



register

Local activist works to help families affected by violence

By Tia Spears
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Robert Wagner is an urban Omaha activist who assists different families and victims of violent crimes. "The motivation comes from my own loss on May 29, 2011," he said explaining the murder of his cousin. "The knots in your stomach and lumps in your throat are too much to bear... There was no one for me to turn to," he said. Wagner reaches out to families all across Omaha. Whether it's putting together dinner or making t-shirts in support of those who died or were injured, Wagner is always eager to put in a help where it's needed. One of those noble actions was when he put together a collage for (what would've been) 18-year-old Eriana Carr. "When I gave the collage to [her mother] she immediately burst into tears and thanked me," he said. Eriana Carr attended Benson High and was murdered in late Oct. of 2012 when she and her cousin were walking into their yard and a

shooter opened fire. Carr was shot through the heart and her cousin was shot several times. As a student involved in many honors programs, basketball and was a well-liked cheerleader, no one understood the shooting, which hit home for Wagner. "The pain I remember is what motivates me to try to help other families cope," he said. Along with the collage he made necklaces with Carr's picture on them. "Nothing compares to the loss of a child or a loved one... so it is often tough to come up with an idea that will make a mother smile," he said. "I often find myself doing all that I can to keep it together and not cry," Wagner said. "I have to be strong for the families." Carr's mother, family and loved ones were very thankful in the actions of Wagner and his team. Although the creative ideas to help these families mostly originates from Wagner himself, he receives help from those in the community. "I do work with a team of other. I often tell them they are the greatest team ever assembled," Wagner said.

"They help me make all my ideas a reality... whether it's cooking for a fundraiser, helping with a protest, or just a kind word to me." Wagner's team consists of any member in the community who has an interest in helping Wagner assist the families who have been tragically impacted. "I am very thankful," he said. Wagner has had a few run-ins with the law himself. He did not share the specifics but did not hold back on explaining the impact it had on him as a person and a future help to suffering families. "Sometimes you have to lose in order to gain, and that is really the only comfort I feel," he said. Wagner ultimately went to jail for 29 days for a charge he did not clearly indicate. Going to jail was a process he said, "helped me strengthen my mind to be able to do these works once I was released. It definitely influences me til this day." For now, Wagner is staying out of trouble and lending a helping hand to many families. He is currently working on a documentary of the families who've lost loved that is to be completed in July.

National Honor Society benefits Methodist Dept.

By San Juana Paramo
STAFF WRITER

Central's National Honor Society raised \$2,737.21 in 2013 to renovate and expand the Methodist Hospital Surgery Department. This year they plan to fundraise more to get Central's name on the donor recognition wall. The student's pitted Central's homerooms against each other in a two-week competition that allowed the entire student body to be part of the fundraising effort. As an incentive, the winning homerooms were given doughnuts as prizes. This year NHS has teamed up with Student Council to plan and host a post-prom activity that will raise more money to reach the goal of \$5,000. Methodist Hospital has reached its goal to expand and renovate the surgery department. The money Central students raise afterwards will go towards equipment, said Paul Nielson, National Honor Society adviser. The entire fundraising project was student led. "Students in National Honor Society chose Methodist Hospital because of the community ties," Nielson said. Methodist Hospital has been part of Central High Foundation's corporate sponsor, so it seemed a fitting institution to raise money. The fundraising project for Methodist was a two year project led by National Honor Society students. New projects are chosen by the students; every year is different, Nielson said. The students try to choose projects that will help the community that gives back to Central.



A UNIQUE INSIDE LOOK (COURTESY OF CENTRAL JUNIOR AND SOON-TO-BE MOTHER, KRISTEN JORGENSEN) AT WHAT LIFE IS LIKE WHEN YOU'RE

16 AND PREGNANT

By Emily Beck
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Facing the Facts

Junior Kristen Jorgensen never thought that she would become a mother at age 16, but if she's learned anything, it's that surprises happen. She never looked down on other girls who became pregnant at young ages. "My mom and my sister were both teen moms, so I have an understanding, and so do they," she said. "It was a complete shock when it happened," said Jorgensen. She was about eight weeks along. After missing her period, she knew. Right away she "took two [pregnancy tests]," and after confirming that they were both positive, Jorgensen "was very excited...but reality set in." For a time the junior was completely alone in her knowledge of the situation. She realized what was about to happen. "Oh, no," she thought to herself. "Everything is going to be flipped and turned around in a short

amount of time." She was met with mixed feelings after that. "It's always a blessing, a baby," she said, but the question of how she would tell her parents arose. Jorgensen's boyfriend, Sayeg Mareno, was the first to find out. "He was so happy," she said, but the situation became stressful as reality set in for him as well, and as time went on. A freshman in college, he originally went to school in Columbus, Neb., but moved back to Omaha to live with his parents and attend Metropolitan Community College after learning of Jorgensen's pregnancy. After telling her boyfriend, Jorgensen knew that the next step was her parents. But they wouldn't be so easy. Telling her mom and sister wasn't difficult (both were teen mothers themselves, so they were understanding), but Jorgensen waited three months to disclose her pregnancy to her dad. At first, he thought it was a joke. "I told him the day before New Year's. It was definitely a shock for him," she said. "It's taken him months to get over it," she added. The men in her family were hostile toward Mareno after finding out about the pregnancy, and only recently have they begun to accept it. "There's nothing I can do—there's nothing I will do—to get rid of the fact that I am pregnant," Jorgensen said gently yet firmly. Terminating the pregnancy never crossed her mind. After Jorgensen's parents, Mareno's mother and father were informed of the

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Photo Courtesy of Kristen Jorgensen
Jorgensen anticipates her baby's birth—her due date is June 23, 2014.

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English teacher does homework of her own, is published in textbook



Sydney Spangrud | The Register
Teacher Tracey Menten playfully raises her hand during a class.

By Georgia Chambers
STAFF WRITER

Tracey Menten, English and Theory of Knowledge teacher, recently had work published in a textbook. Menten will be featured in "Creative Composition: Inspiration and Techniques for Writing Instruction." This textbook will be published in early 2015. Her chapter, "Show, Don't Tell: Using Graphic Narratives to Teach Descriptive Writing," is not her first literary accomplishment. Menten has had another fragment of her writing published in the past, which can be found in the "English Journal, Volume 100, Number 2" in the chapter "Reading, Writing, and Thinking about Disability Issues: Five Activities for the Classroom." "A call for proposals is put out by the editors of the journal or textbook," Menten wrote. "Usually there is a focus required for the proposals (disability studies, YA Literature, etc.) or a specific pedagogical approach (e.g. use of technology, collaborative learning)." "People throughout the profession submit proposals for the editors to read—usually around 500 words—which is used to decide if your idea seems like a good fit for the edition. If selected, you are often invited to submit a draft and sometimes that first draft has to go through a selection process," explained Menten. "Once your submission is selected, the editors read it and give feedback. You must revise and resubmit—and often, there are multiple rounds of revision," Menten concluded.

For her most recent work that will be published in 2015, she did not work alone. "I collaborated on this chapter with an UNO English professor, who has been through this process numerous times. The process is intimidating and quite competitive, so I am grateful that I have someone to assist me," Menten said. As a teacher, even Menten regards her writing as a working process. "Writing can always be improved, but eventually you have to make the deadline, so you have to believe that what is getting published is as polished as it can be in that point in time," Menten said. As for the future, Menten will continue to look for other publishing chances like these. "I am always looking for opportunities to write about teaching practices, because I learn a lot when I write these kinds of pieces. I have to do a lot of research to make sure that what I am writing reflects current best practices in the profession, while still offering a new or unique way of approaching the topic at hand." "While it is a lot of hard work to get a piece published, it is enjoyable and well worth the time and effort," Menten described. She is also going to attend a nationally recognized library, where she will expand her already vast knowledge. "I'll be at the Library of Congress in June attending a Teacher Institute, where I'll be learning strategies for the effective integration of primary sources in the classroom," said Menten, "so maybe I'll look for a writing opportunity related to that experience."



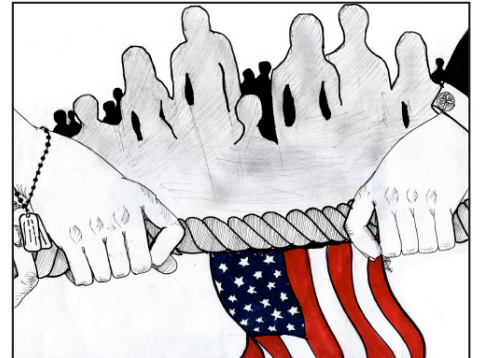
ROADSHOW ▶ page 7

Students, staff and alumni have been working hard to make the 100th Annual Roadshow the best yet.



PRATER ▶ page 13

NFL Viking and Central grad Shaun Prater opens up about his time at Central and how it helped prepare for his future.



U.S INVOLVEMENT ▶ page 18

A debate on whether the U.S should intervene in other countries' affairs or stay out of it.



Poverty isn't always obvious. When met with 'poverty,' we picture images of Indian slums and starving African children. Many don't realize that it's present and prevalent, that it quietly preys on children within our own school district. Despite our obliviousness, many entities within Omaha Public Schools are working to remedy the damage that poverty inflicts on our peers.

DESIGN BY EMILY BECK
PHOTOGRAPHY BY LUCY SIMMONS

FIGHTING POVERTY IN SCHOOLS

HOW OPS IS WORKING TO COMBAT THE PROBLEM



COUNSELORS, SCHOOL WORKERS STAY POSITIVE, AID STRUGGLING STUDENTS

JORDAN YOUNG | STAFF WRITER

Some teenage students not only have to battle with the difficulties that accompany adolescence, but also engage in an overbearing struggle with poverty.

Unfortunately, there's nothing that is set "black or white" about the issue, as students react differently to their situations at home. Nevertheless, they have to deal with them and somehow survive at school while attempting to find a way out of their complicated lifestyles.

Omaha Central's social worker Dawnna Hill sees nearly the whole story of these students and the varying struggles they go through.

"I do a lot of different things, it depends on the student that's brought to me," said Hill. "The bottom line is [I] work with students and their families to increase their success at school."

This includes problem solving with factors that are getting in the way of a student's ability to learn, and making sure they have what they need to do well.

Among those students, Hill said that poverty impacts a majority of them within a "certain capacity."

"There are a lot of other helpers in this building," she said. "All of those folks are probably going to have their own exposure to how many students they're serving that need those types of supports. Since it is a sensitive, confidential issue, sometimes we don't all know for sure who's being helped in that capacity."

Hill explained that they do work to protect families' confidentiality and many times it varies between who comes to whom first. Sometimes the "helpers," like Hill, will be notified by referral, outside contacts or, on occasion, she will reach out to a student herself.

Nevertheless, in some way or another they all witness what disadvantages kids in poverty deal with every day at school. There were many scenarios Hill gave, including kids who might have behavioral issues with disciplinarians at school, chatting up with friends and skipping class or constantly being absent.

Where one might see a kid making excuses and acting out to get attention, Hill's experience proves otherwise.

Behind the scenes, stressors, as Hill dubbed them, serve student's gloomy effects.

Kids living in poverty don't deal with the same things that kids who don't live in poverty do at times. Sometimes living conditions aren't the best, especially in the case of a homeless teen. This could very well be the reasons for tardiness or absenteeism.

Even family issues can affect this, like untimely work schedules and younger siblings that need to be watched by an older sibling because childcare is too

“I personally think that people act within the ability they have...I don't think much production comes from blaming one another.”

HARMON MAPLES
NICE teacher

costly.

Hill identified these possibilities as all varying. Other factors, such as health, remains up in the air, because these families might not be able to afford yearly eye exams or twice a year trips to the dentist, for example.

"I'll say, 'well, when was the last time that you were able to go and get your teeth cleaned?'" said Hill. "[They'll say] 'oh it's been six years.' [I'll ask] 'When was the last time you had your glasses taken care of?' [They'll say] 'well fifth grade.' Well, we're in eleventh grade now."

But the biggest struggle for these teens is focus, Hill pointed out. "...It's hard to focus at school and engage your cognitive level of functioning when your basic needs aren't being met," she said.

"It's real hard to focus on how you're going to do on a history exam if you don't know where you're going to sleep tonight or if your parents got into a fight and that means you guys are going to have to move out this weekend," said Hill.

She continued to say that emotional responses before more rational ones can contribute to behavioral issues at school, but underneath, root problems they can't control may be what is moving them.

"I think the thing that's hardest for a young person is that they see these people that they love and they want better for, but they don't have the ability

to make it better themselves...it's hard to be a part of that struggle," she said.

So there it is, out in the open. A truth that not many people at school (teachers and students alike) stop to realize.

Sometimes only the very surface is seen and not what may be hiding, much like frosting on a cake--but not even close to being sweet.

To add on to this, a rough circle of poverty and failure can exist in a student's life depending on how he or she reacts to the situation.

"Lack of motivation, lack of effort. Sometimes people either respond to impoverished situations with either like a resiliency and strength...or they really kind of succumb to this...it really depends on the person's values and how they internalize things," said Hill.

This is where the helpers of the school come. Aside from other counselors, programs exist such as the McKinney Vento program, which accompanies homeless students and their families, as well as the Native Indian Centered Education (NICE) program, which has connections to outside support groups to help any of their members who could be struggling in poverty. These can be very beneficial.

NICE teacher at Central and McMillian Magnet Middle School, Harmon Maples, sometimes has to help his students by pointing them in that direction--to places such as the Nebraska Urban Indian Health Coalition.

"They offer services to native students and families," said Maples.

In the end, poverty will never be an easy problem to solve because there isn't one ultimate cause. But to really help students get out of their current lifestyle and hopefully become successful in the future, there is one thing that could be done.

"I personally think that people act within the ability they have," said Hill. "...And so instead of looking at it in this deficit way of all this blame...let's look at the skills you have and let's try and teach you the ones you don't have and let's see if we can make this a little bit better. I don't think much production comes from blaming one another...take the time and have some empathy [so] that we can really do some good problem solving."

Poverty and Education in America

What is the poverty line?

According to 2011 U.S. Census Bureau, a family of four (2 adults and 2 children under 18) that earns less than **\$23,071** is considered to be under the poverty line.

The basic-needs budget for an average U.S. family of 4 is **\$31,080** (in rural parts of NE) to \$64,656 (in Boston, MA).

What effect does it have on kids?

Developmental delays or learning disabilities are more likely by **1.3 times** in children that live under the poverty line.

They also have a higher number of absences or drop out of school due to home responsibilities.

After 3rd grade, African-American, Hispanic and low-income are already **2 years behind** grade level. After the 11th grade, they are **4 years behind**.

What if they plan on a college education?

31% of young adults without a diploma live in poverty, in comparison to **24%** that graduated.

16 to 24-year-old students are seven times more apt to drop out if from a low-income family in comparison to those with higher incomes.

Less than **30%** of students in low-income households enroll in a 4 year school. Within that group less than half graduate.

Do only minorities drop out of school?

58% of African American dropouts and **half** of Hispanic dropouts come from the nation's lowest-performing high schools, in comparison to **22%** of white dropouts.

*Statistics provided by DoSomething.org

SURVIVING A TURBULENT CHILDHOOD:

A Central junior's journey through struggles with poverty and a challenging home life

TIASPEARS | EXECUTIVE EDITOR IN CHIEF

Junior Brooklyn Martin knows firsthand what it's like to be set apart by financial issues and shaky home foundations. Today, Martin describes things as "so much better" even though the past hasn't always indicated positivity.

"My mom was working a lot, I remember, and we didn't really have a good relationship when I was younger," she said. Martin's mother was in an abusive relationship that served as the basis for a lot of her struggles.

"The big thing is my mom was always in the survival mode because she was getting abused and she was trying to get through it," Martin shared. The details of her mother's abusive relationship entailed sexual abuse on Martin's behalf and suicidal thoughts pertaining to her mom.

"She wasn't really a mom to us, really," she said. She vividly described her past as a struggle, but a triumphant one.

"I had to take my little brothers under my wing and watch them and it kind of made me older than I was, so it was kind of hard," she said.

Martin has two younger brothers, all of whom (including herself and her mom) lived in Restored Hope (a transitional living facility for single mothers working to build new lives for themselves and their families) six years ago. However, it was the beginning of a new chapter for Martin's family. Her mother left the abusive relationship and went on to better her and her children's lives.

"When we had gotten out of the situation I lived in Restored Hope, which is like a home for women and children [when] the mom has been ... abused," she said. "My mom had to go to programs, and I remember we would be outside playing while she was in there learning about God and [they were] helping her through what she went through, teaching her how to be a mother," Martin said.

Martin recalled that things began improving at that time. One important milestone is when she and her mom met God.

"My mom was really mean and a different person, and when we got out of the situation [before]... she was in the bathroom and I remember she was getting ready to take her life, and he [her mother's husband at the time] was threatening to put her into a mental hospital," she shared. "She said she heard a voice saying 'Kristen, stop' and my mom just started crying saying 'God, is that you?'"

Afterwards, her mom became closer with Martin and her brothers. Their family was ready to enjoy life, now knowing God and being released from an abusive family household.

"Since we've gotten out of that situation, our family life has been amazing. My mom's my best friend I tell her everything, and can talk to her about anything," she said.

Martin's mother is now a nurse and the family of four is preparing to move into a better home.

"It's crazy thinking about [the past]," she said. The family now does a number of activities together, especially through church. She cheerleads for her church and they participate in various activities there also, as she mentioned.

"Now I love school, and I hang out with a lot of people who are foreign," Martin said. She has also found what she believes will be her occupation. "I help a lot of people in special education, that's what I want to do," she shared.

Brooklyn Martin fortunately is set on the tracks of a more positive life ahead and is inspiring to those who are in the situations she has been in. She recounts her past and smiles at her future with her lasting words being, "I think I would describe it as, even though we struggled financially ... I would say that we always stick together and family's really important."

“...my mom was always in the survival mode because she was getting abused and she was trying to get through it.”
BROOKLYN MARTIN
junior



Photo Courtesy of Brooklyn Martin
Top: Martin with friends enjoying the weather.
Bottom: Martin smiles in a picture with her mother.

Free and reduced lunch program: a predictor of achievement?

NATALIENEPPER | STAFF WRITER

Students across the nation have an opportunity to participate in free and reduced lunch programs for varied school districts. Those who qualify, about 21.5 million in the US, have low income, large family size or a combination of both. In 15 years, the percentage of students who qualify has jumped 24 percent, giving light to a much larger poverty issue than America has ever known.

In the year 2000, free and reduced lunch qualifiers in Omaha Public Schools were around 50 percent of the student population. This school year, 74 percent of the students have access to this type of lunch. Carla Noerrlinger, the Executive Director of Research for the Omaha Public School District, noted that this increase in numbers is most likely due to economic changes. People being laid off their jobs and the drop in the stock market may have affected income and ultimately, the amount of students who qualify.

"There seems to be many demographic changes in our district as well. If you take a look at our numbers for instance, we have a growing number of refugee students that are coming into our school district" Noerrlinger explained, "so it is very likely that most of them participate in free and reduced lunch."

The qualification of students is determined by income and number of family members per household. Parents apply through the district if their children are eligible. Marilyn Peterson, from the Nebraska Department of Education, explained a recent change in regulations from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This change, called the Community Eligibility Provision, will allow schools to provide meals to students in poverty without their parent's permission.

"If the percentage of poverty is high enough, all the students in the school are provided free meals," said Peterson. "This 'eligibility for free and reduced meals' was always the indicator of poverty used for many purposes." School districts use free and reduced lunch statistics to determine poverty in certain areas, rather than census data. Also, the student achievement data is recorded for the distribution of state and federal funds.

The comparison between free and reduced lunch have dramatic changes in data. Out of the 51,070 students in OPS that qualify for this lunch 1,381 attend Central. This means that 57.7 percent of students at this school take part in the program. Of this percentage, only 10 percent participate in reduced lunch, whereas the remaining 47.7 percent are on free.

The possibility of taking part in free and reduced lunch proves extremely beneficial to all those that qualify. Tammy Yarmon, the Director of Nutrition Services for the Omaha Public Schools noted that, "We have children who do not have food at home and the meals they receive here may be the only meals they get all day. Some children may not receive fresh fruits and vegetables at home."

There is a small drop in the percentage of students in elementary and middle school who qualify in comparison to high school. There is the possibility of there being a stigma with free and reduced lunch, and some who qualify don't always apply. However, this also may be due to lack of knowledge from the parent or the student may simply decide not to apply.

Predicting the poverty levels with free and reduced lunch is currently the most effective way to look into the poor in Omaha. Often, poverty can predict achievement in schools. Those who cannot afford supplies or study tools may have lower achievement scores. "So often, there are challenges that come from students who live in poverty that differs from students that don't. An example of that, at the youngest level is there's even a difference in terms of the amount of exposure to books and extra experiences that help increase in language and that of course impact school," said Noerrlinger. "So no one's saying that there's a difference in terms of students' potential, it just creates inequities in terms of experience which can effect, and does effect, achievement in school."

Ultimately, free and reduced lunch may sufficiently aid with the economic situation of many students who qualify. Although some of the guidelines might be changed in the future, there is expected to be an increase of students utilizing the program. Despite any adaptations to free and reduced lunch, it continues to impact the lives of those in need.

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH AFFECTS...	21.5 Million students in America	70.5% % of America's students	133,623 of Nebraska's students
73.6% of all OPS students	51,070 OPS students	57.7% of Central students	1,381 students at Central



OPS FIGHTS BACK WITH SPECIALIZED DEPARTMENTS & PROGRAMS

KELSEY THOMAS | STAFF WRITER

One of the many departments inside Omaha Public Schools is the Student and Family Services Department, which includes several specialized units.

There are nine divisions, including student accountability, health services and school safety. One of these divisions, called family support services, specializes in helping students and their families that are often in poverty.

The family support services aims to support "families by providing resources, information and linkages to needed services in the community" according to the OPS website.

The family support services unit contains three programs: the S.A.F.E. program, community counseling and the learning community family liaison program.

S.A.F.E. PROGRAM

The S.A.F.E. program, which stands for school and family enrichment, is supported by OPS, as well as the Child Saving Institute and the Regional 6 Behavioral Health Care Center.

Any student and family involved in the program has access to a home-based family support specialist and mental health counseling. S.A.F.E. is offered to children in kindergarten through eighth grade who show behavioral problems at school or have low attendance.

Collette Nero, the coordinator for all of the family support services programs, said a family would benefit from these services when they are "homeless or near homelessness" have "school attendance problems, family relationships difficulties" or "mental health problems."

COMMUNITY COUNSELING

Community counseling is another department inside of family support services.

According to the OPS home page, the program "helps those who might not have access to mental health services." Nero said that "families would take advantages of these services when there is a need for therapy to address mental health concerns (anxiety, depression, etc.) develop coping skills, or improve family relationships."

Community counseling is offered free of charge by professionals in the mental health field. There are five services offered within: crisis intervention, consultation, individual counseling, group counseling and family counseling.

The department also makes presentations often at schools and in churches.

LEARNING COMMUNITY FAMILY LIAISON

The final program, called learning community family liaison, was "established to reduce barriers to learning," according to their web page. The program employs 16 people, 14 of which are case workers assigned to a specific school. These schools are elementary schools that have many students in poverty, such as Kellom Elementary or Fontenelle.

