.

They seduce our minds with bright colors and promises of happiness and contentment—if we just buy their products we can have all this and more.

Unfortunately, all of this buying often leads to an insane amount of clutter. What's the point of buying that new Magic Bullet if you don't even like smoothies? Where are you going to put that new pinball machine if there's no room in your basement? Have you seen 'Hoarders'?

Obviously an overabundance of buying doesn't always lead to such extreme results, but it certainly is a factor.

Some of the individuals on that show suffer from mental instabilities, which perhaps arose from the mindset that comes with being exposed to so much advertising, and so many empty promises.

There is nothing wrong with having a lot of stuff, if that is the way one wishes to live one's life. But having less can be incredibly freeing.

I believe that the minimalist lifestyle is perfectly acceptable, and that getting rid of things can be good, as long as they are going to a good place.

Tossing out old possessions doesn't necessarily mean dooming them to an eternity of rot in a landfill; it can mean repurposing them in new, useful ways, giving them to a friend who has been eyeing them or someone in need.

Maybe I'll begin the long process of sorting through all of the dusty possessions in my closet...or I can just paint my walls white.

# A KID WITH HEART

Filmmaker releases documentary on basketball star's journey.

SAN JUANA PARAMO  
Staff Writer

As a retired basketball player at the age of 23, Josh Jones is a 2008 Central graduate and a 2013 University of Creighton graduate. The ex-basketball player tells his story of a young life made complicated due to heart problems in his own documentary "Josh Jones; The Josh Jones Story," a production by Stream Light Productions.

The movie begins with Josh shooting hoops and explains the reason why he cannot continue playing basketball. "Basketball can literally kill me," Jones said in the movie.

Jones started taking an interest in basketball when he was eight years old. "I did it as a hobby, my mom had a daycare and it was just something for me to do," Jones said.

During the time Jones played for Central, he was the all-time leading scorer, but what most attracted him to the sport was "putting the ball through the hoop," what Jones called "a cool concept."

Jones joined his first basketball team when he was nine years old; he played for a YMCA league, The Pacers. "We actually won a championship," he said, chuckling. Having played basketball since he was very young, Jones didn't know how far it would take him; he always "did it for fun."

Jones continued playing basketball throughout high school and college. Jones said playing basketball for Creighton was "a way for me to graduate and eventually take care of my family."

"He was really talented and a hard worker; he was overall really good," said Eric Behrens, Jones' high school basketball coach.

Playing for Central had its downs, too. During his time at Central, Jones faced some obstacles when it came to getting enough playing time.

"The upper-classmen were playing a head of me," Jones said. "In order for me to play, I had to prove to Coach Behrens that I could play at that level."

"He was positive, he practiced hard, and wanted to be as good as anyone could be," Behrens said. Keeping the same mentality when he played for Creighton, Jones succeeded greatly in his basketball career.

The transition Jones made from Central to Creighton was hard. Throughout the documentary, Jones' teammates talk about him and his time playing for the Jay's.

"The style of play was different. Going to college was more of a mental thing," Jones said.

Jones' teachers from Central had cameos throughout the documentary, giving their opinion of him, his career and the obstacles he faced.

"My fondest memory of Central was being able to play for Central," said Jones. "The fans and the support that we get from those people got me fired up pretty fast." It is not bad that during his time at Central, the Eagles brought 3 state titles to the nest. "We won three state titles, and I think we did really good," said Behrens.

"It made me feel accomplished. I felt like I had to prove to everyone that I was the best player in the state," Jones said.

"Josh Jones; The Josh Jones Story" takes fans on

Continue to 'JOSH JONES STORY' on page 17



1. Jones addresses the crowd at the preview of his documentary. 2. One of the t-shirts available for purchase.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIE PAUL/THE REGISTER

# The Call equipped with excitement, intensity, emotion



GOOD KID, MAD CITY  
A Column by Tia Spears

The thriller film, "The Call", was released March 15, starring Halle Berry and Abigail Breslin. It was filmed by Brad Anderson and earned \$30,100,000 in the box office. The film was based on a girl who got kidnapped by a psychotic murderer, but due to her adept communication with the 911 dispatcher, she was able to be rescued.

For me, the film earned four out of five stars. I thought it was interesting and had just the amount of fright. However, I expected so much more based on the previews.

Halle Berry, of course, did an excellent job. Abigail Breslin, the kidnapping victim, did a remarkable job as well. The resilience in her character's role kept the plot interesting.

In the beginning of the film, Berry was assisting the primary kidnapping victim. Things got very heated but seemed to decline after the kidnapper left. However, when the call accidentally ended, Berry redialed and the kidnapper heard the phone ringing. When the victim answered the call, the kidnapper knew someone was still in the house.

Subsequently, he found and killed the girl in hiding. This event helped inaugurate feelings of sympathy and understanding for Berry throughout her career as a dispatcher. As the viewer, seeing Berry struggle with emotions of guilt allowed me to build a stronger connection with the ambition she exuded while helping the second victim. As a result, the plot became more intriguing to me.

Since the girl was calling on a prepaid mobile device, the dispatcher couldn't locate her. Thus, Berry took over the call. Due to the last mistake she made in the previous call, she was determined to not let this one go badly.

Berry's determination are what helped the movie evoke emotion and connect the viewer's feelings in the tenacious effort of Berry. The sense of irony was that the kidnapper was the same man from the first incident, which the viewer doesn't find out until later. The suspense of identifying him took too long for my liking; nonetheless, I tried to pay attention to the big picture—the police locating the kidnapping victim.

During the film, Berry offered great rescue tips to the victim that could realistically be implemented in someone else's life. For instance, kicking out the taillight if you were locked in a trunk and waving your hands to lure the attention of drivers. Coincidentally, there was a bucket of paint that the victim spilled along the highway to create a trail.

That gave me hope that the victim would be found, but it occurred too early in the movie for me to believe that it would be that easy for the police to catch them. Thus, I was really lured in at that point of the film.

Additionally, when the kidnapper stopped at a gas station, she tried to climb through a passage from the trunk to the middle of the seat which caught the attention of an employee.

That was an ambiguous decision on the behalf of Berry and the victim due to the kidnapper lighting the employee on fire. All of these events helped Berry and the police in locating the kidnapping victim.

In the end, I did not like the conclusion. I appreciated the outcome what happened of the kidnapper's sickening ways, but it was so abrupt after being led on for a long amount of time.

The kidnapper dealt with too many people for my liking along the way to killing the victim. I did appreciate the director showing the obstacles that made it harder for the victim to be found. If he hadn't, then the movie would've lacked interesting components in order to uphold its genre as a thriller.

I'm not an expert with cinematography, but the shots where the victim was in the trunk gave a great perspective from her point of view.

Watching it, I felt very up close and personal with the actors in that scene because of how tightly shot it was. It was interesting to see what it would be like next to a dead person in such a tight space. Especially if you woke up next to them unconscious like she did. I thought that was cool and offered a very close up perspective.

Also, the way that the kidnapper's shack was set up reminded me of a haunted house I visited. It was decorated so appropriately that I could almost smell the odor of decaying flesh hanging from the hair he had scalped from another victim.