It's a Girl: a sixteen-year-old's experience with pregnancy in high school

CONTINUED FROM 'PREGNANT' ON PAGE 1

situation. Initially, his family was very upset. "His mom cried," Jorgensen said, "and I didn't know what to do." She added that his parents seemed to hold him more responsible, since he is older than Jorgensen by two years. Fathering a child is a huge, life-altering responsibility, and "they just want the best for him," Jorgensen said. "But it takes two."

Luckily, both Mareno and Jorgensen's parents were supportive, and Jorgensen has grown much closer to her mother. "Through this whole entire situation, she's become my best friend," she said, "but still a mom at the same time."

Perspective & Changes

"People's reactions to me [surprised me]. I was definitely an innocent person... I never did anything wrong, never got in trouble. I never really did badly in school." Peers told her that they never would have suspected her to become pregnant. And she never expected it, either.

Naturally a positive person, Jorgensen has chosen to make the best of her situation. "Of course I wish I would have waited," she said, "but now that I look at it, I have to be positive about it. I can't [be] negative."

"She's not a mistake, or a regret at all... things happen for a reason, and this is definitely a positive reason. I may not know exactly why it happened, but I know that in the end I will understand," Jorgensen said.

Being from a family with a history of young mothers, Jorgensen has found comfort in the knowledge that "it's possible to be a success and not a failure... There have been successful people [who have come] from being a teen mom." She intends to be one of those women. "I'm scared about being alone in this situation, although I know I will never be... when I look back at it, I have the best support system."

Additionally, the junior has been surrounded by children from a young age, and feels a natural inclination toward kids. Her sister (who became pregnant at 17) lived with the family when she had her kids, so Jorgensen helped out with her nieces and nephews. Despite close contact with her sister, the soon-to-be mother didn't know quite how much being pregnant can change a person.

"I knew [I] wouldn't feel great all the time, and that [my] body would change, emotions, hormones and everything," she said. "You kind of act like a different person."

"Your life is twisted and turned and messed around completely, almost like a Rubik's cube," she added. "It's completely changed and you can't expect it to be the same. High school is somewhat taken away from you." The junior does not feel that her freedom has been stifled, though ("I didn't really do anything anyways," she admitted).

Overall, Jorgensen hasn't lost her positivity, and her excitement for the arrival of her baby has never dimmed.

"I was really worried about stretch marks and my body changing," she said, "but in the end it's kind of worth it... In the end, it's your little one that you get to watch grow up, watch them do everything that you did when you were little."

Day by Day

The junior is no stranger to discomfort. She's faced cravings, morning sickness, maternity clothing and awkward hallway encounters, as well as everyday aches and pains that come with carrying a child.

"A lot of people want to be your friend when you're pregnant," she said—but this isn't always a positive thing. While she understands the curiosity, Jorgensen detests strangers who approach her and touch her without permission.

"I don't like when random people touch me," she said. It happens "quite a bit." "It's so uncomfortable," she added. "I just want to smack people... I just walk away... I don't blame them for being interested in it... it is exciting, it's kind of neat. I understand why."

In addition, her appetite has changed, and her sweet tooth has become increasingly apparent. "I crave chocolate all the time," Jorgensen said. "Sometimes I crave pickles." Her love for Chinese food has disappeared, and now causes nausea. "Now I can't stand it. It's disgusting."

Jorgensen said her baby "likes to kick [my bladder]... or sometimes she'll kick my lungs." These result in frequent bathroom visits and shortness of breath. Her baby also seems to like placing her head right in the middle of Jorgensen's ribcage, which causes a lot of pressure.

Maternity clothing is "ridiculously expensive." She has been able to get away with wearing normal pants, but has to buy maternity shirts.

The junior also has to be careful about exercising because, "My blood pressure can't go over a certain amount," she said, so sticks to walking. "It is nice to have the elevator pass... I take advantage of it," she said.

The Future

"My plan is to go to college and finish high school, and not go through independent study," Jorgensen declared. "I'm staying in high school. I have a job, I work, I save money."

While not completely solid yet, she has a rough plan for the future.

For now, Jorgensen is opting to wait until her baby arrives to make any concrete decisions. Her plans have more or less stayed the same: finish high school, go to college in Omaha and eventually move out.

As far as her boyfriend is concerned, the two have recognized the difficulties that they will face when (and after) the baby arrives. "I would like to say I see a future [together]... no one knows the outcome... I definitely don't know the future. I hope we're still together by then, and I hope we can stay together," Jorgensen said. "That's a lot of work; a baby and a relationship."

But she and Mareno won't be alone. Coincidentally, Jorgensen's mom stays at home to look after her younger siblings. She occasionally assists with Jorgensen's sister's child as well. "My mom will be watching [my baby] while I'm at school and while I'm at work," Jorgensen said. "[The baby] will switch off between my boyfriend's family and my family."



Photo Courtesy of Kristen Jorgensen

Jorgensen poses, embracing her baby bump. She is due on June 23, 2014.

The pregnancy "definitely puts a bigger speed bump in my life," she added, "but it's nothing that I can't get over."

NHS, StuCo hope to get Central onto Methodist donor wall

CONTINUED FROM 'NHS' ON PAGE 1

But most of all, it was "Central's ABC's that fueled the effort to give back to the community," Nielson said.

The money raised by Central students "was doubled by donors," he added. That encouraged the students even more in their effort.

Corrin Killion, then a freshman, heard about National Honor Society's fundraising effort through the morning announcements. Killion has donated this year as well.

Methodist Hospital holds a special place for Killion and her family. Both mother and daughter have spent time in Methodist's Emergency Department before. Killion suffered a shoulder dislocation and, "...went to Methodist and I liked how they helped me," she said.

When the students finished their fundraising in 2013, students who were able to attend were "invited to a board meeting to present Methodist with the check," Nielson said. Afterwards, Methodist recognized their efforts.

The students are getting closer to their goal of \$5,000 that will get Central's name on the donor wall—something no other school has done before," Nielson said. If Central achieves its goal, it will be the first school in the Metro Area to have its name on Methodist Hospital's wall.

National Honor Society students hope to achieve that with their new post prom fundraiser. The post prom activity, sponsored by National Honor Society and Student Council, will be a Fundraising Gala. Not only will they help raise money for Methodist Hospital, but for the Nebraska Humane Society as well.

Monetary donations will be made to the Nebraska Humane Society, as well as items from a wish list.

With the help of fellow students, National Honor Society will achieve its goal and Central will be the first high school to have its name on the donor wall.

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It is the goal of the Central High Register to represent the student body in issues affecting their lives as young people and students. If you feel that 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 Hillary Blayney at hillyar.blayney@ops.org or come to room 029 to discuss your idea.



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 of 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.

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Photos Courtesy of Emily Beck and Candi Kadar

Top left: Seniors Ariel Hannah and Shanon Jackson posed in front of Jackson's "PROM?" message. Bottom left: Emily Beck's balloons from date. Center: Arione Nelson's date proposed with a sign and a cake. Right: Grant Fishburn's proposal to Katy Stuckey was a message and a missing puzzle piece.

Student Council begins creative 'promposal' contest

By Stephanie Paul
STAFF WRITER

Central's Student Council decided to spice up prom a little this year—a contest for the best "prom proposals" from Central's junior and senior class that will attend prom on April 26.

Student Council has always sponsored prom. But this year the group of freshmen, sophomores, juniors, and seniors wanted to try something new.

"We wanted to get kids excited for prom and since prom proposals are a new trend, we wanted to give it a try as a contest," said Candi Kadar, one of the Student Council sponsors.

The contest is not original to Central or any school in the local area. The students on the Council during one meeting to discover how other students at Central are conducting their promposals. To win the contest, the group encouraged the student body to send in creative, adorable, or funny ways that they asked someone to prom with. One other requirement: the person had to say yes. When the window for entry closed, the Student Council voted on

whose was the best.

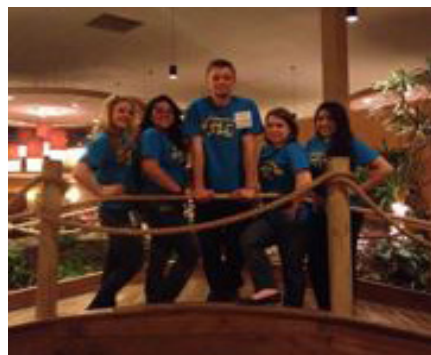
The prom proposal's were judged based on three factors: creativity, originality and shock factor. The Council also asked for photos, videos, and a small essay to explain the situation.

The winning couple won several prizes. "We know prom is an expensive time of year and we want to give the winning couple free tickets and a chance to go out to eat for free," said Kadar.

The winning couple won two free prom tickets, \$50 cash per person, a gift card to a restaurant of the couple's choice for dinner and a \$10 gift card to Village Inn for breakfast the next morning. Student Council used their own funds from fundraisers throughout the year to make the winning couple's Prom night to be special and a night to remember.

Senior Emily Beck and her boyfriend Robert Evans won the contest. Evans secretly flew to Omaha from San Antonio, Texas (where he lives) a few weeks before prom to surprise Beck and ask her to prom. Evans left a trail of balloons on her car and at her house, each with a letter to spell out "PROM." Evans came back to go to prom with Beck.

FBLA student prepares for nationals competition in summer



Photos Courtesy of Teresa Stastny

Top: Stastny poses in her business ensemble.
Bottom: Stastny is accompanied by FBLA members.

By Sydney Halonen
STAFF WRITER

This past week, senior Teresa Stastny ranked high enough in her state level competition round of FBLA that she earned a bid to the national competition in Nashville, Tenn. from June 28-July 3 during this upcoming summer.

FBLA (Future Business Leaders of America) is a school sponsored club that attempts to teach students the importance of the business world and how to become involved in it. Each year the state FBLA committee puts on various events like banquets and competitions for students to attend, learn, socialize and have some fun. Or in Stastny's case, a bid to the nationals competition, where she will compete with hundreds of other students from all over the nation.

"I wasn't able to attend the award ceremony because of cheerleading tryouts, but when I got the notification from my advisor... that I placed and had a full paid bid to the national competition, I literally jumped out of my seat," said Stastny.

She did not earn this position on the nationals team without countless hours of hard work. Placing third in her events labeled Impromptu Speaking, she scored higher than 46 other competitors in order to earn her rank. Impromptu Speaking is just one of about 50 events that students have the opportunity to compete in at the state competition. This event is much more than filling in a multiple choice test; competitors can practice all they want, but until the moment of the competition, no one has any clue what the prompt will be.

"The competition entails two separate

rounds, beginning with roughly 50 people. We were all held in a room and given a prompt that none of us had seen before. We then had 10 minutes to prepare a four-minute speech. Among other things, deductions stem from the further students are away from the four-minute mark at the end of their speech. After the first round the top eight advance to the finals," said Stastny. "My times were 3.33 and 3.46."

In order to prepare for her upcoming competition, Stastny is participating in group study session each Thursday night with other students going to Tennessee for the same event.

The overall experience will be far from boring, featuring sit down dinners, concerts and even a dinner cruise for all of the students on the last night of the conference.

Joining FBLA and attending this competition correlates with Stastny's future college and occupation plans. "After college I plan on beginning my own career as a motivational speaker, so conferences such as this are awesome for me, not only as a little glimpse into my own future, but a great place for me to make connections that I will use in my own career," said Stastny.

She made a splash, not only at the state competition, but in Central's chapter as well, being the only student from Central to perform well enough to qualify for Nationals in eight years. Although her time at Central and in FBLA will soon come to a close, Stastny has much more in store for her this summer in Nashville.

"A bid to nationals is a great way to end off my high school career, after putting in all of the hard work," said Stastny. "The feeling of success when [I] received the notification that I placed, made everything worth it."

Aspiring nursing students partake in CNA classes

By Kelsey Thomas
STAFF WRITER

The Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) program available to high school juniors and seniors at the Career Center provides a way for kids to learn what goes into being a healthcare professional and gives an opportunity for them to become certified as a nursing assistant.

To get into the program, students must first apply. An applicant must be an eleventh or twelfth grader from an OPS high school and must be at least 16-years-old by the time the program ends.

Applicants also write an essay responding to the prompt "Why do you want to be a part of the CNA program?" After filling out an application, a school counselor decides which students to register for the two-period classes.

The counselor looks at attendance, grades and behavior to choose which handful of students deserve a spot. Senior Emma Kinney participated in the program during the 2012-2013 school year. Time was divided into two portions: a health class and a nursing class.

In the health class, she learned about leading a "healthy lifestyle and eating right." In the health class portion, Kinney said there were several times that speakers from different nursing colleges would come in and lecture to the health class.

The nursing class teaches several healthcare procedures, as well as background information that any nurse or nursing assistant will need to know before beginning work.

The students have to read the Nebraska CNA book chapter by chapter. They learn about different areas of nursing, and the information to go along with it.



Keali French | The Register

CNA (Certified Nursing Assistant) students take their class for two periods at the Career Center.

Most skills and procedures are first shown to students on a training video. The students carefully watch and learn the steps before they practice on a test dummy, where a teacher watches them and they earn a grade based on how well they've done.

At the end of the program, a participant has the option to test to receive a certification. A Career Center student may take the test for free, but a person outside of the program typically has to pay around \$700 to test.

Students study for a 50-question multiple choice test that they complete inside of a packet. Then, they perform a handful of the 60 tasks they were required to memorize.

Kinney had to perform the hand-washing skill, as well as pulse and respiration, male perineal care, changing an occupied bed and moving a person into lateral position.

The experience at the Career Center is a mix of a serious school environment and a fun experience.

Kinney said, "My favorite part was getting to know my classmates... We definitely were goofy in the lab, making each other laugh and having fun, but we all still took it seriously."

Having the opportunity to become a certified nursing assistant while still in high school is something that many students don't have. Kinney says having that ability is "truly amazing."

Documentary about Muslims at Film Streams works to destroy stereotypes



Sydney Spangrud | The Register

Comedian Dean Obeidallah answers questions.

By Kira Hawkins
STAFF WRITER

On Thursday April 10, Film Streams presented a special showing of the documentary, "The Muslims are Coming!"

This film features a group of Muslim-American stand-up comedians with one goal: to battle Islamophobia in the United States using the power of comedy.

They travelled across several states while they performed a free comedy show to enlighten people and show that Muslims are not all the raging terrorists that contemporary media show them to be.

Senior Boman Groff said, "I learned a lot about Islam from the movie... comedy was a way to inform the public about Islam and put down stereotypes while easing tensions."

At the showing, starring comedian Dean Obeidallah came and answered any questions that viewers may have had. The show was sold out ahead of time. All seats were filled with people of every age, religion, and race.

The comedians in the film knock down the barriers of stereotypes and open the eyes of people everywhere. "The movie gave a very real sense of what the southern states are like... where those biased beliefs are supposed to be." Included are different pop culture icons, and their opinions on the growing problem that Islamophobia has caused.

This documentary was not at all the expectation of a long, fact-filled, droning movie that the word "documentary" suggests. It was full of humor that all sorts of people from different walks of life could connect with. The comedians that produced this film definitely succeeded in bringing in people, therefore reaching many to promote their cause.

Whether it was from standing on a street corner with signs that read "Come hug a Muslim" or hosting a "Bowl with a Muslim" event at a community bowling alley, they touched the lives and minds of almost everyone they met, including a newly-wed couple, still in ceremony garb.

Groff said that the film "opened my eyes to the fact that a lot of the public isn't really anti-Muslim, just uninformed."

Engineering Club competes, takes gold in eight categories

By Trenay Newsome
STAFF WRITER

The Engineering Club took home gold in an Engineering Competition hosted by the Student Mentoring Program (SMP).

SMP is a competition that stimulates high school student's interest and excitement in engineering, architecture and related sciences. This program aims to spur critical thinking that will help students who want to be engineers in the future.

During the competition, students compete against each other in eight categories: Applied Sciences, Innovation, Research, Teamwork, Technology, Sustainability, Proposal, and Presentation. Central was the only school to take gold in all categories.

"We were absolutely ecstatic to take gold in all eight of the categories," said Jane Colling, supervisor of the club. She added, "this is the first time this happened in Central history."

The students won \$1,500 for the team. funding, a dinner, and a trophy.

One of the seniors will receive \$1,500 for scholarship purposes. Since there are six seniors on the team, each of them will fill out an application that will be reviewed by Colling.

In total there are nine members of the team. The six seniors are Seni Adekunle, Doug Barnum, Joslyn Jensen, Sam Lyons, Rachel Pruch and Morgan Roth. There are two juniors and one freshman.

During the course of the year, the members of the club have to come up with a problem in engineering that they wanted to study.

They research the problem, write a report, create a power point and finally present it to a panel of four professional engineers. Each year students come up with different situations and solution to present in the SMP competition.

For this particular competition the students created four prototypes for the Piezoelectric Effect, which deals with applying pressure to produce energy.

It is the process of producing electricity by putting mechanical stress on certain crystals, made of quartz and ceramics.

Three of the four prototypes that the team created worked efficiently.

Only two OPS schools competed in the competition. North High's third team took gold in seven categories excluding Sustainability.

"Our biggest competitor was North High because they have five engineering teams the take place as a class, while ours is a club," said Colling, "they are a magnet school for science."

All students who have an interest for engineering are welcome to meetings on Thursdays, which take place from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. in room 415.

Basketball season ends in search for new coach; recruiting takes place

By Maya Durfee O'Brien
STAFF WRITER

The girls' basketball team coach for this season was Danielle Brandt, an English teacher. Brandt, a former assistant coach, was named head coach after the previous coach, Kristopher Kuhn resigned.

Nevertheless, with the season over, preparations for next season are being made, which will include a new head coach for the girls' basketball team.

Brandt was the interim coach, which means she was only the coach for the season, according to Athletic Director Thomas Lee. "My favorite part about coaching this season was working with the girls on a daily basis. The group of girls who played basketball this year are hard-working kids, and it was a joy to watch them grow and succeed. The hardest part of the season was balancing all of my responsibilities. Being a head coach, teacher and expectant mom made for some tiring days!" said Brandt.

Brandt said she will still be involved with the girls' basketball program in some way. The extent of that has yet to be determined. "I had a

wonderful time coaching the girls this year, and they are all focused on improving their games [skills] over the summer in preparation for next season," said Brandt.

The reason behind naming Brandt the interim coach this past season was simple: "She knew going into it that it would just be for the one year. It was not something that she wanted to do full-time. Usually it's just a one year deal," said Lee. Brandt said being the head coach was not a commitment she could fulfill to making.

"We ran the position for four weeks. The applicants go through HR first, they screen them. Then they send us a list of names, from those names we pick out people we want to interview," said Lee. During the week of April 14, the team of interviewers was schedule to talk with five different candidates. The team that will be conducting these interviews consists of Lee, Eric Behrens and Ed Bennett along with one other assistant coach.

"It'd be nice to have somebody that is in the building," said Lee. He said it is preferred, but not mandatory. Qualities that Lee looks for in a prospective head coach include someone who is energetic and dynamic. Lee is also looking for someone who wants to build the program and sustain it. "I want somebody who's committed to what we're doing here,"

Lee said.

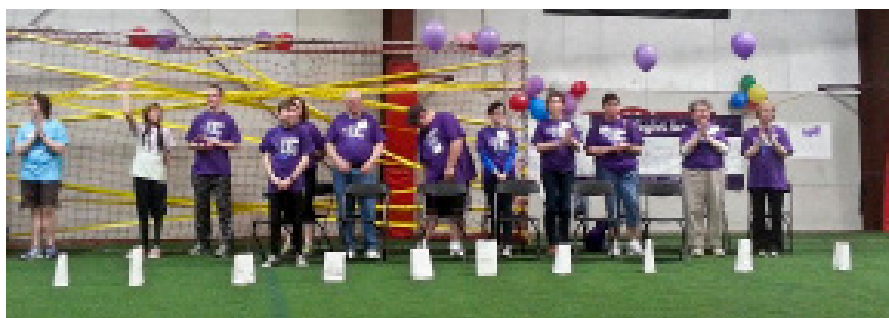
He also wants someone who loves the game of basketball. Lee said it would also suffice if someone "... loves kids and loves working with young people." Brandt too had similar ideas about what the new coach should be like. "I would like to see the new head coach be someone who understands the unique qualities that make up the game of girls basketball. I would want this person to have a strong moral character and commitment to Central," said Brandt.

It's a group decision, but there is one person who could have the final say in the matter. "Most likely it would fall under me, because... obviously I would be their immediate supervisor," said Lee.

The decision should be made in the next few weeks, though Lee wishes "it had already been made." After the choice is made, Lee will turn his attention to another open position—the boys' tennis coach. "As far as I know those are the only positions we have open at this time."

A new coach has been hired. Brittany Gunn is a graduate of Burke who later went on to play basketball at Buena Vista University. Gunn most recently served as an assistant basketball coach at Burke—will make a new name for herself as head coach for the girls' basketball team.

Central students and teachers participate in Relay for Life; form teams



Photos Courtesy of Omaha Youth Relay For Life

Top: During Miss Relay, one of the most popular events at Relay For Life, boys dress up and participate in a pageant to raise money. Bottom: A group of survivors are honored during the all-night event. Left: Senior Lindsay Wilson paints the face of a young Relayer.

By Natalie Nepper
STAFF WRITER

On the night of April 11, various groups of people across Omaha gathered for the American Cancer Society's annual Relay for Life at the Omaha Sports Complex. The 12 hours of exercise, fun and games challenged participants to stay up all night and raise money for cancer research. Many Central students and teachers formed teams with friends and family to participate in the excitement.

At the opening ceremony at 6 p.m., teams watched as cancer survivors walked a lap by themselves and then with their caregivers. The committee announced team names and kicked off the night with energetic music. Each team was then called to join in on the makeshift track to show their support.

Throughout the night, at least one team member from each team was expected to walk the track at all times to symbolize the emotional and physical hardships that cancer patients go through during their treatments. Additionally, all teams were asked to stay awake all night, which would represent a cancer patient giving up their fight once and for all.

Prior to the event, teams individually raised money to donate to the American Cancer Society. Typically, each team member was asked to raise \$100 for the cause. The results were announced during the night as teams celebrated their hard work, even though the money

will only be a fraction of the amount needed to find a cure for cancer. Even though the cause itself was very serious, participants still had fun by taking place in various games and activities. Giant circles for duck, duck, goose and lap tag were quite common. There were also parachutes, hula hoops, balloons and sporting equipment to keep teams occupied.

At 10 p.m., the luminaria ceremony began. The complex was darkened and the track was lit with glow sticks to honor those who passed from cancer. Survivors and family members told stories of cancer diagnoses, treatments, triumphs and hardships that revolved around cancer. "All the cancer victims and their families got to share their stories," freshman Jack Doody explained. "It was very inspirational and reminded me of why I was there." Students, parents and teachers lit their own glow sticks and walked silent laps to remember the deceased.

Those making announcements and hosting these small activities were volunteers, many of whom were Central students. Other Central students had heard about the event and decided to participate as well. "I decided to go to Relay for Life because I wanted to do something to help the victims of cancer," said Doody. He mentioned that almost everyone has been impacted by the negative aspects of cancer in some way and that "we all know somebody who has been affected by cancer."

Sophomore Julia Gigliodoro decided to join the event for the same reason that many others came out: "My grandma had breast cancer so

I wanted to help raise money to help beat cancer," she said. Gigliodoro and Doody both plan on gathering larger groups for next year to join in on the fun and raise some money to beat cancer.

A few other activities helped the American Cancer Society fundraise more money at relay. Participants could pay amounts of cash to put anyone they desired in "jail," meaning they could not leave the makeshift cell until someone from the outside paid a bail of the equivalent amount. Teachers from Central, including Marcella Mahoney and Joe Mickeliunas, were jokingly cast into jail by a couple of Central students.

Also, the "Miss Relay" event gathered one boy from each team in their comical runway show. Team members dressed their boys as women and sent them out to the front of the track to answer pageant questions, show off their dresses and makeup and walk the runway with beauty and grace. As they strutted their stuff, audience members threw coins and dollar bills at their favorite contestants, which ultimately decided who won.

The night was full of fun, but no participant forgot the real reason why they went: to fight cancer. "I think everybody should participate because it is not much work to raise money and you could potentially change people's lives," Doody said. People who attended the event encourage others to come and join the fun, but also remember cancer is no joke and all action should be taken to beat disease.



Photos Courtesy of Emily Beck/CHS O-Book

Top: Free Spirit Writers are honored. Bottom Left: Beck with two staff members accept First Place for Best In-Depth at UNO. Bottom Right: At JEA Conference, Beck wins award for Review Writing.

Editor awarded Nebraska Student Journalist of the Year

By Natalie Nepper
STAFF WRITER

Senior and editor-in-chief of The Register, Emily Beck, was awarded the 2014 Nebraska Student Journalist of the Year. This accomplishment took years of reporting and layout designing to earn, but overall, Beck's dedication to journalism made it all worthwhile.

As a freshman, Beck "vowed" to join staff and make the paper better than ever. After seeing Central student Jayde Balentine receive Nebraska State Journalist of the Year when Beck was a sophomore, she was determined to accept the same award when she reached her senior year.

Over the summer, she decided to redesign The Register in hopes of creating a better layout—and one that would win awards. "The Register has drastically improved," Beck noted. "The staff has grown in number and in skill, and, not to toot my own horn, but the design is pretty modern and pleasing to the eye."

Advisor of The Register and O-Book, Hillary Blayney, explained that without Beck's reliability and contribution to staff, the paper just wouldn't be what it is today. "The Register is more modern looking and more reader friendly. She is constantly thinking about our student and teacher readers," Blayney said.

Receiving Journalist of the Year for Nebraska is arguably one of Beck's greatest journalism accomplishments, but she also claims that her acceptance into the Al Neuharth Free Spirit Journalism Conference and joining The Register staff in the first place were some of the more significant milestones in her newspaper experience.

To receive such a prestigious award, Beck had to create a portfolio of over 40 work samples. Her physical copy included 10 examples of the four categories: writing, design, photography and multimedia/open. She noted that it was a lot of work and very time consuming, but definitely worth it.

Also, Beck's new look of the paper earned 8th Best of Show at the 2013 National JEA Conference in Boston, beating out Omaha Westside and plenty of other papers across the U.S. She believes that The Register will continue to earn awards, even after she's left. "I really want The Register to get even better when I'm no longer leading it," Beck said.

The Register is planning on going online next year at omahacentralregister.com, to show case new stories and photos not printed in each issue. "I'm excited for the staff next year to run the website," Beck said. "I think that The Register has an exceptionally bright future, and I'm eager to see the work that will be done next year."

Blayney agreed that her accomplishments, including Nebraska State Journalist of the Year of the year, "set the bar high for future editors." However, "Emily has left The Register in good, able hands."

Next year, Beck will be attending Indiana University in Bloomington. "I was accepted to the Ernie Pyle Scholars program, which is the most elite part of J-school," she explained. "They accept about 20 kids per year, and it was another dream of mine to be one of those kids."

Beck's plans for the future aren't quite set in stone, but she wants to "dabble in design, reporting, radio, photojournalism and foreign correspondence." She hopes to find a career in the journalism field some day.

arts & entertainment

Dreams are reality for breakdancer



Photo Courtesy of Moses Nebalasca

Nebalasca practices a dance routine outside.

By Trenay Newsome
STAFF WRITER

Break dancing for Moses Nebalasca is a calling. Nebalasca is a Central alumnus who graduated in 2011.

Nebalasca spent his afternoons as a child dancing; starting at the age of three but did not have a certain style yet. "I fell in love with the art form of break dancing my freshman year of high school," said Nebalasca.

While Nebalasca spent his afternoons dancing away to the beat of the music, he continues to do the same as a young adult, but with more defined goals.

There is not one day he isn't practicing, bettering his moves. "I practice every day, but even in my free time I am dancing; at work, at home and in the studio," said Nebalasca.

"I plan on opening my own studio. In the studio I will teach anyone or any age how to dance," said Nebalasca. In preparation of opening his own studio, he has set smaller goals for himself to achieve. He plans on working

CONTINUE TO 'DANCE'
ON PAGE 8



ROADSHOW TURNS 100

Left: 1987 Roadshow shows a quartet of gentlemen performing. Top Right: Senior Erin Rhoten practices for her baton routine. Bottom Right: Eaglettes dance team members entertain at the 1969 Roadshow.

By Georgia Chambers
STAFF WRITER

The 100th Annual Roadshow is scheduled for Friday, May 2, 2014 at 7 p.m. and Saturday, May 3, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

The Alumni Roadshow, new this year to help celebrate the 100th Roadshow, is scheduled for Thursday, May 1, 2014.

The Roadshow is a talent and variety show that showcases talent in students that one might know they have by looking at them. Acts may vary all the way from a rehearsed dance routine to a humorous monologue.

Scott Mead, performing arts director, is set to make this the best Roadshow so far by giving it their full attention and by having a variety of acts showcasing the history of both Central and the country's past.

"We are really trying to showcase the talent we

have at CHS," Mead stated.

Since this Roadshow is setting the expectation of being one of the best, or the best, more time and effort has been needed.

Planning for this show takes a lot of time and effort working out even the smallest details.

"We started our planning at the end of last school year and over the past summer," Mead stated.

CHS Singers, the Central band and strings quartet and Advanced Drama all have an official spot in this year's Roadshow.

Other student acts are scheduled to audition to see if their acts will be chosen to be performed in the talent show.

Mead said he wishes to "showcase the talent we have at CHS... We have a lot of acts auditioning--three days of acts." The auditioning process will feature a plethora of people to judge the performances. Over the span of the three auditioning



Photos Courtesy of The CHS Foundation's O-Book Archives

dates, only the best of the best will be chosen.

The difference between that and the Alumni Roadshow is that the Alumni talent and variety show will showcase previous Central High School students that have returned to audition for their spotlight on stage.

Rehearsals have been scheduled to, if the acts make it, sharpen the acts and ready the performers for the live show.

Mead said the stage crew has also been working just as hard to make his ideas come to life.

"The crew has been working hard to create, plan, build and prepare for our show," Mead stated. Since they are "going big," crew's undivided attention is needed to make the set pieces and give their input to make the show look as professional as possible.

Another difference in this year's Roadshow is

CONTINUE TO 'ROADSHOW'
ON PAGE 8

Upcoming starlet in R&B genre uplifts spirits of listeners with poetic vibe

Better than Amy Winehouse and Lana Del Rey by a long run is 26-year-old Los Angeles born singer Jhene Aiko. As an R&B and soul artist, she's an upcoming starlet.

After collaborating with hip-hop and R&B favorites such as SchoolBoy Q and Drake, she's grown in popularity with her EP "Sail Out." The EP was released in November 2013 under Def Jam records, but is just recently gaining popularity after her song "The Worst" has been playing non-stop on radio stations across the nation.

Aiko's influences are marijuana (slightly) and other artists such as Kid Cudi, Kendrick Lamar and Aaliyah. However, marijuana plays the biggest role for her creativity.

I don't necessarily believe that's the best way to flow, perse; however, I do know she's not the only celebrity who does (Wiz Khalifa).

Artists such as Tupac, Kid Cudi, Kendrick Lamar and Aaliyah, she

often admits, are big influences. She is known for rapping just as the artists she enjoys have inspired her to do.

On "The Worst," she ends with a little rap that is subtle, but just plainly dope. Her alter ego is "J. Hennessy," who she takes the form of when she raps.

"Comfort Inn" is a freestyle in which she sang instead of rapped. It's a powerful song that can easily place the listener in a teary eyed and swollen emotional state. You can feel her pain as she describes a relationship in which she felt like she was the "only one."

Some of the song goes: "And I was not the only one/I was not the only one to you/But I was the only lonely one/Really we had the perfect end."

She asked in the song, "Why would you call this love when you knew that it wasn't?" which moved me as a listener because I've never heard such a poetic line in a song.

Listeners can hear and recognize all of her influences on her EP

"Sail Out" and her mixtape "Sailing Souls."

"Sailing Souls" debuts her mirage of influences and singularity as an artist. The popular songs are "2 Seconds," "Wait No More" and "Higher" as I mentioned.

The tracks are filled with the soothing ways of Aaliyah, the vulgarity of Kendrick Lamar and Kid Cudi's music and the absolute realness that Tupac used to spit. Altogether, she ties it in with her own new sound.

On "Sailing Souls," she had the opportunity to later collaborate with one of her inspirations, Kendrick Lamar. When the song was remixed, Aiko only sang for the chorus, but the two made an amazing single that unfortunately has not been played on radios... yet.

She received another opportunity to collaborate with more influential rappers Kendrick Lamar and Childish Gambino.

"Stay Ready" is such a fitting song to the genre that she and other

CONTINUE TO 'R&B'
ON PAGE 8

High school poets slam in Louder Than a Bomb poetry festival

By Micah Martin
STAFF WRITER

Central's poetry slam team has played a role in local slam competition Louder Than a Bomb since the event came to Omaha in 2011.

"This is young people writing original poetry about topics that they care about and coming together to perform their work in a team competition," said Deron Larson, LTAB sponsor.

The youth poetry festival was first started in Chicago by Kevin Coval, who is now called "the city's unofficial poet laureate."

About three years ago, members of the Nebraska Writers Collective Matt Mason and Andrew Ek had the vision to bring the competition to Omaha. From there, Louder Than a Bomb: Great Plains was born.

This version of the group started its first year with only 13 teams, and now has around 30 teams participating. The Great Plains competition runs in March and April. The overall mission behind this festival is to make young people aware of the art of poetry, and the fact that they can create it.

"It gives them the opportunity to be themselves and

share themselves through words," said Larson.

Junior Jenny Freeman participates in LTAB and called the whole experience exhilarating. "Every poet from every school is so incredibly talented. There are poems that make you laugh, others that make you cry. Just being part of LTAB is an absolute thrill!" she said.

In all, LTAB consists of workshops for writing and performances, meetings and competitions. Central's team of eight students has a weekly meeting after school starting at 3:30 p.m. every Wednesday, which helps them prepare for competition.

At these meetings, the team usually does writing prompts, shares poetry and offers feedback from both students' and coaches' perspectives. Central's coach is Greg Harries, the Omaha Entertainment Association's winner for best slam poet in Omaha.

"In Louder Than a Bomb, there is an opportunity to see editing and development of work with input from other students and the coach. That possibility of watching language develop is the thing that I enjoy the most," said Larson.

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ON PAGE 8



Sydney Spangrud | The Register

Senior Lindsay Wilson performs a poem at Central's second Louder Than a Bomb bout at UNO.



MUSIC SCENE

page 8

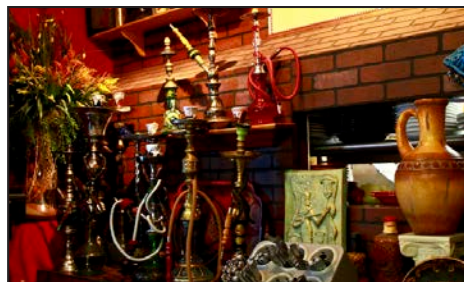
See what is required for minors to attend music shows at different venues.



WE BE LIONS

page 9

Omahan band We Be Lions discuss their newest album and their continuous success.



ETHNIC FOOD

page 12

Authentic restaurants from all over the world in Omaha offer a different experience.

I'M WITH THE BAND

AN INSIDE LOOK AT HOW OMAHA'S YOUTH INTERACTS WITH AREA MUSIC VENUES

By Kelsey Thomas
STAFF WRITER

If you are under 21, you can go to a concert at the Century Link without question. The Century Link rarely features artists without a song on the Top 20 charts.

For instance, a band such as Bright Eyes or Regina Spektor is very unlikely to have a show there.

Big names like Katy Perry or Justin Timberlake are quite common, though.

If someone wishes to see an independent artist in a more intimate setting and a less commercial performance, there are several other places in the Metro Area where one can attend.

But being allowed in if you're a minor has several obstacles.

Slowdown on 14th and Cuming near T.D. Ameritrade Park features bands and performers weekly. All ages are allowed in, but some road blocks are put up.

Any person 18 or older may enter with only an ID of some sort, whether it is a driver's license or another state ID. Anyone 17 or younger must also have an ID, but also must have a signed permission form on file.

This form is a slip signed by a parent or guardian that also must be signed in the presence of a notary.

At The Waiting Room, located on 62nd and Maple, the situation is similar.



Maya Durfee O'Brien | The Register

At venues that sell alcohol, minors' hands are stamped so that they cannot drink. Above is Slowdown's hand stamp.

There, a minor must also have a permission slip on file. The process at Sokol Auditorium is exactly the same.

A city ordinance was put into place on April 30, 2008 that regulated the process of letting minors attend events such as

concerts or other performances in a place where alcohol is also sold.

In addition to the notarized forms and permission slips, minors may also be forced to pay extra money to attend an event.

This may be an extra fee of \$5-10 added on to the already high ticket price.

Venues add on a fee for minors because they cannot purchase alcohol legally.

If a large amount of a concert's attendees are unable to purchase alcohol, the venue will lose revenue unless they add on another sum to pay.

At places like Sokol Auditorium and Slowdown, they are very strict about alcohol and minors. At Slowdown, the staff marks a large black sign on your hand that signifies that you are a minor.

If someone were to try to rub the sign off and try to buy alcohol and they were underage, there's a chance that police are contacted.

Always, though, the person is banned from the club.

There are other venues offered in Omaha also available to minors. Capitol, a club located across the street from the Century Link Center sometimes has underage nights.

A few years ago, Night Storm parties were particularly popular to middle school students, but now attending a Night Storm "party" is something that would draw ridicule from peers.

Night Storm had a DJ and was packed into small spaces with an underage trying to look and act a lot older than they actually are.

In Omaha, minors have to work a little harder to see bands they love.

There are notarized forms that need to be turned in and extra fees that must be paid. The reward of seeing your favorite bands or singers makes all the work worth it.

Young poets at Central partake in Great Plains poetry slam festival

CONTINUED FROM 'POETRY' ON PAGE 7

Not only does this club allow students to gain confidence through performing poetry, but it also allows them to grow as writers.

The competitions are structured so there are five rounds in what is called about. Four of these rounds consist of individual poems, while the fifth one is a group piece.

However, this year teams can also decide to do duets or additional group pieces.

During these rounds, there is a bout manager that oversees the poets, and there are random people from the audience that are picked as judges who score the pieces of poetry.

Four schools compete in each group with a team of no more than 10 students.

At the end of each bout, the poems are scored, determining the

rank of each school. Despite the fact that the competitions are a large part of LTAB, Freeman said, "The key is to focus on the poetry, not the competition. It's not only much more fun that way, but in the end it's a better strategy."

Larson added that to succeed in the competitions, poets have to also be confident in themselves and committed to not only memorizing the words they had written, but also shaping how they truly want those words to impact the audience.

"This is an opportunity for students to voice their opinions. There is nobody who can say, 'You can't do this' as long as you are willing to walk up on the stage and say what you need to say," said Larson.

LTAB is a way for students to participate in something that allows them to use their passion for words through the art of poetry. "I wish more people knew what LTAB was and what it's about! It's honestly such an amazing experience," said Freeman.

LTAB is expected to take poetry to a whole new level and beyond recitation as opposed to other poetic competitions. "This is young people sharing what is in their heart, with the conviction of, 'I want you all to know this, because this is who I am,'" added Larson. Freeman shared a similar thought, saying LTAB was a great outlet to express one's self though an art form.

Larson said, "Seeing someone come to the first meeting because they are interested in poetry but never considered standing up in front of an audience and sharing, get to the place where they are standing in front of a room full of people enjoying themselves and making other people hang on their every word, there is nothing else like it! That makes the time that we spend worthwhile."

The Louder Than a Bomb's motto illustrates what this poetry festival is all about: "The point is not the points, the point is the poetry."

Roadshow celebrates 100th birthday

CONTINUED FROM 'ROADSHOW' ON PAGE 7

the media it may attract.

Since this has been an annual affair for 100 years, it is a huge part of history and unique from many other high schools.

Mead and Assistant Principal Dionne Kirksey have been working together to get the word out and announce the event through various media sources.

Kirksey herself has been busy persistently speaking with local news stations so that as many people as possible know about this talent and variety

show—before and after.

"We had the Channel 1 News come and do a story on the alumni auditions. We have another news station that will be coming to do a news story on the student auditions. [We are] also hoping to get a radio and newsprint coverage of our 100th Annual Roadshow," Mead said.

This show will serve as a vital piece of Central history and this show will be remembered for countless years to come.

Students and alumni alike are encouraged to attend the historical event taking place in May.

Aiko provides newer style of R&B

CONTINUED FROM 'R&B' ON PAGE 7

artists such as Frank Ocean have created. It's called PBR&B (a mix of Rock, R&B) and can be described as contemporary R&B.

When I first caught wind of Jhene Aiko, I was watching a make-up tutorial on YouTube and couldn't even pay attention because of the song in the background.

I soon learned it was called "Higher." Afterwards, I searched the song and found others such as "2 Seconds" and "Wait No More" and fell in love with her.

I was surprised to know the soft, but strong voice came from a petite little lady like herself. She's

extremely pretty and I haven't met anyone who didn't vibe with her music.

Unfortunately, Jhene Aiko writes a lot of her music under the influence of marijuana; however, I think that it contributes to her creativity and makes her music better.

I feel guilty saying that, but it makes sense being that that's what the song "Higher" is basically talking about. That's probably her only flaw, but she's still sensational.

Throughout this particular EP (album) and her mixtaper, Jhene Aiko has set a grand platform for herself that is going to be admired more and more as people discover her music. She has a talent that's easy to recognize and therefore can put out music that's easy to vibe to anyone.

Central alum joins dance group, competes

CONTINUED FROM 'DANCE' ON PAGE 7

at a studio full-time in about a year.

"I have taken interest in a few studios around town but none of them had any recent openings," said Nebalasca.

Nebalasca would like to attend Columbia College in Chicago, Ill. Columbia College has a focus in the arts and media education, which would be an ideal college for a dancer.

He would attend Columbia not because he wanted to teach others to dance, but rather, to have more of a hands-on experience.

"I just plan to focus on my dancing for the most part and accomplish my short-term goal, which leads to my long-term goal," said Nebalasca.

Nebalasca has a group called Get That ENT.; they have been together for three or four years.

There are three other members in the group:

Eric Pugh, Chris Kellogg and Shaq Jones: two of them being Central Alumni graduating with the class of 2012.

Get That ENT.'s most recent competition was in September of 2013.

They took first place in the Step It Up Talent Show. The next competition they compete in will be in April of 2014, this competition is called Shut Up and Dance.

"We all have our own personal goals. We plan on competing together, as much as possible," said Nebalasca.

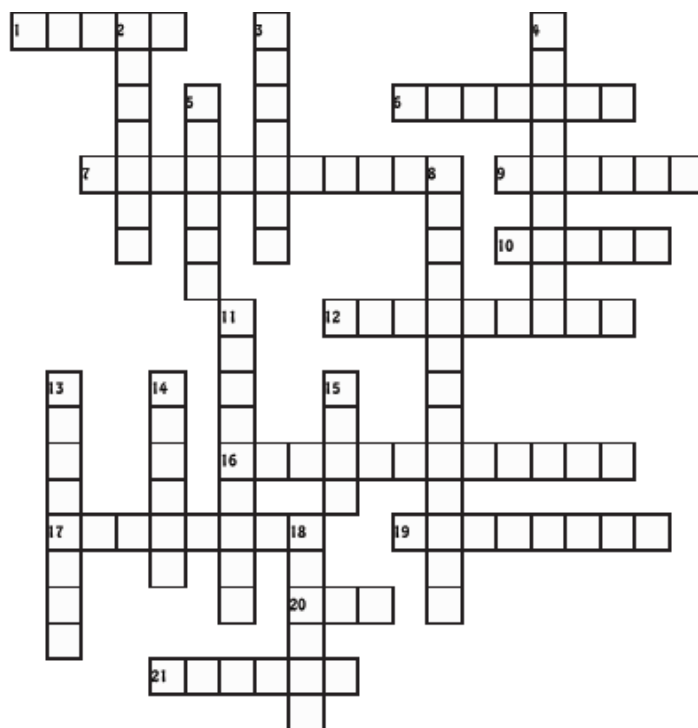
Nebalasca has his dreams and goals mapped out, with smaller goals to achieve the bigger picture of his dancing dream.

On the road of catching his dreams, he is focusing on his dancing, doing the thing he loves while also bettering himself.

The Register's Crossword Puzzle

Find the answers to the clues in stories throughout the paper! Snip out your puzzle when finished and bring it down to 029 during 6th or 7th hour--the first three who do will win a \$5 gift card to Starbucks.

**Members of The Register/O-Book staff not eligible.



Across

- Central's only sport club.
- FBLA national placer.
- Omaha-based band's album title.
- NFL Viking.
- Senior with a unique, favorite sport.
- Breakdancing alumnus.
- Running for the cure.
- Dancing team.
- This country is at a loss.
- Program that has raised \$2,000 for hospital donations.
- UNO-bound track player.

Down

- UNO sophomore--music major.
- A new problem surfacing the LGBT community.
- Varsity sisters.
- New soccer coach.
- Seeing the rainbow--and more.
- Shailene Woodley's lead role.
- Momumental birthday of this historical event.
- Anti-gay church founder.
- Poetry competition.
- Author and teacher.

By Cheyenne Alexis
COPY EDITOR

WELCOMING WE BE LIONS



Photo Courtesy of We Be Lions

OMAHA-BASED BAND RELEASES SOPHOMORE ALBUM "FINGERPRINT"

By Maya Durfee O'Brien
STAFF WRITER

We Be Lions, a band that has been active since 2010, is releasing a new album. The band was featured in the Omaha World Herald as the newspaper's band of the week. Their new album, "Fingerprint," will be released soon. The band is composed of newer members, as well as the veteran lead singer Cody Fox. The band is now composed of Fox, Jacob Pirruccello, Kelvin Brooks, Mike Novy and Ricky Szablowski.

"We've been in the writing process for about a year, been recording for the last three months. It's really this band's first album together," said Pirruccello, bass. Pirruccello is not on the first album along with two other newer band members. "We recorded at a couple different places. Drums at ARC, all the rest of the tracks and vocals at infinite productions," said Pirruccello.

This group of guys haven't been playing together for all that long: "It's been about two years with this particular group of people," said Pirruccello. "In 2010 when they first formed, it had different people and they played for about a year." Then two and a half years later, the other members that are in the band now joined.

"It's driving music; driving bass lines with two guitars, harmonies with the guitars, Cody's singing - a lot of melodies," said Pirruccello. Their music also features heavy riffs, which is somewhat influenced by Rage Against the Machine. There are pop elements as well which tie all together to form the rock vibe the band gives off, and the sound that is created. "He [Fox] raps in some of the songs," said Pirruccello.

The group has experimented with different music styles and songs

before. "We've got sweet songs, real pretty--ballads almost," said Pirruccello.