The way that scene was arranged was so mysterious and aloof you had to be on the edge of your seat in order to satisfy your wandering thoughts.

There was a room in particular that was set up like a little girl's room, but with bloody hand prints smeared on the walls and other gross details. At that moment there was a flashback to the kidnapper's little sister who died of cancer.

Overall, I was generally. It definitely wasn't a bad movie, but I would've appreciated more of a climax instead of how easily Berry found the kidnapper. I loved the outcome of the movie, but I wish the director could have got it going quicker than he did. I suggest this movie to people who can handle slightly stomach churning details and thriller movies that involve detective work and efforts to decipher the sick mind of a maniac.



# Wavves makes waves at Omaha concert, new album

MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN  
Staff Writer

## The Album

"King of The Beach" Nathan Williams is the front man for Wavves. The announcement of his new album was exciting. It has been nearly three years since an album has been released by the band. Expectations were high, and the Wavves did not deliver in the way they should have. Their sound changed into something that is quite different from what they are now. The once random, warped sound has transformed into a clean-cut one.

The anticipation of this record was overwhelming. Fans had been waiting close to three years for some new music from the band. Expectations were high, and the Wavves did not deliver in the way they should have. Their sound changed into something that is quite different from what they are now. The once random, warped sound has transformed into a clean-cut one.

This album also happens to be the longest Wavves album ever released being almost 40 minutes in length. Sometimes it drags out, but even so, the music and the way the tracks are set up helps it to flow somewhat.

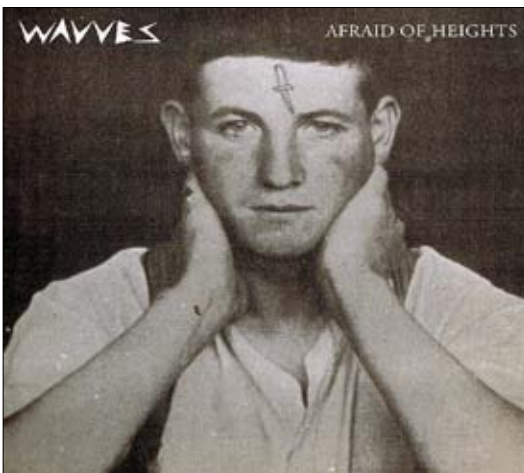
Wavves is what you'd call grungy-punk, but on this album the grungy aspect just is not there. It sort of has a pop punk sound, which is attributed to the album's producer who is big time pop producer, John Hill. Hill has help produce Rihanna and M.I.A.'s albums.

The order in which the songs are set up is nice and fluent. That being said it is missing Wavves flair. It's missing the disorder on old tracks like "Bug," from EP "Life Sux." Another part that is missing on this album is the DIY aspect. In a previous album, due to label issues Williams self released "Life Sux." In 2013, however Williams released "Afraid of Heights," with Warner Brothers and Mom + Pop. That being said, Williams financed the record himself according to Pitchfork.

In true Wavves fashion self loathing is a recurring theme throughout. In the song "Dog" it is a parallel to an unhealthy relationship in which a partner treats the other person like a dog and they just accept it. Williams sings, "Like I'm doing this for nothing," much like a dog does a lot for nothing. Another song in which self-loathing is apparent is "Gimme a Knife." It talks about feeling defeated, and ends with "Guess I'll go surf." It's like Williams has nothing better to do than feel bad for himself. If he were to channel that energy positively he would probably write much happier songs.

Although all the songs sort of flow together, they still seem out of place amongst the others. The way the sound is used is odd and unlike the old Wavves fans are used to. In the self titled track "Afraid of Heights," it feels like it will never end. It fades in and out for a long time and right when you think it is going to or should stop it continues. That is one of the problems with the album. Not knowing when to end.

Few songs on this album stand out. The ones that do are the best on the album. One is the band's single "Demon to Lean On." It helps to remind fans of the old Wavves and brings back the vibe featured on their other albums such as "King of The Beach." This song also happens to be the band's single for the album. That being said it still tends to drag quite a bit a certain parts of the song. Another track that is enjoyable is "Beat me up." Although sort of a sad concept



"Afraid of Heights," the latest album by Wavves was released on March 26. Anxious fans had to wait nearly three years for a new album.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MOM AND POP RECORDS

about wanting to get beat up, the back beats and use of instruments help a depressing song seem more upbeat.

High hopes were set on this album, but were not met. Wavves went away from their signature sound and tried something new. They just went into a direction that was unlike their usual I-don't-care attitude. It was just okay.

## The Concert

Upon entering The Waiting Room Lounge in Benson, one could tell it was crowded. Many people had drinks in hand and were ready for the show to begin. It was 8:50 p.m. on March 28, two days after the release of Wavves' new album "Afraid of Heights."

The order of the bands to play went like this: First The Cheetahs, Fidler, and finally the main act, Wavves.

The Cheetahs started to play at 9 p.m. Many people were enjoying the music of a band they did not even know existed until that evening. They went on to play for what seemed too long. The lyrics they were singing were hard to decipher, and sounded like just noise, no substance. Finally they were done playing and the bands took a break before Fidler took the stage.

Fidler is a punk-rock band from Los Angeles. The band sings about "cheap beer," and about the skate culture along with other things. When they got on stage the crowd of people went wild. There was much more enthusiasm in the crowd, and they were ready to rock out. The lead singer of the

Continue to 'WAVVES' on page 17

## Who's Ready For Summer?



See what to look forward to during your summer break in the Omaha area.

See Inside, Page 18

## How Many Letters Are in Jack, Madi and David?



See Inside, Page 20

A new band called The 13th Letter, featuring two Central alumni, make their way in Lincoln.

## Using Two Passions: Art and Style



Central Alum creates a new clothing brand, Starbank.

See Inside, Page 19



# Omaha basketball player overcomes struggles, stars in documentary

Continued from 'JOSH JONES STORY' on page 16

Jones' journey growing up, from losing his father to being perhaps the best player Omaha has seen. No one can deny the fact that Jones could have had a great future ahead for himself, a future that was almost cut short early on in his life. Jones first started to have problems with his heart while in high school. Jones explains the first time he noticed symptoms of something that wasn't right. In the documentary, he described it as flu-like and chose to stop playing basketball.

Jones had a heart infection called bacterial endocarditis, which occurs when a germ travels through the blood stream and attacks the inner valves of the heart.

"I didn't think it was anything with my heart. I just thought I had the flu," said Jones.

His medical team advised him that continuing with basketball was a risk. "I was worried for him personally. I trusted his medical team," said Behrens. His medical team advised Jones that it was very possible for him to continue playing if he "kept working hard enough and paced himself." Jones underwent a five-hour surgery, though he doesn't know how long he was in the hospital.

"I got out of there early from being strong," said Jones.

Jones' first heart problems affected his teammates at Central. "Josh is a tough kid," said Behrens. "It took some time; we worked with his medical team." The situation put Jones on uneven ground with his basketball future, not knowing what might happen, realizing the danger he was in, and considering ending his basketball career.