Pirruccello said he is most inspired by Red Hot Chili Peppers. The bass sounds always attracted him to the music, which translated over to his own playing and his own work. 311 and Jimi Hendrix are also influences that inspire the band's music. "I picked up an old bass from a friend when I was about 14, put it in the corner of my room for a year and looked at it. Then I started playing along with Rage [Against the Machine] albums. And then throughout the last 10 years I've been in various bands in Omaha playing with really talented musicians," said Pirruccello.

The members of We Be Lions are more serious about their band now than their other types of projects. The communication of the band, the goal setting and the overall ideals of the bands helped contribute to their commitment to music.

The band usually tours in the Midwest. "It's great that now you don't have to go to California to make it," said Pirruccello. With the help of the internet, bands are able to post their songs on Myspace and other forms of media. The best part about touring for the band is being able to get the word out about their music, as well as being able to share the stage with other great bands.

The album is called "Fingerprint" because of the fact that they are trying to make their figurative fingerprint on the world, or the music scene in general.

To support the band, anyone can listen to their album (free on iTunes), go to their shows and introduce their music to the public. Criticize it, praise it, but just get the word out. They will be internally grateful.

Anime movie teaches life lessons through heartbreak, emotions



CHEYENNE ALEXIS
ARIGATO

By Cheyenne Alexis
COPY EDITOR

I love watching movies, but I've always been picky with everything I watch, because otherwise, what is the point of wasting time watching a movie I don't even enjoy?

I like doing my research on movies or shows that are interesting, funny or will make me really, really think and analyze them. If a movie does none of that, I find no point to continue it.

My favorite types of movies and shows are cartoons and anime. Without anime, I would not be living the happy life I've grown to love.

I've been watching anime since I was in seventh grade, and through my experience, I have only watched a couple of shows and finished them.

As I said, I'm picky, and if an anime is boring, has a ton of "fillers" (which are random episodes that are put in there to prepare for the climax), has too much sadness for me to handle or is just plain stupid, I don't watch them.

My sister also watches anime, though she prefers anime movies. She once told me about this movie called "Grave of the Fireflies" which, when explained by her, sounded horribly sad.

I'm not fond of many anime movies because I can never get into them as much as some shows, and truthfully, this movie was no exception at the time because it sounded too depressing.

But alas, we made a bet, and I had to watch the movie.

I dove into the movie thinking, "Well, I know exactly what this movie is about and how it's going to end, so I'll probably just feel sad at the end and not think anything of it."

"Sad" was the understatement of this movie. "Grave of the Fireflies" is based on a semi-autobiography of the same name by Akiyuki Nosaka. It is set in Japan during WWII, in which there was a scarcity of food and shelter for the Japanese citizens towards the end of the war.

The movie focuses on siblings Seita and Setsuko, Seita the older brother who is responsible for his younger sister, Setsuko, after their mother dies.

The movie follows their story of trying to survive without a mother and, really, anyone else.

You become instantly attached to the children and of course, feel the pain of their lack of food and how badly they want to eat, which leads to malnutrition and starvation in both children.

Afterwards, when Setsuko becomes sick, the pain of Seita's inability to do anything for her sets you off and you become depressed. And (spoiler) at the end, when Seita is left alone in the world after his sister perishes, you break down.

This was me. I bawled like an infant for at least 10 minutes and there is not a day that goes by where I don't get choked up from remembering the four-word sentences said by Seita that absolutely destroyed my happy glands: "She never woke up."

I wouldn't wish any of the people I dislike to watch it, because they would turn into sacks of babies. And if people who watch this did not cry, they have no soul. None whatsoever.

Those who say things about cartoons and anime being "just cartoons" are all missing out on some truthfully captivating shows and movies. And, this movie is a semi-autobiography, so it technically wasn't "just a cartoon."

The movie struck several nerves inside me, and I have yet to get over it (it's been months since I've seen the movie, if that is any indication).

However, though the movie made me want to crawl inside a hole and weep for eternity, I've learned a thing or two about appreciation. First, I learned to not waste food and to appreciate what I have, and no other movie has ever done that.

I learned Seita is the best big brother ever and my older siblings suck compared to him. Contradictory to that, I will not ever, ever, rely on my pride to do the thinking for me, because though I loved Seita as a protagonist, he was too proud to seek help and could have saved Setsuko had he done so.

This movie did the deed of making me feel such a deeply engraved emotion that I will never, ever get with another movie.

There have only been a few others that have made the cut (mostly cartoons) and none will ever affect me like "Grave of the Fireflies."

It's funny how I've learned from an anime movie overall that I should definitely not take things for granted and I should happily love the fact that I have a mother, food and siblings who are awesome.

Emotional movies, whether they make me feel depressed, overjoyed or any other complex emotion, are those I will watch over and over and love forever, and just because they're movies doesn't mean they can't become part of me.

But I'm never watching that movie again so long as I am an anime fan.

Lorde becomes Westboro church's next target

It all started with the catchy, yet somewhat annoying song "Royals." With that, New Zealand native Lorde reached stardom in worldwide. Since then, parodies have been made based on her song, but no one can deny that the now 17-year-old has had more success than most.

Her album, "Pure Heroine," gave Lorde an even bigger success. With two Grammy nominations that resulted in wins, she quickly became a household name. Now that all the attention was on her, rumors about her age were starting to float to the surface.

Was she really 16? Her appearance at the Grammy's made her look like a thin, 40-year-old drug addict; her all black wardrobe didn't help either. It was cringe-worthy.

Even so, the teenage star has gained numerous fans, myself included. She's soon to take the United States by storm with her tour that's sure to be a success.

There are those who don't like Lorde, which is understandable. Some take it to the next level and protest her concerts, which is not quite right.

The Westboro Baptist Church is planning to picket the young singer's March 21 show in Kansas City, Mo. But I guess that isn't quite shocking, knowing that it's the Westboro Baptist Church; I mean, they protest everything.

Yet, what's more surprising is that church parodied her song "Royals," and let me tell you, it's terrible. It features lyrics that are outright dumb, and two women who do not have the vocal capacities Lorde does. In turn, they have made "Royals" into an anthem for those against homosexuals. What was originally a denunciation of pop culture, Westboro Baptist Church turned into a "foreshadowing" of the apocalypse and a threat for sinners like Lorde.

Westboro Baptist Church is protesting against Lorde because she

"doesn't have enough sense to put in a thimble," the church said in a statement on their website.

Though it seemed Lorde wasn't at all discouraged by what they plan on doing. She posted tweets that have since been deleted, encouraging fans to wear bright clothes, specifically rainbow. She also encouraged her fans via Twitter to "try to kiss church members who are same sex as you they will so love it..."

I applauded her for not being discouraged and instead dealing with the matter in a humorous way. I'm sure Lorde's fans will attend the show, wear rainbow inspired outfits and try to irritate the church members as much as possible.

Westboro Baptist Church is famous for picketing military funerals, concerts and their radical ideologies, especially against homosexuals. Though most don't pay much attention to the church, many know that their actions are absurd and don't give way to their needs.

It's ridiculous that they are wasting their time picketing a concert instead of passively preaching their beliefs to others. They should stop picketing concerts because in the end, they will be the ones losing. Most of the fans at Lorde's show will be more interested in the start and her music rather than some crazy people outside the venue.

I say more people need to be like Lorde--she's not afraid to stand up for herself.

Instead of taking their statements seriously, she confronts them with an air of humor.

She knows these comments won't hurt her in any way and she also knows that not all of her fans will be bothered by the negative comments the church is trying to give her.

Lorde knows what she's doing. She has gained so much success that we should focus on her talent rather than some absurd church members.



SAN JUANA PARAMO
HAKUNA MATATA

Sophomore preaches acceptance through Pride Players program

By Stephanie Paul
STAFF WRITER

The Omaha Rose Theater has many different programs for the young minds of the Omaha community; they even have programs for teens in the community called Teens 'N' Theater.

The program offers teens the chance to participate in shows throughout the school year. It also offers seniors in high school the opportunity to intern at the Rose.

Their Teens 'N' Theater program has become popular in the Central community. Sophomore Samuel Planck has participated in a special show at the Rose which is a part of the Teens 'N' Theater program.

The show Planck is in is called "Pride Players: Project 15." The show has been coming back to the Rose's stage for 15 years.

"It is a great show; there's a lot of jokes that anyone can laugh at and the actors can express themselves without being criticized," said Planck.

Pride Players is an improvisation group that explores what it is like to be part of the LGBT or straight-allied community as a teen in Omaha.

The Pride Players explore their feelings and experiences of what it is like to be in the community by creating songs, skits, poetry and monologues.

"It gives students a way to express what they feel and discuss the problems that they face in school," said Planck.

The group gets together several times a week at the Rose to work on the performances they will have at the end of the month.

When they meet up, the group works on skits they want to put in the show about issues they encounter in the community with being part of the LGBT. They also show how they deal with the world around them in their skits.

“It gives students a way to express what they feel and discuss the problems that they face in school.”

SAMUEL PLANCK
Teens 'N' Theater participant

Planck found out about the show because his older sister was in it for her last three years of high school.

He saw his sister having fun with the program, and once he was old enough to join the drama troupe, he thought he would personally check it out.

Planck had a lot of friends through the show and decided to go back for a second year. "I have always have had fun," he said.

"Pride Players: Project 15" is the only show that Planck has done at the Rose. Planck has not been involved in the drama program at Central, but he has been a part of local theaters around the Omaha area other than the Rose.

Five years ago at the Bellevue Little Theater, Planck was involved in a production of "Oliver."

Then at the Omaha Community Playhouse three years ago, he was part of "A Christmas Carol."

Even though Planck has not had a lot of experience in the theater business, he wants to continue to be in the Pride Players production until his senior year.

He also hopes to become part of the Rose Theater in a more involved way. Planck hopes to become an intern his senior year through the Teen Internship program.

He said, "I think it would be a lot of fun and very helpful to get some college experience."

The young actor hopes that more of the Central community becomes a part of Pride Players next year, since he is the only Central student in the production.

Final farewell leads to spin-off



NATALIE NEPPER
NOT GONNA LIE

The popular television series "How I Met Your Mother" defined modern sitcoms with its unique running gags and hilarious cast. Now, it has come to an exciting close after nine long seasons on air. Not every show gets to end on its own terms, but then again, "How I Met Your Mother" is the kind of devised genius that created its own rules.

One of these rules was stretching the entire ninth season into a time period of only 56 hours. Set in preparation for Barney and Robin's wedding, each episode flashes back to the past, glimpses into the future, ties up loose ends or works to keep the story rolling in the modern day. To other shows, cramming in a bunch of unanswered questions into a short time period is difficult to pull off. However, the final season showed off a few things the audience had been dying to see—and some things they weren't too interested in.

The character development of Barney showed his good intentions and sweet heart, especially when he said his vows. Be careful of this spoiler alert, but all of the work that the screenwriters put in this season was absolutely spoiled by the final episode.

In the final episode, Ted packs up and plans to head to Chicago to start a new chapter of his life. However, he finally meets the mother at the train station. Her name, Tracy McConnell, was finally revealed. I was surprised her name was Tracy to be completely honest; it just didn't seem to fit.

But despite this, I was glad to finally see Ted and Tracy's flashforwards, which revealed their life together. It isn't until the mother unexpectedly dies in a single scene from an unknown "sickness" that I began to think the writers went wack.

Then, Barney and Robin split after three years of a happy marriage. Her success in the world of media tore them apart. Their split completely crushed me. After nine years of making viewers hate Ted and Robin's relationship, everyone was happy to see the "changed" Barney and Robin plan to live happily ever after.

And then it got worse. Barney, who had been usually caring and honest this season, did a complete 360 and changed back to Barney from the first season. He hooked up with 30 different women in one month, getting the last one pregnant. At the birth of his daughter, he confessed his love for his baby girl, and we never find out who her mother is.

Because the writers had written this episode directly after the first episode, they hadn't considered the fact that the characters would change so much. In the moment that Ted's kids persuade him to date "Aunt Robin," my heart shatters. He shows up at her house with the blue french horn given to her on the first date. That's where it ends forever.

The show, which was once about the yellow umbrella mystery girl, the mother, had turned into the story of the blue french horn girl, Robin Scherbatsky. It was terrible.

Naturally, CBS is feeling the heat because of their loss to one of their most popular sitcoms (that had an awful ending I might add). Writers from the show came together with producers and decided to create a spin-off series titled "How I Met Your Dad." The name itself is cringe-worthy—shouldn't it have been called "How I Met Your Father"? Regardless, a pilot episode is expected to be released by fall of this year, giving fans another taste of the comical genius they missed in the last series.

"How I Met Your Dad" will star Greta Gerwig, playing the messy and unpredictable Sally. The first episodes will follow her during a recent breakup and then eventually tag along for her husband-searching journey. Alongside Sally will be best friend and fashion blogger Juliet, played by Krysta Rodriguez. Nick D'Agosto, playing Frank, will be head of Juliet's blog and see a potential love interest in Sally. Although, if "HIMYD" is anything like "HIMYM," we know that Frank won't end up as the father.

Andrew Santino has been cast as Sally's older brother, Danny, who's described as an uptight lawyer but loving anyway. Danny's husband, Todd (Drew Tarver), is one of Sally's closest friends as well.

So far, "How I Met Your Dad" has cast some relatively unknown actors, so it'll be tricky to see if the show is successful. However, one of the most exciting factors is that this spin-off series will exist within the same world as "How I Met Your Mother," meaning the casts could potentially cross paths or visit settings common to the original series.

Although the new spin-off series sounds a little bit like a desperate cry for ratings, I have no doubt that CBS will attempt comical genius once more. But saying goodbye to "How I Met Your Mother" won't be as hard knowing that there will still be a similar format in this recent series.

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Keali French | The Register

Above: Melissa and Gina Comstock gleefully perform a duet. Left: Melissa gets into character. Right: Gina Comstock sings on stage.

TWO OF A KIND

AS THE COMSTOCK TWINS NEAR THE END OF THEIR JUNIOR YEAR, THEY LOOK BACK AT PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND AHEAD TO FUTURE PLANS

By Seth Arter
ADVERTISING MANAGER

Since an early age, Melissa and Gina Comstock have been passionate about their singing, acting and dancing hobbies.

The twins' interest in the performing arts field sparked easily due to the background of their family members.

"My grandfather was the music supervisor for OPS for a very long time and my mom did theater and music in high school and she has done community acting as well," said Melissa.

Even though the twins' father didn't participate in musical activities, he still played a key role in shaping the twins' performing arts interests.

"He loves music and so he would always take us to the theater to see musicals and so we were exposed to that," said Gina.

As the twins' family had a musical background, they wanted to give them those very

same opportunities throughout their childhood.

As children, Melissa and Gina participated in a variety of musical activities such as piano lessons and choir at church and school.

"They encouraged us to be creative," said Melissa.

The Comstock girls like singing, acting and dancing for different reasons.

"I was always more interested in the acting than I was in the singing," said Gina.

Although they have both had experience singing, Gina advanced deeper into singing once high school began.

"I'm really proud of where I'm at right now and it makes it more fun to sing duets," said Gina.

During her childhood, Melissa had earned the advanced singing roles and Gina earned the advanced acting roles. "I was able to develop my acting skills more quickly so that when I got into high school I was at a higher level than Melissa," said Gina.

As Melissa had more of the singing talent and as Gina had more of the acting talent, they were able to help one another improve.

Melissa said her favorite performance activity is singing. "I love it all for different reasons, but I suppose if I had to pick my favorite it would be singing because as of right now, I'm going into vocal performance in college," she said.

The signs of Melissa's vocal talents were prominent at a very early point in her life. As a child, she said she would come up with different songs and tunes and would sing them to herself.

On the acting side, Melissa remembers putting on costumes, playing music and then putting on performances at home.

Before becoming heavily involved in singing and acting, Melissa also danced for 13 years, but had to discontinue as high school came with a busy schedule.

Throughout high school, the Comstocks have had leads and supporting leads in plays

and musicals. Further contributing to their acting and singing careers, the twins are also involved in CHS singers and A Capella.

As sophomores, the two made it to the All State vocal music competition as well as the Wesleyan Honor Choir.

In terms of performing arts and academics, Central has had a major impact on the Comstocks.

"It's not like we would have gone here if we didn't want to; we made a conscious decision and a big part of that was academic strength and the music department," said Gina.

Central's credible reputation isn't the only thing that made the Comstocks interested in Central. Gina admires Central's vocal music department and wonders if non-vocal students realize just how special it is.

"I don't know if the student body realizes its importance," said Gina.

As the Comstocks have had a successful and busy performing arts career, there are a few performances with sentimental value behind them.

Last year's summer musical "The Secret Garden" is the performance Melissa is most proud of. "It ended up being such a gorgeous show," she said.

Not everything about the Comstocks' performing arts career has been easy.

The most challenging aspect for the Comstock girls is competition.

The idea of having to compete against friends is a tough one for the twins. "As a performing arts department, we are all really close," said Melissa. Gina also said competition is not her favorite aspect.

Another challenging aspect for the Comstocks is playing roles that aren't similar to their personalities.

"Unlike athleticism where your personality doesn't affect your ability to perform, your personality and your body affect what kind of roles you can do," said Gina.

With their different personalities, the Comstocks play different roles from one another.

Melissa usually plays the more graceful parts in plays as where Gina typically plays more of the awkward, silly parts.

The Comstocks have pondered what life would be like if they didn't have the opportunities to perform or sing together.

They agreed that their relationship wouldn't be the same without their performing arts careers.

The Comstocks are glad to have the same interests, as not all twins do. "There are twins who don't do the same things," said Melissa. Although they are different, it brings them closer together in certain ways.

"We were different enough to be interesting," said Gina, "but similar enough that we can do things together and really make something beautiful."

"Beauty Bracket" sparks backlash from teen girls



JORDAN YOUNG
I LIKE ONIONS

In light of an incident at a high school in New York, it turns out guys are sometimes just as shallow as we think they are; "we" as in females, particularly us teenage girls.

Unfortunately, a group of guys thought it would be a brilliant idea to make a March Madness style bracket displayed on an alias Twitter account that replaced college basketball teams with two girls selected from each grade, presumably based on their looks, to compete and win.

Different guys voted on the girls for a short time; however, the little episode ended quickly after a backlash from students on Twitter, commenting furiously about its absurdity. After the principal of the school discovered the account, it was quickly shut down.

Not only can this be regarded as a case of cyber-bullying, but what stands out to me the most is the mere idea of a "beauty bracket." It's basically the creation and beckoning gesture towards pure evil.

Now, boys should know girls can be quite the jealous group, and if they maybe weren't yet aware, high school can be a pretty vulnerable time for females, especially in the self-esteem department, which makes this even more blatantly messed up.

But that's stretching it, because in all truth, boys just don't understand most of the time. One of the girls that was a "contestant" in the bracket said, "They don't understand how it makes us feel."

Girls are sensitive people, end of story. If a girl were to end up on the list, there are two possible ways she could take it: she was secretly pleased or was scared of the attention and/or disgusted.

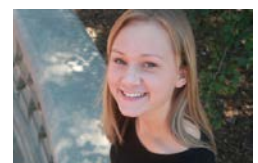
It's really all a vicious cycle because, well, it sucks to be told whether you're pretty or not by a guy, and then be turned against fellow women!

We all know though, that boys and even probably some prissy and demeaning girls have done things like this before. Rating boys, rating girls as they walk by. Shirts, shoes, skirt, butt, boobs, chest, dress, hair; whatever it is that makes someone at least think they are attracted to whomever.

I am sure that boys tend to be more obnoxious about it and honestly, that's just the way they are... sometimes.

"Sometimes" stands as my disclaimer, because no, I'm not sexist, and yes, there are great guys out there who probably wouldn't participate in rating girls (or at least not loud enough for us to hear them) and okay, boys are just... boys. But at the same time, it's not cool or entertaining. It's just stupid.

Mental health issues suddenly "cool" for teens



KELSEY THOMAS
NOT FEELIN' IT

In a world where cases of depression, eating disorders, anxiety and other mental health issues are on the rise, there seems to be a generation taking advantage of this unfortunate truth.

Teenagers, girls especially, seem to like to pretend that they are suffering from problems like these. Girls exploit those who actually suffer by throwing phrases around that portray themselves as being in dire need of help. They make posts on websites like Tumblr and Twitter, which always seem to be in the form of a small paragraph typed in vintage black font contrasting on a white background that say they are "broken" or a "wreck" or are "utterly alone." Although there are many teenagers that suffer from feelings like that, the number of girls that claim to have such a terrible mental state is exceptionally high. I don't think someone truly suffering from suicidal thoughts wants to make it public. Why are girls doing this? Why is it suddenly cool to be sad and depressed? I don't understand it.

I feel bad for the people that actually endure conditions like depression or severe anxiety. As a result of the huge portion of girls continuing to claim things like this, people in need of help may be seen like "The Boy Who Cried Wolf"; disregarded as an attention-seeker or exaggerator. The behavior that many girls think is harmless really is not. They are putting other people at risk and giving themselves a bad name by making these posts. Anyone who is actually suffering such problems typically suffers in silence.

Websites like Tumblr aren't all bad. I know they contain funny excerpts or videos that have no ill intentions. But as someone who doesn't use Tumblr, I must say that the website has a certain reputation. It's known as a place where girls go to cry and complain and look at black and white pictures that have "deep" phrases on them.

Teenage girls need to change their way of thinking. Contrary to what they seem to believe now, it is not cute to be sad. Complaining constantly about "heartbreak" or "loneliness" when you actually are just fine is not okay, because it diminishes the validity of other people's statements that actually suffer.

It is very disappointing that so many do this. Lying about being depressed or suicidal is not cool, and should not be treated as a joke. Teenage girls are notorious for demanding attention, sure, but this is a new low.



Jordan Young | Staff Writer

tv show



Lifetime airs decent pageant reality show

Lifetime television network can officially be forgiven for producing the well-known monstrosity "Dance Moms" in light of its newest reality television show which takes a fresh look into the world of beauty pageants.

"Kim of Queens" reveals more than the common superficial facet of pageants as the sassy but well-intentioned former Miss Georgia, Kim Gravel, takes and remakes promising teenage girls into confident and blossoming young women. Along with her sister Allyson and mother Jo, the three scout teenage girls with the potential and talent to do and be something great by placing them in the running for a crown and sash.

Thankfully, there's no constant screaming, yelling, cursing or degrading criticism amongst the women, teacher and mothers alike. The pageant moms do not spend a substantial amount of time on screen. The focus is on the quirky and sometimes outright loud personalities of the girls, their talents and their growth.

Juicy and scathingly mean-hearted mama drama isn't the center; however, infamy, jealousy and anger occasionally turn their ugly heads, because what would a reality show be without a little bit of bite?

As the girls take front and center of the show by displaying their potential and current abilities in singing, rapping, dancing or other whatever else, Gravel stands right beside them in sharing, rather than overpowering, the spotlight.

title

Kim of Queens

producer: Tom Forman

station: Lifetime

rating | 9 out of 10

Take one girl for example: a spoiled brat who owned a hot-shot car, walked into a room as if she literally owned everyone and everything had the audacity to refer to Miss Gravel as something beneath her.

Gravel is a well-known coach for a reason, so sending the girl to a thrift store to shop for a pageant outfit and finally coaxing her out from beneath the façade made the girl learn a thing or two (hopefully). The girl became at least halfway likeable by the end of the episode.

The message in this show is not that beauty makes or breaks a pageant queen, nor is the end-all-be-all of a confident and successful woman. As corny as it sounds, this lies in the female's personality and the way she carries herself.

In addition, the hilarity of these episodes stand out because of the clashes which happen every so often. A soon-to-be pageant queen may cry, have a tantrum or result to eye-rolling, but Gravel's motherly way of dealing with the girls by telling them that they may not be as hot as they think but also showing genuine care and advocating for their personal betterment only helps them.

Another contributor to the humor of the show is the pageant mothers and Gravel's own family, who all have a touch of southern charm.

In a short question and answer on Lifetime's website, Gravel talks about the three of them, saying "We're three strong women. We don't take ourselves too seriously. Once you get around us and stay around a while, you want to be a part of that."

Among all the reality shows containing the standard crazy mothers, talented daughters and overbearing teachers, "Kim of Queens" shouldn't be overlooked as "one of those Lifetime shows" but regarded as a hilarious show with an unexpectedly pleasant message about self-worth and individuality.



San Juana Paramo | Staff Writer

movie



title

Divergent

director: Neil Burger

genre: Action-Adventure

rating | 8 out of 10

Anticipated film lives up to expectations

Based on the first book in Veronica Roth's bestselling trilogy, "Divergent" hit theaters as this year's most anticipated film. "Divergent" kept me at the edge of my seat as I anticipated what would happen next. It was one of the best movies I've watched this year. It will be hard for the other movies in the series to be it.

Set in a post-apocalyptic Chicago that is walled off from the rest of the world by a massive barricade, "Divergent" tells of a society divided into factions according to personality. Government is run by the Abnegation, a class that values self-sacrifice above all. Candor are your lawyers, the honest faction. Amity contains compassionate, hippie-like people who work as farmers. The Erudites work as scientists, always in the pursuit of knowledge.

In this futuristic society all adolescents are given an aptitude test that determines their faction. The story follows Beatrice Prior, who later changes her name to Tris. The heroine is played by Shailene Woodley. Though Abnegation born, she joins the Dauntless faction after discovering that she is "divergent," which means she has equal aptitude for more than one faction.

"Divergents" are seen as dangerous in this fictional dystopian society.

The first half of the film focuses on Tris's initiation into the Dauntless faction, where her skills as a Divergent draw attention, both good and bad. It is there that Tris builds friendships with other "transfers," but it is her initiation instructor Four (Theo

James) that takes her under his wings as she becomes a target from other jealous initiates.

Tris's rebelliousness attracts the attention of Erudite leader Jeanine Matthews (Kate Winslet), who is planning to overthrow the Abnegation with the help of drug induced Dauntless soldiers.

"Divergent" is a delight to the eyes, creating a very believable decaying Chicago. The costumes of the five factions allows the audience to clearly distinguish them.

Woodley's interpretation of Tris is quite believable; Woodley becomes her character and carries the film as heartthrob James draws eyes from the female audience. Both actors are able to capture what Roth created in her books.

Caleb Prior, Tris's seemingly selfless brother, is perfectly portrayed by Ansel Elgort who is able to bring to the screen a character that lovers of the books love and hate at the same time.

Ashley Judd and Tony Goldwyn, who play Caleb and Tris's parents, are magnificent in the small amount of screen time they are given. They are able to bring to life characters who are pivotal to Tris's life. All the actors stay faithfully true to the characters in the books, but lack development. Most characters are static.

The movie is also missing a lot of character development that is needed to understand what is motivating Tris and Four. There were also opportunities for the movie to add suspense and really drive home the feeling of Dauntless: stand up to the challenge or die.

"Divergent" is more about trying to find out who you really are and where you stand in a world where no one questions the system. It does not dwell on romance to the point where it consumes the movie. Tris becomes a modern day hero for young girls struggling to find their identity; something very common today.



Kira Hawkins | Staff Writer

gallery



exhibit

Poseidon and the Sea

location: Joslyn Art Museum

rating | 8 out of 10

Joslyn gallery provides mythical art

One of the newest galleries at the Joslyn Art Museum is the Poseidon and the Sea exhibit. This exhibit was displayed on Feb. 8 and will stay until May 11. It features points in the life and face of the Greek god, Poseidon.

"Poseidon and the Sea: Myth, Cult and Daily Life" is an exhibition of more than 100 works of Greek, Etruscan and Roman art produced between 800 B.C. and 400 A.D. The deep history of the subject promises to bring in more viewers, especially with the popularity of Greek mythology in modern culture.

This was organized by the Tampa Museum of Art. Poseidon and his Roman counterpart Neptune are recognizable by their tridents and the sea life that accompany them.

A major figure in Greek mythology, Poseidon was believed to have power not only over the sea, but also horses and natural disasters, like as floods and earthquakes.

He was worshipped wildly and largely, being one of the most powerful Greek gods.

The exhibition includes black and red-figure pottery along with sculptures made of terracotta, marble and precious metals, all of which are beautiful in different ways.

Also, examples of glass, mosaics, carved gems and coins are on display. A digital audio tour guide is offered to go along with one's visit to the exhibit, for one who wants an explanation but wants to go at his or her own pace.

This collection features essays by different scholars to go along with the exhibition, also provided by the Tampa Museum of Art.

The artwork and displays are loans from the public and private collections in both the United States

and Europe.

This particular exhibit has drawn attention, and is often featured on various billboards around Omaha, drawing in more visitors.

This exhibit earns an eight out of 10. It is interesting to see and fun for anyone who enjoys art, history and mythology, though to those who are not so interested, the exhibit will be just like looking at a dusty attic.

The museum is free to children ages 17 and under and \$10 for adults, which makes going a little more enticing. While this will not be as interesting to younger kids, it does hold promise to those mature enough to understand the beauty of art and the value of history.

Poseidon and the Sea offer a good look at not only the wonders of the ancient world, but at the beauty of the sea that continues to stay in the present day.

It is a great thing to do when some free time arises and you need to get out of the house. The Joslyn is a popular museum and because of this, they were able to put up the bigger exhibit.

The Joslyn has offered many good displays in the years and this is definitely one of the top ones. The museum has been very good at selecting art to show off to the public. With this latest exhibit, Joslyn tops many of its last offers.

Because of Poseidon's importance in Greek mythology, this exhibit is only made even more exciting, for the god's name is well known even now, almost 2,000 years later.

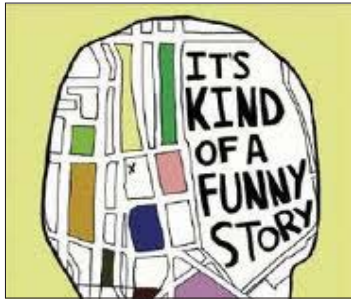
The work that was displayed was beautiful and the museum was very fortunate to be able to have the work displayed. Having the audio tour guide with the exhibit was a plus, since it was easier to go through the displays with the guide and explanations.

It is highly recommended for all mythology fans to go see this exhibit before it closes and is no longer offered to the public. The exhibit is open Tuesdays-Fridays from 10 a.m.-4 p.m. (10 a.m.-8 a.m. on Thursdays). It is an excellent opportunity and a breathtaking display.



Natalie Nepper | Staff Writer

book



title

It's Kind of a Funny Story

author: Ned Vizzini

rating | 10 out of 10

Author's legacy shines through perfect novel

"It's Kind of a Funny Story" by Ned Vizzini is the type of novel that makes you take a step back and appreciate everything you have.

Its plot, taking place within just five days, takes readers through the brain of Craig Gilner, a freshman at Executive Pre-Professional High School.

Even though Craig excelled in middle school, high school was a lot tougher than he expected it to be. Now, he is flooded with homework and fumbling over applications for summer programs and future activities.

Although the stress of high school has Craig feeling a jumble of emotions, he is everything a main character should be: comical, endearing and relatable.

Gilner's family is loving and supportive. His little sister is especially interested in Craig's well-being. However, behind his natural charm, there's a suppressed side to his personality filled with dark thoughts and clinical depression.

The inner-monologue that Vizzini created for Craig keeps this novel, and the events that take place, easy to understand (despite the heaviness of the topic itself). In fact, we learn that once upon a time, Craig Gilner was happy.

The real kind of happy too, with smiling faces and true friends. But with each turn of a page, we learn how his life turned upside down.

At the point where Craig stutters when he speaks, barely keeps food down, rarely sleeps, over-thinks and lacks motivation, it is clear that his depression will eat him alive.

Craig begins to consider jumping off the Brooklyn Bridge, a recurring thought that had never been taken seriously before. Having spent the night tossing and turning, he desperately calls 1-800-SUICIDE to get some advice. Taking note of what the advisors say,

he heads over to Argenon Hospital, only a few blocks from his house.

It is then that readers start to really feel for Craig's internal struggle. His admission to Sixth North, an adult psychiatric wing of Argenon Hospital, lets everyone know just how intense his situation is. Surrounded by anorexics, self-harmers, schizophrenics, drug users and people much crazier than he is, Craig starts to reconsider landing in a mental ward—but not before doctors inform him that there's no leaving, at least not for five more days.

This is where the real funny story begins. After bonding with others and battling his inner demons, Craig finds that art is something worth living for. As a child, Gilner's love for making maps was a key piece to his happiness. He begins to continue that fascination. One-by-one the problems that once seemed so difficult to him are minuscule in comparison to the things Sixth North patients deal with.

In fact, the events that Craig deals with are based off of Vizzini's real-life experience, where he spent five days at a mental ward during December of 2004.

He wrote "It's Kind of a Funny Story" just a few days later. In addition to being a screen-writer for MTV's "Teen Wolf," Vizzini wrote a few other books: "Be More Chill," "The Others Normals" and "House of Secrets," the novel released just a few months before Vizzini's death.

After struggling with depression all of his life, Vizzini jumped off of the building where his parents lived, at the age of 32 in December of 2013.

He was able to see "It's Kind of a Funny Story" become a movie in Anna Boden and Ryan Fleck's 2010 adaption of the film.

Although the movie made minor plot and character changes, it still managed to capture the light and heavy monologues of the book.

Despite Vizzini's unexpected death, his legacy shines through in his novels, especially "It's Kind of a Funny Story." Readers get to experience the author's, as well as the character's emotional challenges in 500 pages of pure literary genius.

"It's Kind of a Funny Story" will take everything you think you know about mental illness, turn it upside down and leave you in tears—the good kind.

Omaha's Authentic Cuisine

Some of Omaha's best local restaurants offer tastes from around the world

1 Mother India

3572 Leavenworth St

Although the building itself is small, Mother India provides Omaha citizens with a taste of true Indian cuisine.

2 Gusto Cuban Café

7910 Harrison St

With its Caribbean ambiance, it is easy to feel the relaxing vibes of this authentic restaurant, Gusto Cuban Café.

3 Mangia Italiana

6516 Irvington Road

Mangia Italiana is the perfect place for a dinner date or a family outing, where you can have the opportunity to try out some Italian cuisine.

4 Thai Spice

2933 N 108th St

Labeled as an acquired taste for many Americans, Thai food is entirely unique. If you do want to try a taste or two, then Thai Spice is the perfect place.



Sydney Spangrud | The Register

El Basha is known for its colorful atmosphere and great food.

5 El Basha Grill

7503 Pacific St

Whether you dine in, carry out or (if you're of age) smoke hookah, El Basha is the perfect place to enjoy the quality of the Mediterranean.

By Sydney Halonen and Maya Durfee O'Brien

Layout by Natalie Nepper

Bertino continues clarinet performance at UNO



Photo Courtesy of Sam Bertino

Left: Bertino (far right) and fellow band member suit up for a concert. Bertino attends UNO and is first chair. Center: Bertino and fellow UNO clarinetists. Right: Bertino practicing for an upcoming show.

By Cheyenne Alexis
COPY EDITOR

UNO sophomore Sam Bertino was not at first interested in playing an instrument, let alone the clarinet. Bertino wanted to be a landscape architect; something very far away from a career in music. Now a college student, Bertino said he doesn't even feel like the same person without his clarinet, because it almost defines who he is. "[My clarinet] really developed my personality and everything about me," said Bertino. "We're attached."

"I really love it [playing the clarinet] and I really want to do it for the rest of my life," said Bertino. "I really like how I feel when I play; I like how I express myself and I feel like I can share something with people that they don't normally get to experience." Bertino likes playing so he can be an advocate for people to come listen to classical music.

Continuing on as a first chair in UNO's band, Bertino didn't always know he would soon be faced with a decision to change his instrument during a band camp. "It was kind of, actually, a spur of the moment thing, 'cause... I played trumpet up until eighth grade," he said. Upon entering band camp, Bertino decided to change to a clarinet mostly because he wanted to play the melodies in songs rather than play a brass instrument. "I'm also not good at the trumpet at all," he said.

After the sporadic change, Bertino ended up sticking to the clarinet. "I ended up loving it," he said. Bertino can play all types of clarinets—bass, b flat and regular—and the saxophone.

Bertino attended Central all four years and graduated in 2012. In high school, Bertino was also first chair and band major and furthermore participated in all of the musicals, which he was principal of as well. "I was really involved in music here," he said. Though Central was his home school and his family attended, he wanted to come because "[Central is] an amazing school. [It has] great academics, great music department; great everything."

"Coming to Central not only kind of pushed me as a person musically and probably made me decide to be a music major, [but] it pushed me academically and socially so I was ready for college," he said. Bertino saw Central as an opportunity to showcase his music because of its supportive band directors. "We also have a great department for music theories. I really got all aspects of music and it made me decide that I was really

interested in it," he said.

Bertino's best memory attending Central was during his very first pit orchestra performance. "I played in because I never really felt like going into music... and after that first experience in the pit orchestra, I was like, 'This is really cool. I can really see myself doing this for the rest of my life,'" said Bertino.

While in college, Bertino has not stopped his music studying and playing, as he majors in Clarinet Performance. His first and second year at UNO has been "great." He has been able to have many opportunities to play, and though he goes to UNO, has been able to be involved with musicals, pit orchestras and other performances elsewhere. "It's been really great to meet a whole bunch of different musicians who have come from different parts," he said. "We all push each other as musicians."

Bertino chose UNO based on a Regent scholarship he received, which made it so that he did not have to pay any tuition. He had been taking lessons with the clarinet teacher there since he was a junior in high school, so Bertino knew what the music department was like and decided to attend. He had also considered attending William Jewell College in Liberty, Mo., but decided against it upon visiting and finding a lack in the band department.

Though being a musician is Bertino's destiny, he said, "you really, really, really have to know that that is what you want to do, so it takes a lot of work in the practice room, a lot of knowing what you need to work on, where your strengths and weaknesses are and how you need to fix them." Bertino said keeping one's mental reality in check can determine if one is fit for the musical career, "because really, you could go crazy if you push yourself too hard or you don't push yourself enough."

Music is very important to Bertino because he sees music as more of an inspiration to the world. "I believe band and music in general speaks to us as a society of what kind of built us to where we are now," said Bertino. "... music and all other forms of art have shaped society along history and I just think that it's great and I can share that with everyone else..." Bertino's hope is to get a Masters and Doctorate degree in Clarinet Performance and also live in Europe. He also hopes to teach clarinet and music composition at the college level and be part of a professional symphony orchestra.

"[Playing clarinet] is nothing I can experience any other way. I get to express myself in a way that I can't when I talk or when I'm communicating with anyone else any other way," said Bertino. "... that's me presenting myself to people and it's amazing."

Hip-hop lover embarks on musical journey; aspires greatness

By Tia Spears
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Ted Lampkin is a 2010 alumna who has recently decided to embark on a hip-hop journey in becoming a hip-hop artist.

Within his high school career, Lampkin was a state qualifying runner on the boy's track and field team. "Sports and music have no correlation," he said. "Sports is what everyone else wanted to do, but music is what I wanted to do." His love for hip-hop music clearly surpassed his want to participate in the events people used to want to watch.

Lampkin's interest in music is not brand new, despite speculation. He has been interested in music since the age of nine. "I would first write these little rhymes talking about stuff that I didn't even know about," Lampkin said. However, he has just decided to become a hip-hop artist. His stage name is "Theo Wealth," although he formerly went by the name "Lampco."

When Lampkin graces the stage, he keeps a few things in mind: "I never refer to the type of music that I do as 'rap,' or say 'I'm a rapper.' That has no meaning to me," he said. "I'm a hip-hop artist. Hip-hop is a culture. It's a movement. One that has transformed many people's lives since the late 70s, including mine." Lampkin is inspired by the culture of hip-hop music and has a passion that he feels will move his audience.

"I feel my music offers an outlet. I'm just an average guy talking about situations I've been

through. I want people who listen to me to experience the same," Lampkin said. His music is a form of expression and is apparent whenever he graces a stage.

Throughout his beginning as a hip-hop artist, Lampkin constantly seeks inspiration and wants to move in a forward direction. "The most challenging part about being an artist in Omaha is the fact that the city is not booming in the music industry," he said. "It's an uphill battle to get recognition."

He feels that his Omaha roots will be the most rewarding part of his musical career. He has faith that he will make it in the industry and commented, "when I do [make it] it'll mean a little bit more because of the extra effort needed."

Lampkin's current projects include increasing his fan base and performing at nightclubs. He is currently a broadcast journalism major at UNL.

On a lasting note, Lampkin said, "As far as success, you get out what you put in. The more you strive, the more success you will see." Seeking inspiration from his beginnings here in Omaha as well as the business and musical success of Jay-Z entice him to achieve longevity. "That's something I'm trying to grasp," he said.

Lampkin continues to remain humble and inspirational through his current musical successes.

"I'm just an average guy talking about situations I've been through," he said.

With his persistence and resilience, he has the keys he believes will make his real dreams come true.



Photo Courtesy of Ted Lampkin

Lampkin performs as Theo Wealth. Lampkin's interest in music dates back to age nine.

sports

Athletes endorsing McDonald's food seems backwards

Recently, a McDonald's commercial has been playing advertising their new Bacon Clubhouse sandwich with none other than NBA star, LeBron James.

First of all, this makes absolutely no sense whatsoever. How do you take an athlete who is supposed to be a promotion for healthy living and maintaining a healthy lifestyle and shoot him smiling ear to ear with a new calorie-filled burger? I think it's hypocritical and totally obnoxious.

There's been much speculation about whether or not LeBron James is better than Kobe Bryant, just to add. In my opinion, Kobe Bryant is better because he's not representing the fast food restaurant that does nothing but fatten up our nation. Kudos to you, Kobe Bryant!

The commercial not only features LeBron James, but a room full of athletes, so as a club of top notch athletes that support McDonald's probably has created a new definition of nonsense advertisement.

Now, the burger itself is pretty good. Yes, I went and tried it but it was definitely not because of the athlete-filled room of people that annexed LeBron James to the club for the promotion of that burger.

This is not the first time that McDonald's has used an athlete to promote a new item on the menu. San Francisco 49er's quarterback Colin Kaepernick helped endorse the "Mighty Wings" that caught the attention of everyone.

Let me say, Colin Kaepernick is far too fine in the first place to be representing "Mighty Wings." That is not a good look for him whatsoever.

I'm not sure what McDonald's intent is, but they don't really have the right to pull in athletic celebrities for promotional purposes until they stop making chicken nuggets out of mystery meat.

Of course, then, they wouldn't really have much of a business at all.

Everyone remembers the showdown commercial with Michael Jordan and Larry Bird ad with McDonald's in 1993. So this is nonsense advertisement that has been going on for too long. McDonald's is los-

ing my respect, but I will still hit up that dollar menu that week my paycheck runs low.

Ask anyone in the nation what the first words that come to mind are when you hear "McDonald's." Common answers included unhealthy, fattening, supersize, grease, clogged arteries and large everything. Super healthy right?

When I asked them the same question about the word "athlete" they said healthy, strong, dedicated, diet workout and sweat.

It's safe to say that McDonald's is enjoyable, but when you think those adjectives, they don't normally align with each other. Thus, an athlete promoting a new McDonald's menu item is simply, well, stupid.

More obnoxious McDonald's behavior includes their motto "Eat like a champion" during the Olympic games even though we're all sure that champions don't make late night stops to McDonald's.

I don't think anyone will ever challenge this besides me. People just see it and think it's fine that an athlete is on a McDonald's commercial when they're just sitting on the couch. But, later on when you reflect on the commercial it becomes clear how messed up that whole scenario is.



TIA SPEARS
B . A . B .



GOING PRO

Cornerback for the Minnesota Vikings and Central alumnus Shaun Prater always dreamed of playing on a professional team. Prater attended Central all four years, graduating in 2008, and afterwards attending Iowa University to continue his football career.

Prater, now playing for the Vikings, was originally drafted to the Cincinnati Bengals during his senior year of college during the fifth round of the 2012 NFL draft, placing on injured reserve, he said. In 2013, Prater played for the Philadelphia Eagles and then transferred mid-season to the Vikings. Prater has been on three teams in two years, which he said has been "quite a journey."

Prater's most memorable time at Central was winning the state football championship, which further helped him develop his skills to overall become an NFL star.

He decided to attend Central because "it was a powerhouse in Omaha. [I] looked forward to going."

Because of all of the history Central has to offer, and most of all, the other football stars (such as Ahmad Green) who attended, Prater was excited to enroll and follow in their footsteps.

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ON PAGE 14

Photo Courtesy of Shaun Prater

Activity card funds go to equipment, uniforms for teams

By Trenay Newsome
STAFF WRITER

Each school year, students from OPS schools are charged \$35 for activity cards which admit students into any game they please.

The money from activity cards are sent to the TAC building from all schools in the district. Once the money has been processed, each school gets the money back, also including \$35 for each student that is on free or reduced lunch. This money is then entered into the General Athletics Budget.

Activity cards pay for the equipment needed for sports. "While this money is used for all the sports, our coaches are aware that football and basketball gate admissions and concession stand money help contribute to the General Athletics Budget," said Thomas Lee, Athletic Director.

"Most of the money is used to pay off bills. I just send the money to pay the bills and then Dr. Bennett signs off. They then get passed off," said Lee.

Each sport has an expense. But each doesn't use the same amount of money. For example, football uses the most money on equipment. Basketball is the next most expensive sport because of the amount of games they play. While these sports cost the most to maintain, they also bring in more money because of gate admissions (especially when compared to golf or tennis).

"Suppose we make \$5,000 from gate admissions and \$2,000 from concession stands--that's \$7,000. With this we pay the officials and security," said Lee.

All sports are required to hold at least one fundraiser each year. The money raised will sometimes pay for half of the uniform cost and the budget will pay for the other half, or the money could pay for a desired item.

"Mostly fundraising is used to pay for the things that

CONTINUE TO 'CARDS'
ON PAGE 14

Prater faces his opponent during a game against the Eagles. Prater said Central helped him grow as a person and furthermore, an athlete.

Central's rugby team grows in membership, excited to start second season

By Kelsey Thomas
STAFF WRITER

Last spring, a senior had the idea to create a rugby program at Central. Senior Ryan Goding said that Henry Hawbaker, who began the program made a big push to get it started. It may be easy to start a new club at Central, but founding a new sports program is a little more difficult.

With the help of teachers and the encouragement of other students, the team was created. Last year there were 15 boys on the rugby team, composed of mostly juniors and seniors. As the seniors graduated, much of the inaugural rugby team at Central was lost.

To many people's relief, the program did not shrink. Instead, it grew. For the season that lasts from spring to early summer there are 25 participants. Goding said, "We have been aggressively recruiting players from people we know from all grades."

Last year when Goding was a junior, the seniors he knew encouraged him to play, so he did. Now, there are seniors, juniors, even sophomores dedicating themselves to the hard work that comes along with being part of the rugby team.

Several times a week the rugby team meets to practice. They practice at Memorial Park af-

ter school and often spend hours there.