"The biggest muscle in my body was damaged; your heart is how you live," Jones said. "I felt like basketball, at that point in time, wasn't worth the risk." Jones felt that all the work he put in had disappeared. "I had no desire of it coming back for a while," said Jones.

A strong believer in his faith, Jones remained motivated by god and the people who supported him. "My faith helped me understand that I would recover. The people were the ones that kept me alive and gave me hope that I could come back," said Jones. "That was my determination."

Playing for Central during that time made Behrens an important person in Jones' life. "I was worried about him and his future in life. Basketball was second," said Behrens. "He told me not to worry about basketball, my life as more important," said Jones.

In his documentary, his coach at Creighton said that even though he wouldn't be able to play for them, he would still give Jones a scholarship. Jones went on to Creighton and played there becoming a legend between his friends and teammates.

Jones recalls warming up before a game and passing out, his vision slowly darkening and being rushed into the locker room. Jones had overcome the obstacle that almost ended his high school basketball career, but it had come back to haunt him.

"Here we go again," said Jones. "That's exactly what I thought." His condition was not related all the way to his surgery for a different problem. "I was shocked, I went five years without and injury other than a heart surgery," Jones said. Come his senior year at Creighton and he faced yet again another road block. "I wonder, why did this happen to me."

Jones knew that it could happen again, but he didn't know it would happen so fast. Ideally a person with heart problems can expect them to return, but not so fast following the recovery of the first. "I thought I was going to play basketball in college, graduate and play a little professional ball," said Jones. "But it retired me at 23."



Josh Jones meets and greets fans after the debut viewing of his documentary. Jones handed out and signed shirts for a long line of anxious females.

PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL/THE REGISTER

This time he wasn't back on his feet, Jones basketball career had ended. "I felt hurt, more so for the people than myself. I felt like a lot of people looked up to me for what I did," said Jones. "I felt like I was letting them down." Jones later realized people loved him for who he was, rather than for what he had done.

This time Jones went through two catheter ablations, atrial flutter—an abnormal rhythm of the atria. Jones had two surgeries, his first being a partial success after having some complications.

"They said my life is more important than the game of basketball, take care of your health," said Jones. His coach and teammates were hit with a hard blow losing Jones. "I wanted him to have a healthy future," said Behrens.

His fans are able to see his story in a documentary that touches at his hard times and putting a little bit of humor to lighten up the tone. With jokes on his "revolutionary" mowhawk and his "million dollar" smile, fans see his battles with his heart problems but also see the nice, laid back side of Jones.

Jones was approached by Brad Gerate the CEO of Stream Lights Production with the idea of making a documentary, seeing that his story was inspirational. "Now I have a movie called 'The Josh Jones story,'" said Jones. "An actual movie about my life."

If you had told Jones that at some point in his life there would be a movie about him, he would say no. "Not at all, you joke about being an aspiring actor. I didn't think it would happen four and a half weeks after a tragic injury to my life," said Jones.

Jones claims that he wasn't nervous about the movie; he wanted people to know about his testimony, his story. He wanted everyone to be inspired by his story. "I was excited for everyone to hear me," said Jones. The process was fun and was done in four weeks, where normally it would take about six months. Jones says that it was possible thanks to a great production team, that, in the end, became his good friends.

It was fun for Jones to revisit his childhood memories, including going back to Central, "I felt like I was home again, I'll always be an Eagle," said Jones. His family, friends and everyone who heard his story were happy to be able to see another part of Jones and be motivated. "Ev-

eryone was happy to know another door for me was open," said Jones.

Jones attended all of the viewings of "The Josh Jones Story." Every show time was sold out. "I was impressed. It goes to show how much people appreciate what I have to tell, and are ultimately pleased to know about the my personal life," said Jones.

At the end of the viewing the audience had the chance to ask Jones a few questions while receiving a free t-shirt. Questions ranged from his motivation that kept him going to if there would be a second part to "The Josh Jones Story." "There's a lot of footage that wasn't in the movie. We have the power to put whatever we want," said Jones. "We are working on that right now, to try and get the movie out."

Being able to have his own movie, and being able to have the opportunity to tell his story to his fans was more than he ever expected. "More would have been having every single detail in the movie," said Jones.

Jones' story does not end when the lights are turned on and the credits are rolling; he has plenty of plans for the future, some of which he has stared and some of which he is planning, plans in which Behrens knows he will be successful.

"I plan on being a motivational speaker across the nation," said Jones. He plans to write a book on his journey in which he will go into full detail about his life and his road blocks. Jones plans to start basketball camps and academies around the metro for children and teens. "There's going to be Josh Jones camps this summer, at the Omaha Sports Academy and Julius Community center and more places to come," said Jones. Eventually working a corporate job and giving back to North Omaha and finally the state of Nebraska.

Though Jones will no longer be playing basketball, he will be attending as "much Central and Creighton basketball games as possible." Jones does not plan to be a coach anytime soon. "I'm not ready to coach yet," said Jones.

Staying consistent, is the one advice Jones gives to young aspiring players. "It's the key to perfection," said Jones. "The time you take off is the time someone gets better than you."

"I am proud to be an alum of Central High School," Jones said. "And I will forever be."

## Knitting and sewing: two cheap ways to relieve stress

Ever since I was young, I've always been able to do crafty activities. I was never an avid painter or drawer or anything of that nature, but I've always loved putting stuff together to create something and gift it. Being crafty has helped me also to create things that I don't even have to buy anymore. I think that everyone has the ability to release their inner crafter, because the creation possibilities are infinite, and very beneficial.

Some crafty accomplishments I have include being able to do origami, knitting, sewing, and making bows. Many people say, "Only old people knit," or "That's too hard." Of course learning how to knit or do origami was challenging at first, but as soon as I learned how to do it, it became easy, so easy to the point where I can knit and watch television at the same time.

I hate buying things, because I never have any money and I don't like shopping at all. Of course, I'm



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

not going to sit and make my own shirts or pants, but the main products I wear on a day-to-day basis are hair bows and hats. When it comes to store bought bows, they are usually made the same way I make them; cheap fabric, hot glue, and a hair pin, but the issue is, they're usually really small and expensive. I learned how to make my own, and make them big enough to my liking. The felt I use costs pennies, the hair clips are about three dollars for a bag full, and the glue gun will last forever, all I need to give myself is five minutes per creation and I have my own bow. At first I started out with only a few bows, but since they are so cheap and in my budget, I was able to buy even more colors and now I have an array of different bows to choose every day. Even more so, if I really wanted to, I could give them away to people without having to spend the money I don't have on them. Being crafty is such a lifesaver.

I learned how to knit in fourth grade at my school, and I can't thank the teachers who taught me enough, because without being able to knit, I'd be so bored and I wouldn't be able to make different creations to give to people or keep for myself. Knitting may be associated with old

people, but I'm glad I learned, so now I can teach others or make different things. Sewing kind of contributes to knitting; if I didn't know how to sew, all of my clothes would be gone, and I would have never been able to make my bag which I carry around every day.