Last year, the team finished third overall once the Rugby Nebraska state tournament was over. The milestone of the season was defeating the Creighton Prep team.

Rugby is a sport that originated in England over a century ago. Young boys at a prep school created an amalgam of a sport that contained elements from football and soccer.

Rugby is known as one of the most aggressive and hostile sports. The toughness needed to play is evident when one watches the game.

The game is played with two teams of 15. Eight players are forwards, the people who most often have possession of the ball. Seven players are called backs that carry and move the ball.

The objective of rugby is to get the ball into the goal or through the goalposts, similar to football. Rugby is played without any padding or helmets, so although it is just as physically grueling as football, players are much more likely to get injured.

This season of rugby started for Central on April 6. The team played Burke, at the Wayne State Rugby Complex. For the next month Central battled five more teams: Creighton

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ON PAGE 14



Keali French | The Register

Last year, Central's rugby team finished in third place in a season tournament. The team since has expanded.



PATRICK NOLAN page 14

Senior Patrick Nolan shows the dedication and focus it takes to be a trapshooter.



POWERLIFTING page 15

As a successful powerlifting season ends, hope for a stronger and more focused team surfaces.



SIGNINGS page 16

Find out where five seniors signed with their respective colleges.

TRAPSHOOTING FANATIC

SENIOR PATRICK NOLAN
COMPETES IN TRAPSHOOTING

By Kira Hawkins
STAFF WRITER

Senior Patrick Nolan has participated in trapshooting since his freshman year when a fellow student, Duncan Reed, introduced him to the sport.

He said that over the course of the time he has been competing, Nolan noticed the sport had become more and more competitive, which was something that he liked about trapshooting.

"You have to really focus and push yourself to perform consistently," said Nolan. "It's like any sport, and that's really rewarding; but at the same time, there's the sensation of shooting a target that's flying away from you at 60 miles per hour. It's just really fun, and it never gets old."

Trapshooting is one of the three disciplines of clay pigeon shooting. In trapshooting, the targets are launched from machines kept in trap houses, away from the shooter.

This is a sport that people partake in around the world, and is even an Olympic sport.

Trapshooting uses a 12 gauge shotgun, typically, though smaller gauged guns are sometimes used. A typical trap machine is usually in a trap house, for protection, and is often placed downrange from

where the shooters are positioned.

Nolan believes that he excels most in the first shot, which is 16 yards away from the target. This first shot helps to determine the distance for the second, or handicap shot.

He sees that he has improved over the years of trapshooting, starting with a score of 26 out of 50.

His most recent score was 45 out of 50. "It has really been consistent improvement and that's really exciting," he said. But there is always room for improvement.

"Trapshooting requires a lot of focus and a lot of consistency and I think it's really hard for me, and for a lot of shooters, but this is exacerbated but for me to continuously perform the same, since there are 50 shots and you have to shoot all of them the same... consistency and focus are some of the things I need to work on."

Nolan shoots for the Creighton Prep 4H squad since Central does not have a team. He originally shot for Creighton Prep, but soon more shooters, that were not from Prep joined, and eventually they formed their own team, under Prep's "umbrella."

Trapshooting is relatively popular among young shooters. There are special categories for younger shooters, who have not yet turned 18. These include a junior class, or sub-junior, for those under 15.



Photo Courtesy of Patrick Nolan

Nolan aims his 12 gauge shotgun. The senior is part of Creighton Prep's 4H trapshooting squad.

To those considering trapshooting, Nolan said, "I think everyone should try trapshooting at least once. I think that you can learn a lot across a lot of disciplines by trapshooting. I've drawn a lot of parallels from it to music.

"It requires a lot of the same skills. So for someone who is considering doing trapshooting, I would encourage them to just do it and to get out of your comfort zone, keep focused, keep your head up. There

will be people who will be doing really great and you're going to struggle, especially when you start but it's really rewarding and a lot of fun...

"People write it off as easy or not a real sport. A lot of people, when I say I'm a trapshooter, don't see it as a real sport," said Nolan. "But to that, I would say that you have to try it, because people would be surprised at how difficult it is and how rewarding it is."

Volleyball duo signs with SE Community College, hopes to make impact

By Seth Arter
ADVERTISING MANAGER

Seniors Sydney Lee and Amara Meeks signed with Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Neb. "I feel good about it and I'm happy with my decision," said Lee. As Lee looks forward to the future, she is pleased with her choice and likes the volleyball team at Southeast.

Lee is also happy with the criminal justice program, which she wishes to major in. "I'm looking forward to learning and starting my career," said Lee.

Although Lee is excited to begin school and her volleyball career at Southeast, she is also a bit nervous about the transition. She is anxious to live on her own and handle her own finances, but is excited for the opportunity. She is also excited to improve her volleyball skills and hopes to sign with a four-year school once she finishes at Southeast. Meeks is also looking forward to the college experience. "I'm ex-

cited because I've always wanted to sign," she said. Meeks is also looking forward to meeting new people and being in a new environment. "It's a different kind of diversity compared to Central," said Meeks. She is also hoping to improve her volleyball skills. Even though she played different positions at Central, she will play middle at Southeast.

Meeks hopes to switch to outside her sophomore year and hopes to learn how to become more vocal on the court and communicate more.

Meeks is also nervous about beginning a new life, too. She is nervous about being on her own, as her mom has played a key role in her life.

"My mom has always been around, it's going to be fun though," she said. Meeks wants to major in radiology.

For these two athletes, looking forward to the future seems exciting, but leaving behind their high school volleyball team is bitter-sweet.

"We had a good ending and it was fun, but I'm ready to go to the next level," said Meeks. Lee is also looking forward to the next chapter of volleyball. "I'm ready to move onto bigger things," said Lee.

Head volleyball coach Jodi Brown is excited to see them move on, as she has seen their careers progress throughout the years. She understands all the hard work her players have put in and is proud of what they have done. "Being an athlete takes a lot of time and dedication at the high school level and even more at the college level," said Brown.

Brown is nothing but impressed, as both Lee and Meeks have improved in their own ways. Lee, who has been on varsity for the past three years used her natural skills effectively on the court.

"Sydni is naturally very quick and even though she wasn't the tallest middle in Class A she was very effective because she could move both left and right very quickly as well as hit a variety of quick sets effectively."

Meeks, who has been on varsity since she was a freshman, has learned how to play the game better as well. "Amara's confidence soared from her freshman to her senior year and she really developed into a physical and vocal leader on the court," Brown said. "The graduating seniors have been the core of our program for the past four years."

Cards contribute to teams' money

CONTINUED FROM
'CARDS' ON PAGE 13

the coaches want to get their kids, because I can always get them what they need," said Lee. At the end of the year, the main goal is to have every sport out of "the hole," Lee said.

Since football makes the most money from gate admissions, the money earned could pay for golf shirts or golf balls since golf doesn't make as much money.

The money earned from football or basketball could be used to get golf out of the negative dollar amount at the end of the school year.

Once all the sport accounts aren't in debate from bills or equipment, money is moved around so each one can start off with money in its account.

Each year the school gets money from activity cards to help pay for bills or needed equipment. Throughout the year, football and basketball make the most money from gate admissions and concessions stands.

With this money made, it helps get other sports out of "the hole" and start each year off on a clean slate, even with some money already in the account.

Rugby back for another season

CONTINUED FROM
'RUGBY' ON PAGE 13

Prep, Sioux Falls, West Omaha, Siouxland and Council Bluffs. Central's home field is the Storz Rugby Park.

After the regular season there are three rounds of playoffs and a championship game. The championship game will be held June 8.

The second season of rugby at Central is something many players and students are looking forward to.

Games last year were usually played in the rain, which made fields muddy and the game slippery.

Although the weather was an issue last year, students and fans still came to support the new program.

As the size of the team grows, the fan base and is sure to as well.

Reality crushes student's dreams of billion dollar bracket

Although this year my bracket was sadly trashed in the first round after Nebraska took a hard loss to Baylor, I had high hopes for winning the Warren Buffett sponsored billion dollar bracket. Many hopefuls' entries were sent into the Amazon sponsored pool, securing each contestant's guess at the "perfect" bracket. Soon after the tournament began, there was not one perfect bracket left.

If I wasn't meant to win, no one was, even though I took in my vast knowledge on the tournament and each and every team participating.

The odds of my humble bracket winning (finishing in a game between MSU and Florida playing for the title) only staggered one in 9.2 quintillion that it would be exactly correct. That's one billion, 9.2 million times to clarify. Let's just say, I had high hopes for myself in the March Madness tournament.

As I filled out my bracket in its entirety, my eyes glimmered with joy directly before pressing the enter button, convinced that mine was a winner. I could

see it then: Warren Buffett signing off a check that would pay for all of a high school girl's dreams (well most people's I suppose, but back to me). It then instantly came to my mind that I would likely have more money than my bank account had ever seen, by almost \$1 billion dollars. I wouldn't want to let it just sit in my account. What could I possibly do with my newly funded life?

The first thing I would do with \$1 billion is buy a new car, and unlimited car washes at my local gas station. Well, maybe more than one new car.

After this, I would take a break from spending my new fortune as I traveled the world bragging about my perfect bracket.

Everyone would want me on their show. "The Today Show," "Good Morning America" and "Ellen"... I would sadly have to turn some hopefuls down, but that will be the circumstances after I became a celebrity.

I would be featured in magazines (actually the

covers) for months to come, I would make sure to give shout outs to my family and friends, and follow with remorse on not being able to see them as much after becoming one of America's biggest stars.

After returning home from my tour of fame, I would get back to finding the perfect way to continue to spend my fortune. I would buy a hot tub, a new puppy and a plane, just because I could.

I would buy a plane ticket to Cancun and the resort that I was planning to stay at, so that my family could experience total quiet on our much-needed vacation.

Although all of these things were thought to happen by me and all the others in my life, it sadly was not meant to be for me this year. Although the one in 9.2 quintillion chances that I faced, I know that since I didn't pass it this year, next year the money and fame will be mine!

Considering my vast knowledge of basketball, all stemming from my countless hours cheering at high school basketball games, I will one day press send on the perfectly filed out bracket and claim my fame that should have been mine this year (thanks a lot, Baylor).



SYDNEY HALONEN
SENIORITIS

NFL cornerback joins three teams in two years, sticks to profession

CONTINUED FROM 'PRATER' ON PAGE 13

"Ever since I was young, I wanted to go there," he said.

When choosing colleges, Prater's eyes were on Iowa because he said they were the school which frequently visited Central.

"[Iowa University] always came up to talk [to the school]," he said. He called them "loyal and faithful" and he knew he wanted to attend.

Though he graduated almost six years ago, the impression Central left on Prater has not diminished. He said attending Central caused him to "always try to achieve greatness. [It's] what we're all about."

"[Attending Central] just forced me to grow up—helped figure out my future," said Prater. Attending also helped him, he said, prove that Central's athletes were the best athletes.

"[I miss] all of my friends," he said. "[It was] fun going to class—high school was really fun." He said waking up, going to homeroom, hanging out with his friends in the courtyard and winning games were the highlights of attending. "It was a great time," he said.

Prater has been playing football since he was 10-years-old. At Central, Prater played in a few JV games during his sophomore year, one JV game his junior year and from that point on, was on varsity for the rest of his high school career, which he explained was a "really tough road..." Prater played outside linebacker safety, offensive and wide receiver.

Football plays a very important role in all Prater does. "[It's] basically my life—something I was born doing. Football makes me happy," he said. "It's something I

look forward to every morning. Without football, I don't know what I'd be doing."

Prater, due to his hard work and perseverance, always figured he would be able to be drafted into the professional football world. "[It was] always my goal. I knew—putting in hard work—I'd make it," he said. "[I] always sacrificed. Always had the dream and turned it into a goal the older I got."

Besides football, Prater also played basketball his senior year in high school and ran track for three years, though he had to sacrifice that to gain weight and focus more on football and overall, his future playing the sport.

The differences Prater noticed from high school and college versus professional football is the whole aspect of it actually being a job. He said there is less playing around and more focus. "[We] put all of our time into it," he said. Also, there is more skill imputed because of the age group from 20s to even late 30s, which Prater said is "totally different" from college and high school. Besides that, earning money to play is also the obvious aspect.

"[Playing football] really kept me focused," he said, though playing was "very difficult" in a timely and dedication sense. "Without it, I don't know. I would have taken a very different route." The route being more of a focus on school work and trying to decide what he would

do in the future.

Prater's future consists of hopefully playing in the NFL until he is at least 32-years-old—10 years in the league. "I feel I can do it," he said. "Something I can definitely do." In order to do so, Prater said he has to stay confident.

Afterwards, he hopes to run his own business, own land or open a restaurant. "Right now," he said, "my main focus is football. Afterwards, other things."

SHAUN PRATER
central alumnus
and NFL player

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TRACK & FIELD EVENTS

SHIFTING ATTENTION FROM THE RUNNERS TO THE FIELD EVENT ATHLETES



Keali French | The Register

THROWING

SHOT-PUT

Competitors are required to take throws within a seven-foot diameter circle. Each uses their own specific technique while they attempt to throw the 16 pound ball for men, and 8.82 pounds for women, further than any other competitor. Each contestant gets three attempts, then the judges take their highest score and rank the competitors.

DISCUS

Somewhat similar to the shot-put throw, the discus competitors also stand inside of a circle and throw a 4.4 pound disk in a circular motion, similar to throwing a frisbee, in order to attempt to throw it further than any of the other competitors.

By Sydney Halonen
STAFF WRITER

Track and Field has been around since ancient times. Although many people are focused on the events that take place on the track itself, different field events that take place on the field are getting more popular.

The field events are just as important; they are just as weighted when deciding the final score of a team at a meet.

This being said, it is time for the events in the field category to gain some further recognition within the track and field spectator community.

POLEVAULT

The competitors run down the strip of a track and stick their pole into a metal box, vaulting themselves over a horizontal bar before letting go of the bar and falling back onto a mattress. This is another attempt to clear the highest pole in order to be deemed the winner of the event.

JUMPING

LONG JUMP

Long jump is one of the oldest field events. In the center beyond the running lanes, jumpers line up at the start, run the length of the track and take a jump into the sandpit. Competitors must jump before a marked line and the achieved distance is marked according to the nearest point where they land.

TRIPLE JUMP

The triple jump takes place in the same vicinity on the track area. Athletes use a "hop, step, jump" pattern in order to run and jump into the sand in order to gain the longest jump to win the competition. Although this category was initially only for men, there is now a women's competition as well.

HIGH JUMP

High jump requires a lot of technique. Athletes use a short run up, then they take off from one foot. They jump over a horizontal bar and fall back over into a cushioned area. The bar moves higher and higher as the competition progresses, and the athlete that can jump the highest is the winner.

Powerlifting team hopes successes will start dynasty

By Micah Martin
STAFF WRITER

The state powerlifting competition was on March 8 at Omaha South High School. This all-day event consisted of the competing schools: Creighton Prep, Bellevue East, Fremont, Lincoln Southeast, Columbus, Papillion La Vista, South and Central.

"You get three chances for each lift, and they are squat, dead lift and bench. There are three attempts for each lift, and each attempt you can add more weight. At the end they total your score, and if you have the highest score in your weight class you get first place," said Brittini McGuire, a freshman powerlifter.

Going into the year's state competition as the defending champions, the Central's girls team had a title to defend.

Despite the pressure they faced when it came to maintaining their champion status, they were able to hold their own this powerlifting season. "We have the largest girl's team in the state by far, and our girls work extremely hard," said Coach Dennis Baker. Their hard work was rewarded, as they were named Class A state champions for the second consecutive year.

On top of that, there were also quite a few Central powerlifters who won first place in their weight classes, along with some broken state records. "It's a lot of hard work to be good," said senior Tyvon Merritt.

Along with being state champions, Sindy Acosta, Alyleen Carbajal, Alexis Ramirez, Adriana Avarado and Martha Winterer all won first place in their weight classes. Winterer also broke four state records during this season of powerlifting.

McGuire, Emily Keebler and Brittany Margrave also took second in their classes. Along with that, Angelica Blazevich, Jordan Young and Roxana Exstrada placed third while Yesika Juarez and Jamie Colvin placed fourth.

The girl's team wrapped up their winning streak with Claire Mulcahy and Samantha Witte placing fifth in their classes. "It was a really good meet, I was extremely happy with the girls, because I knew what they were capable of doing. They lost to Bellevue East the meet before, so it was a good motivation for them to come back and work hard," said Baker.

"The guys were state runner ups behind Creighton Prep. They really came and lifted hard at the state meet and finished the season really well overall it was a great season," said Baker. Merritt, Cam Dorsey and Xavier Graham took first place in their weight classes. Dorsey also broke one state record, and Graham broke two.

On top of that, Jose Cardona won second and Deonte Dupree placed third. The boys' team concluded its winnings with Elijah Wilson and Connor Pavlik taking fourth place.

"As a team, we got better. I look back and a lot of our kids got a lot stronger from



Stephanie Sanchez | The O-Book

A powerlifting athlete crouches in position to lift. Coach Baker's wish is to hope the team is "continuing to grow."

where they started," said Baker. Not only did the team grow as a whole, but as individuals as well. Baker also added that he enjoyed being able to work with the student powerlifters, because he's able to watch them improve and continue to grow.

"You have to be ready to come and work, you have to put the work in before you just jump into a competition, because it's going to be hard. You have to push yourself and do your best every day, because you have to be ready," said Merritt.

"My goal for next year is just continuing to grow," said Baker.

Just like many other sports, it not only takes hard work, but it also takes confidence for success in powerlifting. "You have to think that you're going to hit it, and that you are going to have

a good lift. If you think you're not, you probably won't. You just have to believe that you can do it," said McGuire.

Even though this year's season just ended, some of the team's members are already thinking about next year.

Not only are they preparing mentally, but they are also continuing to lift so they remain at their top condition for the upcoming year.

Everyone on the powerlifting team worked hard to achieve everything they did this season, but they have high hopes for next year.

Baker has hopes for his team. "Hopefully we can start a dynasty."

College dreams take an acceptable twist

When I was younger, way younger, my dream was to play Division I college softball as a Husker at Lincoln. It was a far off dream, but even as I got older I clung onto it. But now, I'm not so sure about that possibility now.

As I've started on the road to finding the college that will suit me in the fall of 2015, I've realized how things—specifically sport related things—won't exactly end up how I might have pictured them to be when I was little.

As we all know, going to college is no small purchase, we aren't buying an overpriced sweater from Delia's here.

This is the real deal.

Not only do you have to take into consideration the price, but also the academic quality of the school, and the opportunities it can potentially provide. It's our future at stake!

I remember telling my cousin when I was about 12-years-old that we would go to UNL together and

share a dorm. But now she's interested in an art school in Colorado, and I'm interested in a school with a more than "decent" journalism program. But what does that mean for collegiate athlete hopefuls, that also want a great academic or more specialized program? More than likely, it means that you'll head down a completely different path than what you first thought.

But it's okay. The thing is, a lot of people act like one is absolutely a thousand times better than the other, like if an athlete were to end up playing for a Division II school, they are somehow inferior to his or her peers who play Division I. I've learned that that's not quite the case. Sure, Division I is usually the most competitive, and many amazing athletes have made a name there and beyond. But the other two divisions can be pretty talented and competitive as well.

It's all just an "up in the air" type of thing. My dreams and others are still relevant, but life sometimes takes different turns.



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SENIOR SIGNINGS



By San Juana Paramo
STAFF WRITER

Keali French | The Register

Maddie Buller signs to the University of Nebraska Omaha for her outstanding track career, with coach Trent Lodge and parents watching.

1 DAY OF SIGNINGS. 5 SENIORS.
3 SPORTS. 5 COLLEGES.

Maureen Bigsby

Maureen Bigsby has been playing soccer for Central since her freshman year. "My older sisters both played soccer... my dad and mom are pretty athletic; they got us into soccer," she said.

"Soccer has always been my main sport," she added. Bigsby plays midfield, center mid and outside mid.

Outside of Central, Bigsby plays in a club team. Playing for Central, Bigsby holds records for a number of goals. "I don't know how many, but my dad has it on record," she said.

"Practices in general, we're always goofing around and having fun. We're not like the best team, we take things seriously but we have a chill air about it," Bigsby said about her team. "I just love the girls."

Bigsby chose to play soccer in college since it is a big part of her life. "It's my identity and I feel like I would be kind of lost; I wouldn't know what to do with myself," Bigsby said. After college, she plans to enter the medical field. "I'm thinking about doing neuroscience," she said.

She's had the opportunity to interact with the coaches and the players at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. "I haven't really met any of the incoming girls. I've met the freshmen present and coaches," Bigsby said.

"My biggest strength as a soccer player is probably my foot skills. I may not be the strongest or most aggressive or the fastest or the strongest kick but I think my vision with foot skills and passing and finding an open player I would say is my biggest strength," Bigsby said.

"I really like it, it's not too big and not too small," she said of the campus. "It's in downtown Kansas City, which is really nice."

Bigsby's parents were "keen" on keeping her close, "but for the most part they said choose what you think would be the best fit for you," Bigsby said. "I think UMKC is a good fit for me."

Jory Boynton

Jory Boynton has been playing baseball all his life. "I love the game. I'm pretty passionate about it," he said.

Everyone in Boynton's family has played baseball. "My sisters played softball and both my brothers are currently playing baseball right now. My dad did and my mom played softball," Boynton said.

Boynton pitches and plays first base for Central. "Ever since eighth grade year I've played for Central on the freshman team," Boynton said.

"I've been playing ever since," he added. Boynton plays summer ball for team U.S.A., outside of Central.

Boynton remembers his first ever baseball game during his freshman year. "We beat Burke 3-2 and that was a night game," Boynton said. "It was really exciting; it was my first actual high school game during the year."

Recruiters from Briar Cliff University, located in Sioux City, Iowa have attended many of Boynton's games.

"They have been watching me ever since last year," Boynton said. "I've visited many times, I like the campus and the players and coaches."

Boynton didn't want to quit baseball after high school, and being able to play in college gave him the opportunity to continue doing what he loves.

"I've always wanted to play, just keep going," Boynton said. "It's been my dream as a little kid to play college baseball or even going on further than that."

"I am looking into being a history teacher," he said, because of the influence of teachers. "I've been inspired by all my history teachers throughout my high school career."

Joe Mickeliunas and Scott Wilson are the teachers who have influenced him the most. "The classes are just so fun; I love history," Boynton said.

Boynton's parents advised him that education should always come first; he found that with Briar Cliff. "My head coach went to Briar Cliff University, and they said I had a lot of potential there," Boynton said.

Boynton looks forward to playing baseball in college and making new friends.

"Thanks to all my coaches," Boynton added, "it really just pushed me and helped me along the way."

Malik Sams

Malik Sams' dad introduced him to baseball at a young age. Ever since, he's been playing. "I continued it because it was my favorite sport; I just like playing it," Sams said.

Sams also plays basketball and football for Central. "It was hard, but it was real fun at the same time," Sams said. "It took a lot of time out of my day but I learned how to manage it, so I enjoyed it."

Sams' older brother also played baseball and continued playing in college.

Sams has played centerfield and pitched since his freshman year. He is not part of any teams outside of Central. He doesn't hold any records, but "I know I threw a complete game shutout against the No. 2 team last year. I think I had the most strike outs last year out of the team," Sams said.

He remembers his trip to South Dakota as one of his fondest memories of his Central team. "We played there well; it was pretty fun," Sams said.