Another thing that has contributed to my crafting life; making bags. Though it is not too much of a hobby, I was able to make one at the beginning of the school year and it hasn't broken yet. I carry that bag every day in school, and since I was able to choose what I put on it and the fabric, it's even better.

Hats are something else I learned to make, and it definitely would save me time to just go ahead and buy one, but again, I have no money. I would rather make my own hat and have it get ruined than buying one for ten dollars and having it ruin. Plus, I can decide what colors to put in it and whatnot, so they turn out

even better. For Christmas I had no money and I wanted to be able to give presents to my cousins, so I made them all hats and something from origami. Without being able to make hats, I would probably either be broke from buying hats, or I simply would have no hats at all.

Being crafty helps me relieve so much stress, it's ridiculous. Being that I can knit and watch television, I can relax and create something amazing, and time can pass with ease. Origami is something I have learned not long ago, the first item I learned was to make a frog. Sooner or later, I decided to take it up and tried to create a crane, which I succeeded in. In one of my drawers at home, it's filled with nothing but origami paper, various creations, and a whole bunch of cranes.

One of my favorite things to make out of origami paper is cats. Of course, these do not get passed out as gifts or anything, but for me, origami is just to relieve stress and have a bit of fun. I can't stand it when paper is not folded, so origami is just up my alley.

Without my ability to make things from scratch, I wouldn't be as creative as I am. I would basically have nothing to live for. I save money, relax, and do something worthwhile.

## Concert experience didn't live up to high expectations

Continued from 'WAVVES' on page 16

band, Zac Carper was really engaging with the crowd. He kept saying how everyone should just have fun and forget about the other things going on in their lives just for a little while. Everyone should just have fun and forget about the other things going on in their lives just for a little while.

Almost immediately following Fidler's entrance people started to crowd surf. It got a little out of hand when multiple people started climbing onto the stage where the band was performing, and diving into the crowd. "Hey security guards you can come out here and help us out you know," said Carper sort of jokingly. Meanwhile when all this was happening beer was being spilled everywhere. This ironically happened the most while the band played their song "Cheap Beer." Beer covered the floor which caused others to slip on it. The band invited audience members up onto the stage before they played their second to last song. This was a bad idea. Swarms of people were climbing onto the stage and the

ones who didn't go up watched as security guards struggled to push the people off of the stage and away from the band. Then it was time for Wavves.

Wavves was setting up to perform and it was getting crowded in the "pit" area. More beer was being spilled and the band finally started to play. It was so crowded. Lots of pushing and shoving occurred and that is when a violent mosh pit started. People were ramming into each other while Wavves was playing, not to mention even more crowd surfing occurring. It was crazy. People were getting hit and kicked, perfect for the new song "Beat Me Up," that Wavves was playing. It was so hard to hear the vocals. You could only hear the guitar and drums, and just faintly hear Nathan Williams' voice. It was annoying.

The band also played fan favorites like "Green Eyes", and "King of The Beach." Wavves was good when engaging with the crowd which made up for the fact that they just didn't play very well.

Overall it was a good, but violent show where the opener Fidler shined, while Wavves fell a little bit behind.



1. Senior Reilly Callaghan starts a new drawing which he hopes to sell in one of his art classes. 2. One of the many sketches in the artist's sketchbook.



PHOTOS BY TIA SPEARS/THE REGISTER

## Artist possesses vast admiration for his craft

TIA SPEARS  
Staff Writer

Once a blue jay; now a soaring eagle. That's the story for senior Reilly Callaghan. Callaghan is a transfer student from Creighton Prep, and an exceptional young artist here at Central. "I didn't really care for Prep that much," Callaghan said. With a natural creative talent, he decided to try his hand at art at a young age. Callaghan decided to become a part of the Central student body in order to match his educational experience with the prosperity of his art journey.

Earlier in his years at school, he was quite the artistic pupil. He was always drawing on his notes and assignments. Callaghan said, "I always doodled on my assignments and my teachers suggested a sketchbook." Growing up Callaghan was a rather eccentric soul which fit flawlessly with the persona of an artist.

"Art isn't structured and I am not structured so it just works," Callaghan said.

Callaghan slowly became intrigued and started to draw more and more over the years. Overtime, art became an activity he was passionate about. Growing up, many of his peers inspired Callaghan to keep drawing and sketching. That evoked additional work from

him and as a result, he became very attached to the craft of art. Callaghan said he got his creative influences from his family, especially his mother. To him, it was like a natural instinct to let his imagination take the lead.

"I am naturally creative. I don't go for structured things. I'm just very ambiguous," Callaghan said. He is an avid sketcher and is always starting new pieces. He said, "Finishing a lot of pieces is the problem [as well as] sticking to my theme."

Despite the nature of his spontaneous ways, the art that he creates does sell relatively well.

"I've sold quite a few pieces from exhibitions," he commented. Lots of his success transpires from the work he displays at The Kent Bellows Studio. There he works along with a mentor and actively interacts with those who come to see his exhibits.

Callaghan also stated that urban art, abstract, and art with an implemented moral or message are his favorite kinds of art to create. "Those are the three types that I'm best at," he said. Throughout all of his pieces, he said, "I don't really have a favorite piece, just my sketchbook. All the ideas are great." Callaghan commented that he often will start pieces and not finish them which is one of his downsides

as an artist.

As for the moment, Callaghan is just working at the Kent Bellows studio and doing art here at Central. His previous art mentor was Steve Walsh and he currently is being mentored for mixed media art at the studio he works at. He is going to continue to sell art and make it an avid part of his life. Overall, Callaghan has had minimal issues with getting started. He's sold much of his art is self exhibits at the Kent Bellows studio.

Art is not the sole passion of his, nonetheless. He also plays soccer and lacrosse. "I started lacrosse sophomore year and played soccer really young," he said. His future motive relies in special education.

"I'm going to go to Metro and then transfer to UNO and major in special education," Callaghan said. He has volunteered at different UNMC programs and fell in love with helping kids with mental and physical disabilities.

Callaghan hopes to utilize his talents with art and incorporate them when helping the children.

He said, "I want to use art somehow with working with those kids." Art may not be what he will be majoring in when he goes to college, but it is a love of his that he will implementing in his future.



PHOTOS BY DUNCAN REED

1. David Vilingia has fun practicing the ukulele during a rehearsal. 2. Alum Jack Larson plays the guitar in The 13th Letter's original song, "Goodbye." 3. The 13th Letter takes part in a photoshoot in order to get the word out about their band. They walk together, representing their work as a team, everything that they have accomplished and what they still hope to continue to do.

# Alumni find outlet in music with a new band during first year in college

Alumni Jack Larson and his band, The 13th Letter, make their mark in Lincoln with covers of old songs and new original songs.

**JENNIFER ROONEY**  
Editor-in-Chief

"I've always wanted to join a band. It had been my life goal," '12 Central graduate Jack Larson said. "Music has been what I've devoted my whole life to and that's all I have ever wanted to do."

Larson is one of the members of The 13th Letter, a band that started back in October of 2012. Larson plays guitar, ukulele, and contributes with vocals. David Vilingia plays ukulele (which he just started playing this year) and contributes with vocals as well. Madison Roberts is the lead vocalist. They all met each other in the same dorms and classes at University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and they also had the same mutual friends. Their talents of music just came naturally with each other.

An additional bandmate was added later, another alumni of Central, Tyrone Wesley, who also graduated in 2012. He also adds to the vocals of the songs. Larson and Wesley have known each other since their days at Central and the other bandmates have classes with him as well.

Larson claims that the day he met Roberts, he was amazed with her singing and wanted to make a cover. Eventually, they did create their first cover, "Super Bass" originally by Nicki Minaj. After that, The 13th Letter was created.

They created the name, The 13th Letter because Jack, Madi and David (all of their names) add up to 13 letters. Once Wesley joined they didn't want to change the name because that's what people already knew them as, not The 15th Letter. Also it just "didn't sound good" to some of the bandmates.

Larson has been playing guitar since middle school and the drums since sixth grade, and was on the Central drumline for two years playing snare drum. Before that he was just playing bass, but to him playing snare just seemed more fun because he wanted to "prove to himself that he could handle it." He thought it would be a great experience and he just loved to drum.

"It was a good experience, I had a great time, and everyone was pret-

ty cool," said Larson. "When tryouts were near, I didn't even get a little nervous because I knew I was good enough."

Larson stated that he never gets nervous, ever since elementary school when he had to sing a solo for a part in a school play. He stated that as long as he is actually performing and not acting, that it all comes naturally and he just doesn't get nervous.

In The 13th Letter, there isn't a leader because the entire band works together equally. They all write songs, sometimes together and sometimes not. Larson said that he usually writes the music rather than the lyrics. Although he has written a few songs on his own, they have yet to be released. The band has created some original songs, though, including "Friend," which Vilingia and Larson wrote together. Most of the songs just include what generally is happening in their lives.

Larson's favorite types of music to drum to are rock, heavy rock and metal, yet the band still doesn't really know what genre they would connect themselves to. Larson claims the closest type that represents them is alternative though. "I think we have a pretty unique sound. I like almost all genres of music and the music I listen to consists of a wide variety," he said.

The band usually practices in one of their study rooms inside the dorms on their floor, because they all live on the same floor. The practices usually consist of writing songs, learning the lyrics, learning all of the vocal parts, and putting it all together.

Each practice lasts around 30 to 45 minutes depending on if the song is already written or not. They type all of their lyrics now on Larson's new iPad because not all of them are the best at memorizing them. It became an essential part to their band in the music making process and it is just as important as the guitar or voices to them.

After writing lyrics, they run through the song a few times and finally record it. They usually have a friend videotape the song for them. It is either another alumni of Central, Duncan Reed or Noah Schwendeman. Larson personally does all of the editing with the video to finally put online.

The 13th Letter is very active in the social media world. They have a Facebook page, a YouTube page, a Soundcloud, Twitter, a Google+ and a Beat100 page. All of the links are listed in the descriptions of their videos on the YouTube and Facebook page. Larson manages the Google+ and Soundcloud. Roberts manages the Twitter and Beat100 page. And both Larson and Roberts are administrators of the Facebook page.

All of the bandmates attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and try to make time for the band itself and college as well. "Being in a band is a commitment and it is time consuming," Larson said. "We have to keep up with all of our college duties and make time for a band as well. Sometimes we don't always have time for the band because college comes first, but we manage."

The band has also had three performances recently, all were volunteered ones. Two were fundraisers, one was for Medlife and the other was for the Make A Wish Foundation, in Lincoln. There were many performances before and after them and included a lot of donors to the programs. As of now they don't have any upcoming events. They just plan on putting more music up on YouTube like they have been. They plan on just trying to receive more viewers and subscribers and become more popular and well-known.

The 13th Letter has in fact had a music industry professional talk to all of the bandmates. He gave the band an offer to record a song for free and to give them a good deal on their first album. They passed up the offer up though because they just want to create and release more songs. Although, some day they plan to go with his deal.

"As of now, I'm not sure what my future plans are. I'm going to hopefully learn to be a producer or composer or something along those lines while hopefully continuing with The 13th Letter. I really want to move somewhere with a better music scene like CA," said Larson. "I do want to be in a band my whole life, because honestly that was what I was born to do. I want to be in a famous band (whether it be The 13th Letter or not) and travel the world. That's my ultimate goal."

# 'Friends' creates laughter not only in Manhattan but also in Omaha, establishes a second life

That thing that is so perfect that makes you laugh or smile when you're down or even makes you cry when you're in a romantic mood. That thing that evokes all feelings that you just can't help but fall in love. And, no, this is not a boyfriend; I'm talking about the hit television series 'Friends.' When you have 'Friends,' you don't need a boyfriend. Sorry.

This hit television series was created in 1994 and ended in 2004, although it can still be seen on syndication. Even though I have seen every episode, I can't wait to see them over and over again for the 100th time.

I still jump up and down in my chair when I see Rachel Green (Jennifer Aniston) and Ross Geller (David Schwimmer) kiss for the first time and every time after that.

'Friends' was one of those shows that I always thought was utterly ridiculous and just thought it was another useless sitcom. I think it was just a year ago when my mom told me to give it a chance and here I am, in love with this show like it's the love of my life. For Christmas, I even received the full set series with all 236 episodes. I spent a few days after that just in front of my television set laughing uncontrollably cuddled up

in a blanket still in my pajamas. Watching 'Friends' all day with sweat-pants on and a few snacks by my side would be the best date of my life, well, as long as my date enjoys 'Friends' as much as I do.

I am not about to watch my favorite show laughing alone while you just sit there on Twitter on your phone bored out of your life.

'Friends' is not just another show. It is a lifestyle choice. Sometimes when I watch it for a little while, I even put myself into the show. That's why you never talk to me while I'm watching 'Friends' because you will end up talking to yourself, just ask anyone that I have Skyped at night. Yet the person that usually witnesses this is watching that British television show 'Top Gear' at the same time. He may be able to hold a conversation, but I'm living a different life in Manhattan.

I love this show because when I am in my 20s, I want to have that group of friends that I see each day who know everything about me. They can even live in the apartment across the hall to make it even better just like Chandler Bing (Matthew Perry) and Joey Tribbiani (Matt LeBlanc). Most of them have known each other from college and that is so exila-

rated to me, because I am already excited for college. I might as well be excited for the life after college as well.

'Friends' is also a reasonable sitcom. It shows friends in their 20s just trying to live off of what they have, surviving with not a lot of money and trying to follow their dream to becoming real adults with real jobs, not just a waitress at the local coffee shop, Central Perk. It shows what people really go through in their lives.

It is my favorite show and deserves all of the credit it has earned. It has been nominated for over 60 Primetime Emmy Awards and was ranked in the list of the 50 Greatest TV Shows of All Time. One of the episodes was even featured in the TV Guide's 100 Greatest Episodes of All Time.

I usually don't have a lot of time for TV, but I always make time for my 'Friends.' It is just about the only show I watch. The only thing that could make it better is if all of the episodes were on Netflix so I could watch any and every episode at any of my friends' houses without hauling my 236 episodes all of the time.