Sams chose to attend Fort Scott Community College for their good baseball program and academics. "The coaches are real nice too," Sams said. Sams is still thinking of playing basketball or football while in college. "I'm still thinking about that; I might play football," Sams said. "I've got to decide if I have time for it."

"They gave me the chance to go on to the next level," Sams said about Fort Scott CC. The fact that they allowed Sams to get his education for free while playing baseball was a major factor that made him choose Fort Scott CC. There, Sams plans to study business marketing.

Sams has visited the college before. He also said the coach at Fort Scott CC was, "a nice person, and a real good coach." The campus was also enjoyable, Sams said. "To be a small campus they have some nice things. I'm looking forward to it," he added.

His ability to pitch as well as play outfield is something he hopes to contribute to the team. "You can ask my teammates, you never see me mad. I'm always positive," he added.

Sams looks forward to getting his degree and being able to play at the same time in college.

Sams, his family and coaches advised him to choose a college that was best for him. "At the end of the day," Sams said, "I felt that I made the proper decision."

Maddie Buller

Maddie Buller was on the Central volleyball team her freshman year and cross country her sophomore and senior year. "I love both of those sports... I just want to focus on track," Buller said.

Buller comes from a family of track runners; her mom ran track in high school and her sister ran for two years at Central.

Buller runs "the 100 meter hurdle, the 300 meter hurdle, the 4x1 and the 4x4." She said her time in the 400 meter hurdle last year was 14.75 seconds, and her 300 meter time was 45.32 seconds.

She's now striving to beat records. "Our 4x1 time last year did break the Central record," Buller said. "I'm super, super close to breaking the 300 meter hurdle record; that's my goal, to break the record to get my name on the board," she added.

"I just love the family I have in [the team] and the friendships that I've created and the memories I will be able to look back on and always smiling," Buller said. "That sounds hokey; I just love the friendships and the family I have in them."

Buller chose to attend UNO because of the academics and reasonable price.

"I was prying about it and I kept coming back to UNO in my search, and I've gotten scholarships," Buller said. "They [parents] were very supportive... they just wanted what's best for me."

"My goal is to graduate without any debt, and I'm coming close to it," she added. Buller wants to stay close to her family. "I'll still get that college experience by staying in the dorms, but then I can still come home," she said.

During her time at UNO, Buller wants to major in history. "Possibly do research or be a curator or something like that," Buller said.

"I decided to run track in college because I really love it, I've come to love it over the past four years," Buller said "It just seemed like the next step."

UNO's track coach was part of what attracted Buller to the college. "He's very nice and he's very involved," Buller said. The team is the perfect size for Buller, as well as the fact that they're an up and coming team.

"I liked the smaller atmosphere," she said. She hopes to help her team win championships during her time there.

"I didn't talk to my coaches that much about it, I kind of just did it and I think they were also supportive of where I wanted to go," Buller said. "They know that I love to run and they wanted the best for me track-wise and academically-wise. I'm not going to be able to run for the rest of my life, I have to get a good education to be able to support myself."

Keegan Lathrum

Keegan Lathrum started playing baseball at a young age.

Lathrum plays shortstop and pitches for the Central baseball team.

"I've been playing for Central since my freshman year and I've been playing varsity since sophomore year," he said.

Lathrum will be attending Washington University as a baseball player. "More for academics," said Lathrum about why he chose Washington U, "baseball kind of came later."

The engineering department and location attracted Lathrum to the university.

While attending Washington University, Lathrum is looking towards studying mechanical engineering as his ideal major and career choice.

He's had the chance to talk to his soon-to-be coach, but not the team yet. "It'll be a different experience from here," said Lathrum. "He is way different than our coach but it'll be something new, something different."

He's also had the chance to visit the campus before and had positive outlooks on it. "It's pretty, all walking, so it's nice. It's not too big—you can walk everywhere," he said.

The opportunity to continue playing baseball was a reason why Lathrum decided to play while in college. "I'm not ready to quit quite yet," Lathrum said.

He hopes to offer experience to his new team.

New experiences and something different other than his time at Central is what Lathrum is looking forward to the most in college.

"In college baseball, you get to travel a lot more, more games, just a different feel," Lathrum said. "Of course college is another step in getting done with school."



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Varsity tennis has Peterson sisters pairing up to win

By Maya Durfee O'Brien
STAFF WRITER

Tennis has always been a part of the lives of sisters Sydney and Hannah Peterson. Sydney is a senior, while Hannah is a sophomore and is relatively new to the team at Central.

The sisters began playing tennis at Happy Hollow Country Club. Hannah said that it was just a normal thing for kids to do at the Club. "We've been playing since kindergarten so we've been playing since we were about five-years-old," said Sydney. They had tennis clinics offered at the Club which both girls utilized, and that is where their start began.

"Our brother played tennis too and he loved it," said Sydney. "We've never been forced to do it [play tennis]." Their parents did give them the boost to start playing, but they said they just kept coming back because of how much they like the sport.

Seeing Cole, their older brother, play tennis also contributed to their interest in the sport.

"We also watch a lot of tennis at home; I was kind of like 'I want to be like them,'" said Sydney. The influence these tennis players Sydney watched on television had a strong impact on her even at a young age.

"You have more interest in it than I do," said Hannah to her older sister. Sydney is more competitive than her sister, showing her high interest in the sport. "It's also a family thing," said Sydney. "It's something we can all do together, we can all go out and play tennis so it's fun."

"Hannah's a doubles player," said Sydney. This year she's playing two doubles and last year she played three doubles.

"I'm more of a singles player. I played one doubles last year and this year I'm playing one singles because that's what I've been working on this summer," said Sydney.

"There's a ones singles and there's a twos singles and you play



Sydney Spangrud | The Register

The Petersons began playing tennis at Happy Hollow Country Club.

against the ones singles and the twos singles from the other team, you play against each team's one and one, and two and two, and then the same for the doubles. Then there's a tournament team, which when you go on to state you're ones singles, twos singles, and doubles all go on to state. Then the dual team all goes to state," said Sydney. "Then the dual team is one-six singles and one-three doubles- this is just during matches," said Hannah.

There are more people on the team when they are playing against other schools, just because more people are required to play. This dif-

fers from the amount of people on the regular tournament team. "I've been on Central's tennis team since freshman year," said Sydney. "I've played freshman and this year, sophomore year," said Hannah. The satisfaction of being on the team and being able to play is one of the things that Sydney likes most about playing tennis.

"When you have a really good match and you win—that's like the best feeling in the world. Tennis is my outlet for competitiveness, because I also do dance, but I can't be competitive in that, it's nice to be able to let that out when I play tennis," said Sydney. "I think tennis is fun, that's why I do it," said Hannah. Although the two girls have very different attitudes about the sport they both love it just the same.

The sisters for the most part do not have tennis grunts, but in fact they actually make fun of them out on the court. "We grunt just to try to be funny, but it's not," said Sydney. "I kind of grunt on my serve, but not all the time. Sometimes doing a little grunt helps your serve."

Girls from other schools do these grunts more so than at Central. "People at Marian do them a lot," said Hannah.

"It's kind of an intimidation factor. When they grunt you feel like the ball is going to come really fast at you, but then it usually doesn't. When the professionals do it it's because they're overexerting themselves, but when these guys do it there's really not a whole lot of reasoning behind it—it doesn't work," said Sydney.

The team doesn't have specific competitors, but the Petersons do say that Marian is really tough and that they're not too fond of Millard West.

They have districts as a practice round for state, but then state just becomes a huge tournament bracket, which could be compared to a March Madness type thing. That being said everyone makes it to State. The Petersons are hopeful that they will make a good seed in the State tournament this season.

"It's nice that we're both on varsity this year so I can watch Hannah's matches," said Sydney. Hannah said, "Go tennis!"

Step Team tryouts begin; a farewell to senior captains

By Stephanie Paul
STAFF WRITER

This upcoming school year will bring more diversity to the Step Team, because the captains are allowing incoming freshmen to try out (this was the first time Step Team is allowing freshmen on the team). Any student (female and male) who will be attending Central for the 2014-2015 school year was welcome to try out.

The Step Team had an information table and performed at the eighth grade open house in January.

The team's sponsor, Erika Plummer, helped by telling the incoming freshmen about the tryouts via email and phone calls. Plummer also helps the team by making sure that they have space to practice, and ensuring that every girl is ready to perform.

Senior Destiny Epinger is the current captain of the team and is very proud of what the team has accomplished.

Epinger has been on the Step Team since her sophomore year. She joined because of her older sister.

Since Epinger and co-captain, Ashley Swift, are graduating in May, they are handing their titles to two current juniors who have proved their dedication. The two juniors are both going to be captains, so they have equal amounts of power, leadership and control of the group.

Juniors Jalyla Valentine and Deanna Anderson have been given the opportunity to become the next captains of the Step Team.

"Both Jalyla and Deanna have helped Destiny and I throughout this year by helping us come up with steps, dances and routines," said Swift. "They have shown us leadership throughout this whole school year."

Swift joined the team the same year as Epinger. She wanted to be more involved with school activities and wanted to try something new, which was Step Team.

"The first time that I got to see the Step Team perform was at the Roadshow my freshman year," said Swift. Both Swift and Epinger say Step is very active and is demanding on their schedules, but they love their team.

The current leaders have been devoted to the team most of their high school careers and they are sad to leave the team behind.

Swift plans to continue to step next year when she goes to UNL in the fall.

Swift plans to pledge into the Delta sorority in Lincoln and to be active and step with them.

This team has helped the ladies gain friendship and leadership skills.

"I have learned so much from the team.... Step [Team] has allowed me to feel comfortable around a group of girls and Augie [the only, and the first male on the team]," said Swift.

"Step Team will carry on its tradition at Central next year since Destiny and I have picked two great leaders for the upcoming team," said Swift.

Both of the captains believe that the team has a tradition of entertaining the crowd, and they know that this is a tradition that will not fade.

Bigsby's soccer tradition continues



Sydney Spangrud | The Register

Coach Casey Bigsby stands by and watches practice for the girls varsity soccer team.

By Georgia Chambers
STAFF WRITER

Social studies teacher Casey Bigsby has taken on a new responsibility outside of the classroom and is now the assistant girls varsity soccer coach.

She is not just walking into this position. Bigsby has had much experience with coaching and playing soccer in the past.

"I have played soccer since I was about five-years-old. I played club growing up, and when I went to UNO for college I played on their team. When I started teaching I was in a middle school and I coached the middle school girls there, as well as doing some coaching for one of the private schools in Omaha. So, when I came to Central it was something I assumed I would be able to do... I jumped right on board," Bigsby stated.

Bigsby has picked up many valuable assets from Doug Trenery, the head coach of the girls' varsity soccer team—ranging all the way from new drills that she can use in the future to wearing wool socks on cold games to keep you warm.

Not only did Bigsby play soccer since she was five, but she also was an alumni from Central and played on Central's girls' varsity team. Freshman and sophomore year, Bigsby played mid-field, and then took the position of striker her junior and senior year.

"My club coaches growing up were very [influential]. My high school coaches, freshman through junior year, we had a gentleman who worked very hard and was a nice guy, but we weren't able to connect with him," Bigsby said.

However, senior year a new head coach was introduced, and Bigsby felt more connected. "That was the year we made it to state, the first time in Central's history," Bigsby concluded.

Being able to work with him is the reason why she chose to coach varsity and not junior varsity. "I am fortunate enough to be learning a lot from him....," Bigsby said. She one day hopes, however, to have a team of her own. "I

thought that [this] would be an invaluable opportunity that I might not get if I assisted JV," Bigsby continued.

There is a difference she has noticed between coaching middle school and even club. High school is at a different level, and it takes more time and effort to transform the team and the girls into having the skill needed to compete and do well.

"The one thing I was surprised with was the time commitment in high school. With middle school and even club teams, it is a lot less time commitment than high school; they do not go every day after school and do not have three games a week. That has been an adjustment....," Bigsby stated.

Working with the girls has given Bigsby an experience she may have forgotten. "[Soccer] reminds me of things I guess I forgot about high school... I play with them a lot, actually—that's one of the benefits of being the assistant coach. I actually get to get in and play with them at practice," Bigsby said.

One obstacle Bigsby faces with coaching is getting her point across, and what she expects her girls to duplicate on the field. "Just because you can do something yourself doesn't necessarily mean that you can teach it," she said.

"That has been one of the hardest things for me coaching in general, not just here, but everywhere."

All in all, Bigsby regards herself as an easier coach with higher expectations. "I think I am a relatively easy-going person with the girls," she said. "I prefer to let the girls enjoy themselves, but I have high expectations on the field that they will go 100 percent."

Bigsby has high hopes for these girls, and is determined to make a better team. "Central High School is not known for its soccer," Bigsby said, "we aren't necessarily a soccer school and we generally do not have girl club players come here, so for us we might not have the most skilled players, but we have to have girls that are dedicated and willing to work."

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U.S. INVOLVEMENT



Keali French | The Register

↓ **INTERVENE** →
THE UNITED STATES IS A LEADING WORLD POWER... BUT DOES THAT MEAN IT SHOULD CONSTANTLY IMPOSE IN OTHER COUNTRIES' AFFAIRS?
← **STAY OUT** ↓

By Kelsey Thomas
STAFF WRITER

Many Americans see their country as “the leader of the free world,” the country that fights for democracy and human rights in need, but also assist more.

If U.S. citizens want to be able to keep using those titles without being laughed at, they have to not only continue to help other countries in need, but also assist more.

Some of the issues the United States contributes towards are disasters or victims of warfare in foreign countries.

Without help from the U.S., millions of people would suffer even more from natural disasters or would be forced to live in a country ridden with war and violence.

In 2013, the United States assisted in dozens of disasters and conflicts.

In a drought in the Marshall Islands, the U.S. provided 367 tons of food to the millions of citizens there. Without it, the people of the Islands might have died.

During the same year, Mexico suffered from aseries of landslides, hurricanes and earthquakes.

The United States gave hygiene kits to the people there, as well as money to rebuild their homes and public places.

Without it, thousands of citizens in Mexico would have nowhere to live.

For several years, including 2013 and the current year, a conflict in Syria has displaced millions of people and caused the death of thousands. The United States has spent \$1.7 billion trying to help the victims and refugees there.

Without the help of the U.S., the conflict in Syria would likely be much, much worse.

These are just three of the global disasters

and wars that have taken place in the past year. It is obvious that people all over the globe would suffer even greater in times like those without the help of the United States.

IN THE
OPINION
OF THE
REGISTER

The aide of the United States towards other countries is vital when faced with a hurricane, earthquake or civil war.

American citizens often complain often that the U.S. needs to “worry about ourselves,” because they already give more than their share.

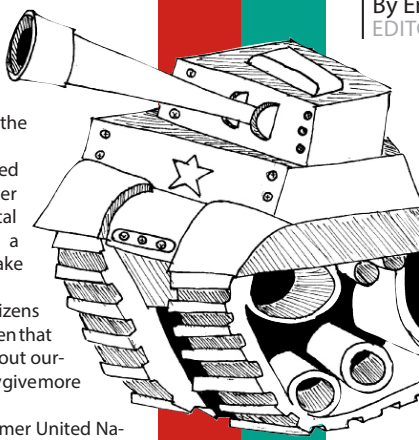
Catherine Bertini, a former United Nations executive director, proves otherwise.

She stated in a lecture at the Ford School of Public Policy that “the United States contributes less per capita” towards world poverty “than all 22 of the world’s wealthiest countries.”

While the United States does give a lot towards several causes, the country does not help with many issues such as world hunger or poverty.

As American citizens state that they need to focus on their own country more, they also beg to be well-liked by others. The U.S. is known for many things, and one of those

CONTINUE TO ‘PRO’ ON
PAGE 19



By Emily Beck
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Almost since its humble and turbulent beginnings as a nation, the United States has played a role in countless conflicts, disagreements and full-scale wars. Before America could be America, the framers of the country had to fight for their right to break away.

Perhaps this is a contributing factor to the United States’ tendency to get involved in conflicts.

This country needs to stop becoming involved in every conflict that pops up.

Lloyd N. Cutler writes that “The columnist George Will has suggested that Americans ought to care less about whether we have the legal right to intervene than whether intervention in a particular civil war is the right thing to do.”

The United Nations is responsible for deeming what is international law and what is not. The United States is not the world’s babysitter. Yes, this country should use its resources and power to help other countries, but rather than infiltrating struggling countries and attempting to fix things, the United States should give the governments of these countries the means to fix the problems themselves. Ideally, instead of hundreds of thousands of

soldiers, the United States could send doctors and teachers—unfortunately, those individuals need protection.

Clearly, some situations require more attention than others. Throwing money at a problem doesn’t help it. Was the heavy amount of military presence in Afghanistan necessary? Maybe in order to fight the Taliban—but how many more troops were lost as a result? How many families shattered?

IN THE
OPINION
OF THE
REGISTER

The United States has assisted with reconstruction in Afghanistan, but have troops really been able to improve conditions for its citizens?

The answer is somewhat—the 2011 Afghanistan Mortality Survey found that “from 2004 to 2010, life expectancy had risen from just 42 years—the second lowest rate in the world—to 62 years, driven by a sharp decline in child mortality. As a result, nearly 100,000 Afghan children per year who previously would have died now don’t,” writes Justin Sandefur for The Atlantic.

Unfortunately, some U.S. auditors have deemed continued aid too risky. U.S. government’s chief auditor for Afghanistan, John Sojko, who also heads the Special Inspector General for Afghanistan Reconstruction, or SIGAR, “issued a report calling for the suspension of U.S. AID’s \$236 million in aid for basic health care in Afghanistan.”

Korea, Vietnam, Syria, the list is a long one. Positive work has been done and changes have been made, but so many lives have been lost and dollars have been wasted.

The United States acts almost as a brother who feels responsible for the well-being

CONTINUE TO ‘AGAINST’ ON
PAGE 19

A farewell from the desk of your weirdly sentimental Editor-in-Chief

I’m not sure how to begin to say goodbye to the two entities that have defined and shaped me into the person I am right now. Without Central High and The Register, I’m entirely certain that I would be lost. And not nearly as awesome.

All jokes aside, Central High is difficult to categorize. A Crown Jewel, a Melting Pot, an Eagles’ Nest—it’s a mess of contradictions and history and beauty, of old and new and hopes and dreams. It’s a hugely ancient anchor that I’ll be tethered to for the rest of my days.

I grew up here—not necessarily within Central’s walls, but during my time with this place (and all of the exceptional and awful things within it), I have learned how to be myself.

How to question, how to connect to people, how to survive, how to write and work hard and have fun.

It’s been an adversary, a friend, a teacher and a challenger. Within these walls I have gained and lost friends, failed and succeeded and ultimately become an adult.

It is said that high school isn’t for everyone. I’m fortunate enough to be the type of person who has thrived in this sometimes toxic environment.

I’ll be honest and tell you that I won’t miss the pep rallies or the crappy bathrooms or the massive exodus of kids from the courtyard after lunch or the mice in the journalism room. But I can say that I will miss this place more than even I can anticipate.

The senior class may be eager to move on, but each of us will harbor a strange love for these walls (or maybe I’m the only prematurely nostalgic one).

The Register has been my biggest high school accomplishment. An investment, a passion, a foe, a life force despite its ability to absolutely drain me—similar to Central, my experience with this publication has

been a total contradiction. I can say with honesty that I both love and hate it.

As a freshman I was disgusted with the paper, and I vowed, in an offhand and not at all profound way, to make it better.

But there was some sort of power to my words—surprisingly enough, I did just that. As a sophomore I jumped into Journalism 1 and fell into fascination, and from there I joined The Register as a staff writer.

With the new semester we received a new advisor (Hillary Blayney) and mentor (Ali Hodge) and together the small staff of less than 10 worked to revamp the paper. Promoted after only a semester of experience to Executive Editor, I spent my junior year learning to balance reporting, design and staff coordination. It almost killed me, and for some reason I loved it.

This year I eagerly assumed the top position of Editor-in-Chief, and my goal has become to both modernize The Register and restore it to its former glory (check out some archived issues on the CHS Foundation’s website).

I can confidently say that I have given myself over to the life of this extremely old paper (it was first published in 1886)—but it has given me much in return.

One usually finds a niche in high school, defining his or her self as a choir kid, an athlete, a mathlete, a JRTOC kid, a band kid—my spot is in the basement, in the never-clean room 029 under the yellow flickering lights.

I cannot communicate to you the time I’ve spent laughing and crying and cursing and working and (somehow) improving in that space.

I’ve watched timid staff writers grow into confident leaders, I’ve witnessed passions blossom and above all I’ve felt myself grow through mistakes and victories. In hindsight, it’s miraculous how The Reg-

ister has changed me—all while I was bent on changing it.

Becoming a student journalist taught me how to talk to people, how to hold my own, how to choose my battles, how to make it all work or when to challenge the norm and take risks.

It heightened my curiosity, developed my organizational skills, amplified my interest in world affairs and gave me an exciting goal for the future.

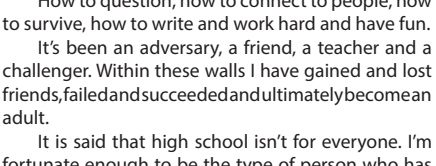
We have a lot of fun in the basement. You may not realize that we often have to buy the objects that we use for graphics (I’ll never forget the pregnancy tests we had to coerce a few sophomores to pee on, the condoms that a photographer and I had to extract from their color wrappers and photograph on the sidewalk in the middle of winter, the handcuffs with a tiny key we tried really hard not to lose), or the amount of macaroni and cheese we consume every week (of which I try not to partake), or just how dirty the floor is, or how many times we yell “Blayney!” every day (she really is a second mom).

You can’t know how tired I am of hearing about that popcorn fire (a huge black mark is still on the wall in the back room, for those of you who are curious) or just how many times I’ve gotten dizzy from staring at a computer screen in 029 past 7 p.m. (the custodians and I are best friends by now).

You can’t know the feeling that comes with putting out a new issue and hearing it compared to professional publications, or how it feels to watch a freshman staff member excitedly examine her story on the front page.

Satisfaction seems an inadequate word to describe my feeling toward how far The Register has come in the past three years. Regardless of my frustration and exasperation with it, I am honored even

CONTINUE TO ‘FAREWELL’ ON PAGE 19



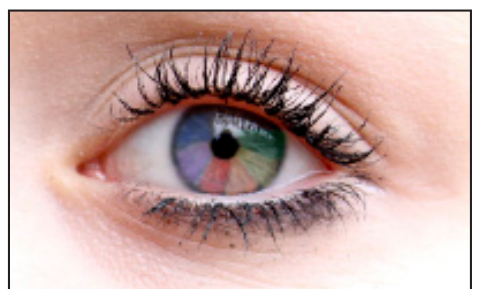
EMILY BECK
EAT YOUR VEGETABLES



WAIST ▶ page 20
This new internet fad requires women to go to extreme lengths to achieve a desired “hourglass figure.”



PROTESTING ▶ page 21
Following the death of the founder of Topeka’s Westboro Baptist Church, will Fred Phelps’ opposers stoop to his level and protest his funeral?



EYE ▶ page 19
A look into the possibility of women with tetrachromacy—can anyone prove such a phenomenon?



ARE THEY REAL?

IS IT POSSIBLE TO PROVE THE EXISTENCE OF TETRACHROMATS?

By Natalie Nepper
STAFF WRITER

To most of us, the rainbow consists of seven colors, each of which is part of the acronym "ROYGBIV." But recent studies suggest that some women, just like thousands of birds and other animals, can see more colors than ever imaginable—99 million more, to be exact.