I will never fall out of love with 'Friends,' and they will always be my friends in my imaginary world. With 'Friends' in my life, I'm not only living in Omaha, but also in Manhattan.



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

## 1 JONJOU ROMANTICA

This show is a "yaoi" which means "Boys' Love," meaning the plot focuses on the love between two men. "Junjou Romantica" focuses on three storylines. The main couple is an 18-year-old college student, Misaki, and a rich author, Usagi. The second storyline, titled "Junjou Egoist" is about a narcissistic college professor, Hiroki, and his partner, Nowaki. The final storyline is called "Junjou Terrorist," which is about another college professor, Yo, and his ex-brother-in-law, Shinobu.

The show is a typical love anime, and it is very hilarious and heartwarming. The characters are either clumsy and bashful, or demanding and possessive.

Though the show is not as explicit as the manga of the same name, there are some moments which are intense; viewers beware. There are 24 episodes, and are only subtitled in English. The show is humorous, charming, and romantic, so if you are looking for that category, "Junjou Romantica" is not to disappoint.

## 2 LOVELY COMPLEX

The anime series "Lovely Complex," written as "Love\*Com" is one filled with humor, joy, and love. Written by Aya Nakahara, this anime is a typical romance, however with a twist that is very unique. Love\*Com is about a teenage girl named Risa Koizumi who is taller than the average Japanese girl (about 5 ft 8 in) and her friend Otani Atsushi, who in return is shorter than the average Japanese boy (about 5'1). They are considered a comedy duo by their classmates, but soon enough Risa starts to develop feelings for Otani, which he is hesitant about until he realizes he does indeed care about her.

The anime, as well as many others, is based off of the manga of the same name. The show can be viewed on any anime watching websites, or even sometimes YouTube. The show was broadcasted from April to September in 2007. There are 24 episodes.

All in all, the show can be watched by anyone of any age, and there is no doubt that everyone will have a laugh at it when they watch it. From all of the witty, smart and hilarious characters, to all of the heartbreak, laughter and heartfelt moments, "Love\*Com" is definitely a show worth checking out.



Photo Courtesy of Zero Chan



Photo Courtesy of Review Carnival Blog

## ● ANIME: ●

### TELEVISION SERIES

The Register brings you four of the best Japanese animated television series. They range from romance to comedy and each contains something for everyone.

**CHEYENNE ALEXIS**  
Staff Writer



Photo Courtesy of Cool Anime Blog



Photo Courtesy of IMDB.com

## 3 BLACK CAT

This anime has 24 episodes and is captioned in English. The show's main character, Train Heartnet, withdraws from an assassination group called Chronos to become a bounty hunter, or a sweeper. Train's friend Saya is murdered by a Chronos member, Creed, and he wants to avenge her, but is usually stopped by another sweeper and friend named Sven Vollfied.

The show is action-packed and quite comedic during some parts, and sometimes intense. There isn't too much bloodshed, but it is still present, so taking precaution is helpful. The storyline is touching and very hilarious, and it is an anime worth viewing.

## 4 FULL METAL ALCHEMIST: BROTHERHOOD

This anime was a recreation of the show "Full-Metal Alchemist." This show is a story of two brothers, Edward and Alphonse Elric, who live in a world where alchemy is the most advanced science.

After their mother died from an illness, the two brothers try to bring her back to life; which is a taboo amongst alchemists. Because they perform the taboo, it costs Edward his left leg and Alphonse his full body. Edward manages to bring his brother's soul back into a suit of armor, but that again costs him a body part, this time his right arm.

Throughout the series the two brothers are determined to obtain their bodies back, and Edward even becomes a State Alchemist and starts working for the military. The show began in April 5 and ran until July 4 in 2011, and has 64 episodes.

This anime is based off of the manga "Full Metal Alchemist" written by Hiromu Arakawa. Though the storyline is very intense and heartbreaking, the show is actually very humorous.

There is a lot of bloodshed and intense moments in the show; therefore it may not be safe for sensitive viewers. This show will leave viewers both in tears from laughing, and have their hearts beating very fast. The story is enchanting and amazing; therefore the anime should definitely be viewed by anyone.

# Alumni's artistic ability morphs into brand

2010 graduate, Anthony (Tony) Jackson, who considers himself an artist before all else, is meshing his two passions, art and style, to create something even bigger.

**MEKENZIE KERR**  
Copy Editor

Writers write under pseudonyms. Anthony "Tony" Jackson designs, creates and signs under "Starbank" or "SRBK." Jackson, a Central High class of 2010 grad, has been putting his nose to the grindstone to get his brand, SRBK (Starbank) Street wear out onto the Omaha market.

While brands run rampant amongst teenagers and young adults across the Metro area, Jackson's take on his line is different than most. Setting him apart from the myriads of other brands is his "artistic mindset," in which he attributes his eye for clothing and the designs displayed on them.

"Since I was little I've seen art in just about anything and everything," said Jackson, "like whenever I saw a shirt I'd break it down into components like 'is the label too big or too small, is the design too big or too small, etc.?"

This artistic eye has been ingrained in Jackson for as far back as he can remember. He was influenced heavily by his older brother's aspirations to be an artist, and his initial interest in art spawned from his desire to be just like him. Picking up watercolor and ink as mediums, Jackson began creating pieces here and there. To this day these two mediums remain his steadfast favorites, though as a child he used them because "art supplies were expensive when growing up in a house of six."

As Jackson grew, so did his maturation in his artistic abilities. Taking art classes available at Central to fine tune his skill and enhance his interest, an interest in all things art from graffiti to linework began to blossom.

In between high school classes and his fervent passion for art, Jackson had a desire dwelling within him to start a line of clothing - and the determination followed.

Graduation only served to open up a new set of doors in the art world for Jackson as he became involved the summer of 2012 with Curbside - a local t-shirt shop in downtown Omaha.

"I was told in 2011 that there was a t-shirt shop that was signing artists to do artwork for their t-shirts, and I thought that it'd be cool to get involved since I always wanted to do something with clothing," said Jackson.

After nearly a year of hard work and a stack of papers with drawings, Jackson finally had a design he felt worthy enough for the likings of Curbside. "Wash of Life," Jackson's first print on a Curbside shirt, depicts a "tree with nothing but a leaf design at top and some cool design at the bottom to make out the base of the tree."

Through his involvement with Curbside, Jackson has also gained knowledge for his own brand, SRBK Street wear. With a lengthy list of Central art courses, a natural knack for art and experience with Curbside under his belt, Jackson decided to look at the idea of a clothing line more seriously and two months ago made the switch from dream to reality.

Creativity, not simply a noun but a verb for Jackson, he defines as "picking everything that is in the norm and then transforming it in the way you perceive it in your mind" plays a direct role in reflecting his definition of art: "everything." Jackson views his world through an artistic lens that assists in setting the stage for his creativity to take form, especially with SRBK Street wear.

Among the numerous challenges of starting a clothing line and managing both the production, finances, promotion and design itself, one of the biggest challenges is his newest art medium. And although graphic design programs are a newer, more unfamiliar creative outlet for Jackson, he takes on the challenges with ease.

"The biggest challenge is learning and being able to adjust to peoples' changes in taste ahead of time," said Jackson. "Some people will like one thing and you'll think it's super dope, but in a few weeks that may change."

Influenced by other big name street wear brands such as Stussy, Obe

and Mishka, Jackson is more apt to comprehend the change and flow of fashion and style.

Not only is Jackson assisted by his knowledge of brands, but his connection to successful local clothing brands in Omaha. Brandon Herbel, creator of local brand Make Believe, plays a role as a go-to for advice for Jackson, helping with with the smaller details from business to design.

With SRBK, Jackson not only needs advice from local clothing brand gurus, but also the community--and must take into consideration what people are looking for in clothing.

"I care about what people want," said Jackson, "but when it comes to actually producing and putting things on shirts - it all comes from my set of interests and artistic preferences - because you can't really go off of what everybody wants. Nine out of 10 times it's not going to make everyone happy, even if the majority wanted a certain thing. People all want something different, so to give everybody the same thing from different companies just done a little differently, that's not giving people what they really want."

From spending copious amounts of time sifting through companies to print his tees on, choosing the material and fabric and deciding what styles of shirts to get - Jackson has lavished his brand with nothing but time and hardwork.

While much of Jackson's initial work and designs are staying on the down-low, he currently has a steady design "in the works" for his debut. With SRBK clad upon the front, big, bold and beautiful, the font is filled by the regal workings of a tiger's mug shot - a design Jackson is anxious to release.

Ideas such as this, and the others to follow, have taken a good sum of Jackson's time and consideration.

"I would most definitely like to think that mine [my designs] are completely original, or at least my style," said Jackson, "although what anybody makes isn't necessarily original...someone out there is doing the same thing, but it might be just a little bit different. You just have to keep finding ways to separate the two."

With the art skills Jackson was gifted with and the skills he has accrued over the last years, he hopes to separate SRBK Street wear from the rest and utilize it as his mainstay.

"I want to be the next big thing in Omaha, or to come out of Omaha," said Jackson, "I think that's the thing I try and strive for when it comes to anything in art. I want to be self-sufficient with this, I want to be able to wake up in the morning and that's the only thing I have to do."

Following waking up, Jackson's current morning generally involves much more than simply designing for his shirts, but rather going to classes at the University of Nebraska-Omaha where he is pursuing a major in graphic design. This degree would serve not only as a platform for his clothing brand, but also his back-up plan to be a graphic designer if t-shirt designing turns out otherwise.

With a release date in the near future, Jackson continues to plough through all the various obstacles and moments worth rejoicing over that follow the pursuit of an artist whose talents double as a t-shirt designer and clothing brand entrepreneur; he is motivated by his experiences - past, present and future opportunities.

"It's the fact that I don't want to be a starving artist," said Jackson, as he explains how he has seen examples of starving artists in his own life, "So I try to hustle as much as possible, because I know if I don't put in 200% while I can, now...it would be a fail."

Fueled by a desire to create and the mind of a businessman - the future of SRBK Street wear lies within the creatively-fine-tuned hands of Jackson, an artist before all else, who seeks a bright, not-so-distant future in the clothing world of Omaha - and perhaps beyond.



Working at all hours of the day, Tony Jackson's designs are put ink-to-paper at his desk. Jackson's art has not only been seen on shirts, but also at art shows.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF TY CHRISTIANSEN AND TONY JACKSON

## Central grad produces 1930s Hollywood Novel

This alum has gone from acting to autobiographies and has now told her story in this new fiction novel.

**ELISSA WIENER**  
Staff Writer

It all began with a fascination, which led to an idea, from which sprung a 300 page novel. The glamour of Hollywood in the 1930s has always attracted Central graduate Rachel Shukert. The glitz, the glam, the fashion, and of course, the drama, would be attractive to any aspiring actress. And once she realized her true calling as an author there was an obvious story hidden in Hollywood.

"Starstruck" is... set in Hollywood in the 1930s, a glamorous... world filled with dark secrets and unbridled ambition," Shukert summarized her new book. "It's the story of three very different girls--Margo, a sheltered Pasadena debutante, Gabby, a teenaged show biz veteran with an incredible voice, and Amanda, a gorgeous Dust Bowl runaway with a dark and checkered past--and their triumphs and heartbreaks as they struggle to make their dreams come true in the studio system of the Golden Age of Hollywood."

Starstruck was released in March and is Shukert's first fiction novel. She has published two other works including a piece about what it is like growing up as a Jewish girl in Omaha, Neb. Shukert struck gold with "Starstruck," however. The unique idea will attract many different people with its juicy storyline.

"I've always been fascinated by old movies, the Golden Age of Hollywood, and loved reading about that period, both in fiction and non-fiction," Shukert said, "I...thought it would be a great place to set a novel, because there's so much going on under the surface. Studios at that time controlled nearly every aspect of their stars' lives--what they looked like, how they dressed, who they dated... there's a tremendous amount of conflict there for the characters' to rub up against... There's also all this great historical background from that time... most of the country is still struggling to recover from the Great Depression... So that conflict between fantasy and reality... [is] such a big part of the book... I liked the idea of setting a story about girls figuring out who they are in this world where everyone is telling you to be someone else."

Although she had the main idea figured out, the book still took a while to write. "About a year and a half, all together. Including some long breaks. There was a lot to figure out, since it's the first in a series. I've written the second one now and that was much faster, because I know my characters so much better and have pretty much figured out where they're going," Shukert said.

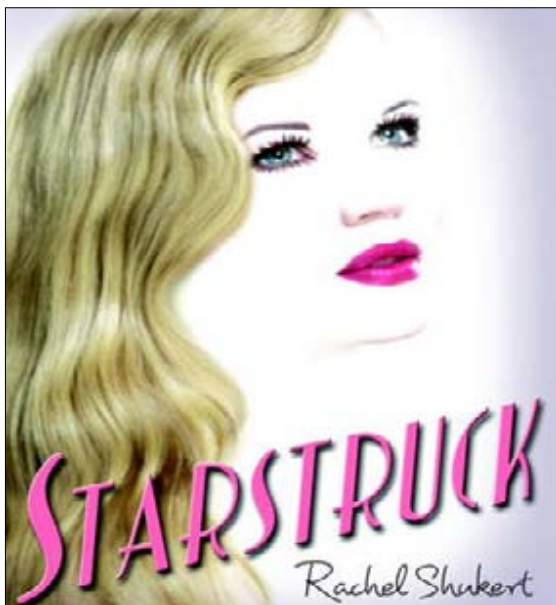
Writing a novel like this requires a lot of work. Not only did Shukert need to create a plot of the book itself, but she also had to include historical parts in the book as well. The book may have been a fiction piece but because it was set in the 1930s in Hollywood the book had to go along with the time setting. Shukert had to make sure the fashion, speech and everything else went along with the time period. The characters themselves were original but possessed attributes of famous people as well. Many of them reflected Shukert herself also.

"A lot of the characters are based a little bit on me... They all have aspects of [myself] in them... They are [also based] on various famous people, or at least famous types, from Hollywood in that period. Margo has some shades of Lana Turner mixed with Gene Tierney and Dina Merrill. Gabby is very Judy Garland, and Amanda is a little bit like Rita Hayworth, at least in what she looks like. There's a lot of things like that, and one of the things I hope people will do is read a bit about Hollywood in real life at this time and figure out who has bits of who?"

Although Shukert says that the character she relates to most changes from day to day depending on whose perspective she is currently writing from, there is one character who she relates to more than others. "I would say probably Margo," Shukert says, "She's the most like me, I think. A lot of how she thinks about things and the things she wants are taken from my own experiences, although our childhoods--and certainly our parents--really have nothing in common."

While Shukert influenced her own characters, other people influenced her in the making of the book.

"My agent, Rebecca Friedman, from the moment I told her this idea, was



"Starstruck" was published in March and is based off of three girls in Hollywood having big dreams and ambitions and trying to accomplish them.

like: 'YES!' And my wonderful editor at Random House, Wendy Loggia, who is so smart and has such great insights into both this world and writing in general. So they were a huge help." Of course she was also influenced by movies about the secrets of Hollywood and show business. As far as inspirations go, "There are so many... I'm lucky to be friends with a lot of incredible people I admire and am inspired by, but there are too many to list!" Shukert remarked.

Having a myriad of people behind you is usually a must when writing a novel. "Starstruck" isn't Shukert's first book, however. In fact, it's her third. The first two pieces were autobiographical and contained a collection of essays and a memoir. The first two books were very diverse from the third, though.

"Writing fiction was really different... When you're writing about things really happened... it's your job to use them to tell a story in the most entertaining, enlightening way. You have to put them together to make something greater than the sum of its parts. With fiction, it's all made up, and I really had to remind myself sometimes, when something wasn't working, to just say: 'Wait! I can totally change this! It didn't really happen!' So that was really liberating, although also a little bit scary."

Before she even wrote the essays and memoirs Shukert had a different plan. "I thought I was going to be an actress," she stated. "That's what I went to school for, and studied very seriously. But I started to realize that what I really liked about acting was creating characters and making things up, not interpreting other people's work. And that brought me to writing, which was so much more satisfying creatively. And I think I'm better at it."

Switching from acting, to autobiographies, and now to fiction was a major change for Shukert. It wasn't for nothing however. "I'd love it if it got more people interested in the Golden Age of Hollywood," Shukert explained. "And I really wanted to tell a story about girls having ambitions and big dreams and not being afraid to go for them, no matter what people around them may think."

With a sequel already on the way, Starstruck is "glamorous, witty, and dramatic" as described by the author. Rachel Shukert's first novel captures the essence of Hollywood in the 1930s and the secrets and drama that occur behind closed doors.

The very first line sets up the reader for a wild ride in Hollywood: "It was one of those nights in Hollywood, the kind that made newspaper men and gossip columnists and the announcers on the newsreels say: 'It was one of those nights in Hollywood.'"

PHOTO COURTESY OF GOODREADS

## Downsides of fame ruin perks of celebrity status



**PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS**  
A Column by Seth Arter

As a regular person looking in, there are many perks to being a celebrity. The thought of singing or acting sounds great. The money sounds even better. However, there is one drawback of being a celebrity for which the money and great career cannot make up. I could never deal with the fame. When something is going wrong in my life (depending on the severity of the situation), I usually like to keep it between close friends, family members and myself. The worst part of being a celebrity would be the inability to keep anything private.

There's always that big mouth who has to tell everyone about everything. As annoying as that is in high school, it makes me imagine what my life would be like as a famous person. Trying to keep something private would be almost impossible. For example, the "E" celebrity news channel's Guliana Rancic publicly explained her ordeal with breast cancer on her reality show "Guliana and Bill." As Rancic was unsure of her status with breast cancer, she talked about her struggle to keep the topic private and invisible to the public eye as her and husband Bill anxiously waited for doctors to confirm the results.

To me, many things should be kept private, but cancer is something that you absolutely cannot share with people unless you know the results are true. The media from all different types of TV shows and magazines always want to be in the know and use anything they can to create a story. That goes onto my next issue.

How could you handle a job where you have people constantly following you? The media will be all over someone for no reason. For example, one of the reasons Kim Kardashian became famous is because she was frequently seen spending time with close friend Paris Hilton. The media saw Kardashian and began asking who she was simply because she was seen with Hilton many times. When I hang out with my friends, I like having fun with my friends and would hate trying to do something as simple as walking to my car or house without someone publishing something embarrassing I say. Not only would they follow you in public but any homes you have and cars you drive become public knowledge as they stay hot on the trail trying to piece together anything interesting.

Not only would it be difficult enough to keep things from the public, but the media will finish a story itself when it doesn't even have all the details. Women can't even walk on the red carpet at premieres without the media wondering if she is pregnant just because she rubs her stomach a few times. Men and woman also can't go on one date without rumors being started about the two in a relationship. I don't think I would ever get used to it. Having millions of people know everything about you is a really unsettling feeling.

# Looking ahead: Summer plans in the Metro

## Jazz on the Green Every Thursday from July 11 - August 15

Held at Turner Park in Midtown Crossing (31st & Dodge). Jazz lights up the evening with free, outdoor shows held each Thursday night for about a month. The Omaha Performing Arts holds this outdoor concert series to connect "big band swing to blues melodies"--the perfect way to enjoy your sweltering summer evening with a taste of sweet sounds--and for no charge whatsoever!

As the school year wraps up, **summer** plans become more of a necessity. While venturing out of Omaha may be ideal for some - the Metro area provides a long list of activities to keep your summer cultured and vibrant. Keep an eye out for more events as the summer continues, but enjoy the following activities.



## Shakespeare on the Green June 20 - July 7

Held at 60th & Dodge, slightly south of the University of Nebraska-Omaha (UNO) Bell Tower. Free annual productions of Shakespeare's classic plays are performed. This year's showcase is Titus Andronicus (the tragedy) and Twelfth Night (the comedy), both free and open to any avid Shakespeare fan or anyone looking for a poetic time.

## Conor Oberst July 31 & August 1

Known best as the frontman of Bright Eyes, Conor Oberst will be performing a solo act at the Slowdown, located on 728 North 14 Street. The Omaha native is performing in his hometown for indie music fans.



## Concert: Lil Wayne, T.I. & Future August 20

Held at the CenturyLink Center in Omaha, rap artist Lil Wayne, accompanied by T.I. & Future, brings his radio-sensationalized talent to the metro area.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF WILSONSHOUSE.COM, NAWATUNEDIN.COM, AND PASSIONWEISS.COM

## Cox Classic August 22 - 25

The Cox Classic tournament, presented by Lexus of Omaha, is a call to all golf fans. Held at Champions Run golf course in Omaha, The Cox Classic is a part of the Nationwide Tour in which golfers compete for a monetary prize (last year's prize amounted to \$117,000).