Human beings have three cones in their eyes that depict rays of light: red, blue, green. Those with color blindness only have two cones. But there is a possibility that some women, often relatives of colorblind men, are lucky enough to have four cones, giving access to millions more shades and hues than visible to the average human being.

The scientific word given to these miracle human beings is "tetrachromats," stemming from the word "tetrachromacy," meaning having four cones in the eye. Those with this heightened sense of color perception may be miracles, but the odds of them realizing their potential is rare.

Since colors are seen in many different ways, it's almost impossible for one to consider the existence of a fourth cone, ranging somewhere between red and green (in the orange zone).

Tetrachromacy only exists in a small percentage of women. The gene that would create such a varied perception only lies in the X chromosome, which only women can have two of.

In one chromosome, a cone would be activated while in the other chromosome, another cone of the same color (i.e. red) would exist as well. In some cases, women have two green cones instead of red. But how can this be proved? And how can women know if they are tetrachromats when the two red cones may not be noticeably far enough in wavelength to make much of a difference?

With all of this seemingly absurd information being discovered, The Register believes it's safe to say that tetrachromacy can actually be possible.

In science, tetrachromacy is a heated debate. However, it is speculated by certain scientists that tetrachromacy does not exist and is not possible under any circumstance.

However, it is a known fact that many species of animals possess four and sometimes even five cones that depict rays of light, meaning that there are tetrachromatic and pentachromatic animals in existence right now.

Believing that humans don't—or can't—possess

such a trait would be quite narrow-minded considering the fact that animals like this are out there.

Birds, insects and fish are commonly known for being tetrachromats. Various fish and bees can also be pentachromatic, giving them the ability to see ultraviolet and infrared lighting.

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Also, birds such as pigeons and peafowl have extreme perception of four visible color spectrum. Some scientists think that tetrachromatic women can also see infrared and ultraviolet lights, but may not always realize it.

This asset would be extremely interesting to have, and some have achieved ultraviolet light vision before.

As crazy as this may sound, there are actually thousands of people in the world with a condition titled Aphakia, meaning that the lens of the eye has been surgically removed or damaged, giving extremely far-sighted vision to those whom have extracted it.

It's doubtful whether or not these people can see ultraviolet light rays like tetrachromats, given that there are only claims.

Some theories suggest that a majority of humans are tetrachromats, but cannot always see these millions of more colors. To be able to see all of the colors translated into the four cones of the eye, there must be four receptors connected to the brain that perceive this information.

It is theorized that humans who have four cones might not be able to cognitively perceive these colors because of the lack of receptors. Being able to physically see these colors could be unrecognizable to many, especially since science hasn't figured out a way to test the amount of cones in a person's eyes.

However, the idea that many, if not most, of mankind are tetrachromats is an idea that simply can't be possible. As stated earlier, women are the only ones able to have four cones in their eyes, so men simply cannot possess this "super-human" ability.

But the idea that many women can have four cones without four passageways to the brain is a possibility still in question. In fact, the whole debate over tetrachromacy is still in question. Being able to see millions upon millions of more colors would create for a very complicated world.

So is it a blessing—or a curse? Until science can find a way to prove tetrachromacy, the topic can be quite confusing. It just depends on how you look at it.



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Should the U.S. intervene, or stay out?

CONTINUED FROM 'PRO'
ON PAGE 18

is the high concern that they have for other countries and their opinions towards the U.S.

Every few years, the U.S. conducts a poll in nearly every country that asks about the public opinion towards the United States and whether it is seen as a "positive" or "negative" force in the world.

If American citizens want the United States to be well-liked and fit into the "positive" category, then they need to accept that the U.S. must help other countries in need.

CONTINUED FROM
'AGAINST' ON PAGE 18

of his younger brother, and tries to throw his weight around in order to protect him. As anyone who has seen an after-school sitcom knows, this usually doesn't work out.

The situation is often made worse for the smaller country—the bully continues terrorizing the little brother. Or both end up stuffed in the trash can.

Overall, offering aid is vital, this must be carefully measured. The U.S. must assess how much is necessary, and if problems are being solved or simply prolonged.

Editor-in-Chief says goodbye, good luck

CONTINUED FROM
'FAREWELL' ON PAGE 18

single day to be its Editor-in-Chief.

As I near the end of my time here, I'm tired just like every other senior. I'm ready to publish this last issue and hand the power over to those who have proved themselves through back breaking work, just as I did. I'm ready to go to Indiana University and take the next steps to becoming the journalist that I so desire to be. Hopefully you'll see my work in The New York Times or hear my name on NPR someday.

To the student body: I hope I've served you well. Keep reading The Register and helping us to improve it. Without you, none of this would be possible.

To my staffers: I'm so proud of you. Allow your passions to grow and pursue your ambitions wholeheartedly and never let high school get you down.

It's been such an honor working with and hopefully inspiring you, and I hope that you choose to uphold the quality of The Register and improve it even more than I was able to. I'll try my darnedest to make you proud. And I'll be back.

Anti-rape condom not always practical, could potentially be misused

By Trenay Newsome
STAFF WRITER

Many women have a grave fear of being raped. Recently a South African doctor, Sonnet Ehlers, has created an anti-rape condom, formally known as "Rape-aXe." This condom has rows of jagged hooks which attach to a man's penis if he tries to forcefully have intercourse with a woman. The condom works as a female condom.

The main goal of this condom is to catch predators in the act. Once the condom has been attached to the man, it cannot be removed, except by a doctor. Once removed, authorities are called to take the predator to jail.

This condom would be an ideal way to prevent date rape, because women could easily put the condom in to prevent any potentially dangerous situation.

Suppose she is going off on a blind date; she doesn't know the man at all and she could be meeting up with a psychopath. Good thing she put the condom on before she left.

Even if she was going on a date with the guy she has been friends with since high school, it's always better to be safe than sorry.

The condom is ideal for a date rape situation, but what about the other forms of rape? Shouldn't rape situations that can't be predicted or avoided also be considered?

These situations are hard to get out of, leaving the victims emotional and angry, thinking, "Why didn't I see this coming, why didn't I just put it on this one time?"

But how could a woman know what is in store for her throughout the day?

What about marital rape? Her partner is being very aggressive that night; but she is not in the mood. A situation that has not been predicted and a hard one to avoid since they both live in the same household.

Maybe he is drunk and does not realize his partner is afraid, while she is kicking and screaming and telling him to stop. By this time, it's too late to put the condom on.

The most sensitive case of rape is aggravated rape and involves a child that does not know what is happening to her. It is forced; is she old enough to even know

what a "Rape-aXe" is? Let alone know what a condom is? Does she even know what intercourse is? Is there anything to protect her from the predators?

While there are many positives to this condom, there are also some potential dangers for innocent men.

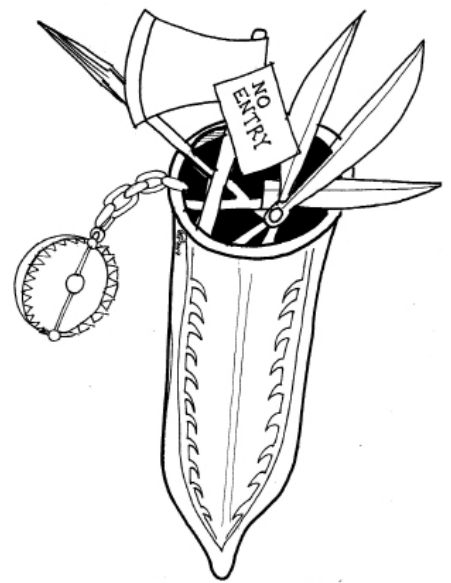
There are women who are crazy, mentally insane and would do anything they could to keep a man to themselves. Suppose they are at the doctor's office after an incident, she consented but wore the condom anyway?

This man is going to jail just because an insane woman wants to keep him to herself.

This condom could be a form of enslavement, for this particular reason or even other unstated reasons.

While the condom is ideal for certain situations, it fails to see the entire picture.

This condom cannot be the solution and could lead to false hope for women around the globe, mainly because rape is always unpredictable, some women could use them for false claims and women cannot know when or even where to wear the condom.



And the beauty faux-pas keep coming. First, the thigh gap era hit social networking sites and popular photography sharing hot spots, like Tumblr.

On top of snaking its way into those sources of media, the waist cinching fad has hit the television screens and music videos reaching an even larger crowd.

Let's begin with the history of waist cinching: In the late 1800s, something revolutionary to women's physiques were introduced called the bodice belt.

Later down the line the ribbon corset, which is most similar to the modern corsets used today for waist cinching, emerged in 1901.

In 1947, a prestigious fashion line furthered women's fascination with these corsets with a new line featuring silhouettes with nipped waists.

In relation to modern day fixation with nipped waists, it's unfortunately still to the same extremities.

The Beyonce/Kim Kardashian hourglass physique was desired after they became more prominent in pop culture. Women wanted to ditch their athletic frames for a more curvy, filled out look.

Still and unfortunately, this forced change in a woman's physique would be followed by some serious consequences.

All of the internal organs are moved closer together. The lungs do not function how they used to and are ultimately constricted to function only on the upper top half.

The liver is pushed up and overtime will develop ridges as it is pressed against the woman's ribs. Other complications include heartburn from the stomach being squeezed after enjoying carbonated drinks and problems with child bearing.

But they're beautiful women, right?

Mind you, all of those frightening results derive from one very simple idea of being a beautiful woman in the eyes of these unhealthy women.

In order to look like Kim Kardashian and break necks with an hourglass figure, women are willing to go to the extent of shifting most, if not all, of their abdominal organs. That's pathetic.

Sadly, some women choose not to stop there. Renowned hip-hop rapper Nicki Minaj is a prime example of not getting a great enough fix with the waist cinching process.

In the song, "Dance" featuring rapper Big



WAIST CINCHING

AN EXTREME EXTENT REACHED IN ORDER TO OBTAIN HOURGLASS FIGURES

By Tia Spears
EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Sean, she says: "I don't know man I guess them ** * shots wore off," obviously speaking injections she underwent to achieve her noteworthy derriere.

Some women choose to inject shots into their behinds in order to complete the hourglass figure. It's one thing to cinch the waist, but it's another thing to fill out the rest of the figure.

Sounds like an excuse to wear tight fitting clothing and flaunt something that supposed to be desirable (only to people who don't really understand how gross this is).

Back in early March, "20/20" documented an illegal at-home butt injection clinic that a Venezuelan "doctor" ran in which he would fulfill the derriere dreams of many young girls.

The shots that he would inject into his so-called patients had a high possibility of being deadly. There have been reported instances of women dying because of the shots and if the patient does survive, she is not to lay on her back or walk up to three weeks later.

The injections are illegal in the United States which is why most women fly to places internationally known to give them the best results possible.

Words cannot describe how senseless the whole process is.

Just turn on the television. How many video vixens are groping on rappers and singers and have a nipped waist and a huge behind?

Far too many. This is approved by men and the so-

ciety they choose to be a part of, furthering their sick self-imaging. The idea of a small waist is not bizarre, the extremities to look exactly like an hourglass are.

It'll be a great thing when this fad is long gone and dead.

Because of the number of women who do the corset training/waist cinching are a significantly small percentage leaves doctors and critics optimistic. However, if the fad expands then women have a problem.

Societal influences have always been evident and are the foundation for this whole ordeal, nonetheless, with the way society is today with social media everywhere and so many variations of women, it is going to be a lot harder to spread the truth about this deadly process.

Sydney Spangrud | The Register

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Imani Brown | Contributing Cartoonist

Flight 370: Can Malaysia be trusted?

By Seth Arter
ADVERTISING MANAGER

A month has passed since Malaysian Airlines flight 370 went missing after it suddenly flew off course in the early morning hours of March 8.

As the search has intensified, seven countries including Malaysia, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and the United States are now involved in the search for the missing aircraft. As planes and vessels continue to search nearly 11 percent of the Indian Ocean, possible leads in the search effort have turned into false hope.

Is the Malaysian government and Malaysian Airlines company doing what they can, or are they handling the issue in an inappropriate manner?

Both the country and the airliner have come under fire for several things about how they've conducted the search. Poor communication with the families of those missing on the flight is one of those things.

Based on satellite detection and radar data, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak announced in a press conference that he and investigators have concluded that the plane has gone down in the Southern Indian Ocean and there were no survivors.

Not only was this news very shocking and heartbreaking for the family and friends to hear, but the way some of them were told is worse.

Text messages from Malaysia Airlines were sent out to inform them that there was no hope left in the possibility that their loved ones are alive somewhere. In the week following, the search area changed from the Indian Ocean to somewhere near Australia.

As if informing family members by text message wasn't bad enough, the Malaysian government has issued this statement without retrieving any pieces, debris or data from the aircraft.

The statement issued was based solely on military radar from the U.K. Although there have been objects spotted in various places in the search area, none of them appear to be from the missing flight. Any family or friends who had loved ones on this missing flight have every right to be outraged.

First, the government send texts to inform the families that they believe they know where the flight has gone down and that no one survived, which is no way to inform any person.

To make it worse, they have no proof of what happened to this flight.

Until someone involved in the search effort has found the plane itself or pieces that came directly from the wreckage, there should be no conclusions made.

The families need closure and want answers. The Malaysian government may have thought they were doing something right by telling them what they believe is happening, but the truth of the matter is no one knows just exactly what happened to Flight 370.

The search has been composed of pure assumptions and speculation. Sometimes, this is useful. Without speculation, one may never know where the accurate location may be. So although guesses are important, Malaysia can't just release this information as fact. All it does is get the hopes up of the family and friends.

This was by far not the first time search investigators have ruined the hopes of the families. Throughout the search, there have been several reports of debris spotted by satellite images and some spotted by search crews.

All debris has turned out to be random items floating aimlessly in the ocean. Of course it is vital that the search crews investigate all possibilities; however, why are they releasing information when they are once again, simply possibilities? Any information that was released should have been kept confidential until it was proven.

Communication between investigators and the media is a key part of this investigation. It is important to inform the media, as they want to relay important information back to the public.

In terms of compensation, there isn't a price that can be put on one's life. The Malaysian airline has offered \$5,000 to the families for each person on board.

That amount is not near what should be offered. Under the international treaty called the Montreal Convention, the airliner will be required to give a starting pay of \$150-\$175,000.

In order to avoid a lawsuit, Malaysian Airlines should at most raise that compensation price immediately. It's also the least the families at loss deserve.

In the future, Malaysian Airlines should learn to better control the flow of information to the public and the media unless there is proof and credibility.

Broadcasting needed to expand journalism studies



GEORGIA CHAMBERS
MY NAME IS GEORGIA

Journalism, of course, is huge at Central: all the way from everything that goes into the yearbook to everything that goes into The Register. However, even though this aspect of journalism is covered heavily, and is very successful, one aspect of media is not.

This area is in the area of broadcasting. Broadcasting was one of the media classes you could take at my middle school, and many middle schools located around Omaha, and even many high schools. However, Central does not offer this class, which greatly disappointed me when I first signed up for classes in the fall as a freshman.

The Career Center does offer Television Broadcasting, but The Career Center takes up two periods of the day and is hard to fit into one's schedule.

Introducing this class to Central would have major plusses.

For one, this would get more important information across that Dr. Ed Bennett needs to express to students that does not get expressed during morning announcements. During the announcements, students, at least in my class, keep talking and do not listen to the important information.

Athletes sometimes miss important details regarding practices and times.

If there were a broadcast that aired every day, pre-recorded for those who have not been introduced to broadcasting, students are more prone to watch something and gain the important information.

I know this coming from Buffett, where we had a broadcast and the over-the-intercom announcements. My class would disregard the announcements, but watch the broadcast which provided an interesting visual that went along with the important announcements.

If Central introduced broadcasting, I feel that the results would compare to those of the ones in middle school. Students would actually watch the broadcasts and gain the information that is almost always disregarded in the mornings.

This would also get more students involved here at Central. For example, those who did not take newspaper, journalism or yearbook in middle school and instead took broadcasting were left hanging at Central.

If the program were introduced, it would not only expand the horizons of the school as a Magnet, but also provide experience to students interested in this area.

I understand that this is easier said than done. The equipment needed for this program is expensive, and may not be within Central's budget.

However, Burke and countless other OPS schools have this program.

Central is missing out on a huge opportunity, and if they put in the money, it would pay off in the experience students would gain and the vital information staff wants to get across to students being addressed.

FIGHTING FIRE WITH FIRE

WOULD PROTESTING AT FRED PHELPS' FUNERAL REALLY BE JUSTIFIED?

By San Juana Paramo
STAFF WRITER

Fred Phelps, founder of The Westboro Baptist Church in Topeka, Kan. died on March 19.

Phelps gained notoriety from his anti-gay activism and the picketing of funerals of gays and soldiers. With his passing the question of whether or not to picket his funeral has been on the minds of thousands.

Where most are first in line to picket the funeral of such a loathsome man, there are plenty of others who wouldn't. Some have even gone as far as counter-protesting con-

ing his death, giving condolences to the family. But if he and his followers have picketed hundreds of funerals, then why

shouldn't they be able to picket his?

First of all, no one has the right to picket the funeral of any person, especially the funerals of those who risk their lives on the battlefield. Phelps and his followers did so in depressingly poor taste, getting nowhere with each picket, and rather instead of success they became the most hated group in the United States.

Second of all, it's predictable. As Phelps was reaching the age where death seemed inescapable, the question to picket his funeral arose. There is no justice in picketing his funeral. It is exactly what the family is expecting.

The temptation to react with anger towards the news of his ailing health and then his death is understandable. If people would picket his funeral they simply would be lowering themselves to his level. There is no justification to celebrate someone's death, no matter

how loathsome that person may be.

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Counter-protesting Phelps' funeral shows a level of humanity that they would never show. In response to counter-protest, the Phelps family has shown ignorance. The better thing to do is nothing. It is clear that protesting his funeral would lower one to the level of the Phelps's but to counter-protest would do nothing. The family won't appreciate

the condolences.

It's better to leave this man alone; he is already dead. There is just simply no point to it.

What should be remembered about Fred Phelps are his ideas, though extreme, are not at all different from what many churches and people believe.

The hate that The Westboro Baptist Church inspired has in some ways been good. For those in support of homosexuality, the hate that inspired Phelps is also the hate that inspires them to continue the fight for equality.

Through his ignorance most people come to support the LGBT community, they were able to understand how awful the hate they received was.

What Phelps was trying to do was for all to hate gays and soldiers who risk their lives; in turn most people have come in support of these people. Phelps gave birth to a movement that he couldn't control and it ultimately backfired.

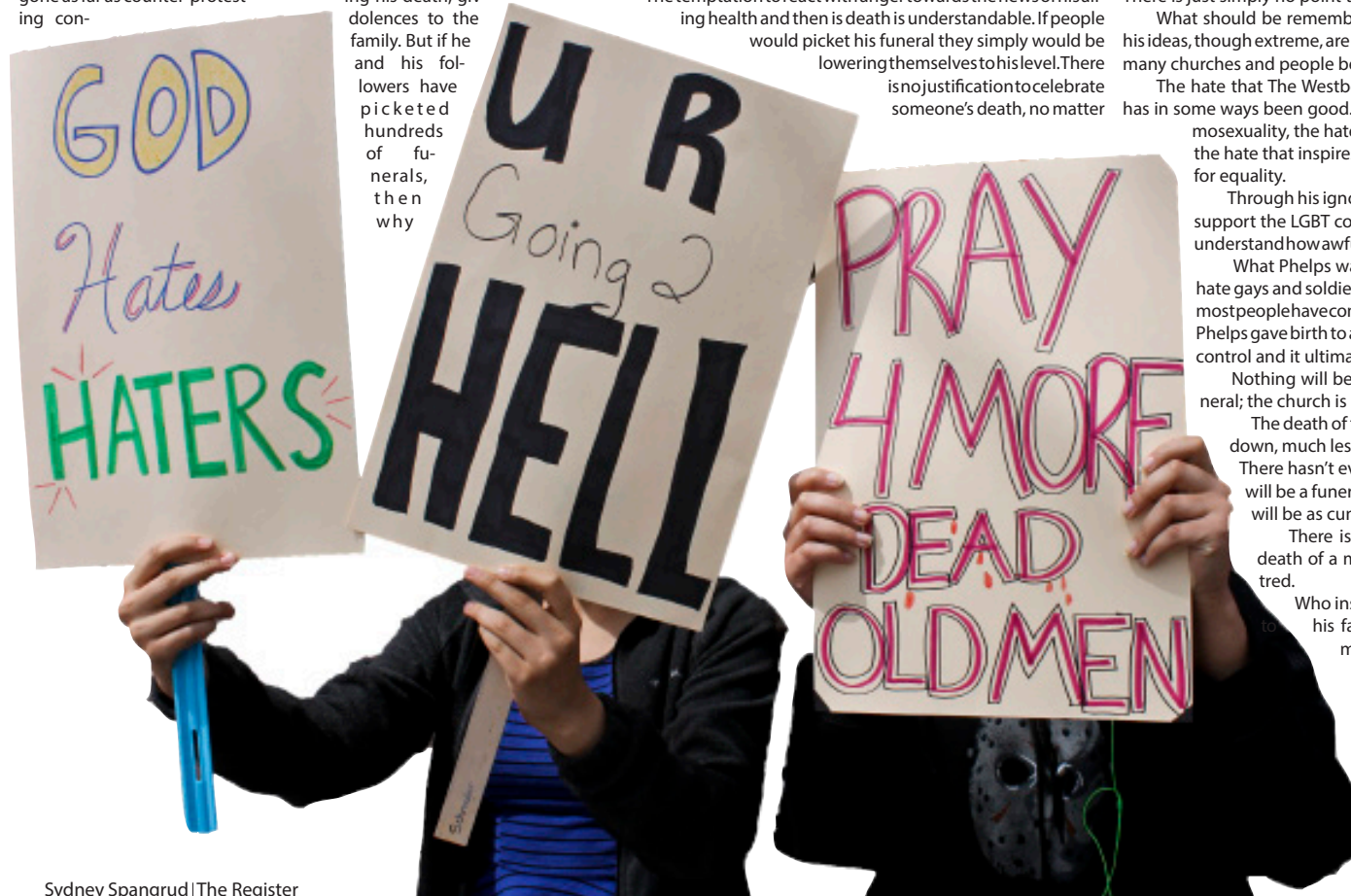
Nothing will be gained by picketing his funeral; the church is still in existence.

The death of the patriarch will not bring it down, much less his funeral being picketed. There hasn't even been talk whether there will be a funeral, and if there is, the church will be as cunningly as to do it in secret.

There is no need to gloat over the death of a man who lived his life in hatred.

Who instilled hatred and ignorance his family and thus became the most hated family in America.

There is nothing we can do now except learn from his mistakes and work toward a more inclusive society.



Sydney Spangrud | The Register

Curious young adults develop positive, keen interests for the better



TRENAY NEWSOME
STRAWBERRIES

Curiosity. The trait that gets all of us into trouble. Adults sometimes say the old phrase, "curiosity killed the cat." But why would they try to discourage our natural interest in different situations?

Curiosity is our motivation to learn about new things of interest on our own without the influence from others. This trait gives us the determination we need in order to have real life experiences.

While our curiosity is at its peak in childhood, it becomes dull in our late teenage/early adulthood years because we fear the old idiom.

Being forced into something that does not interest you (and not wanting to turn out like the cat) and the belief that something bad will happen while you're hunting down your topic of interest are both things that dull curiosity.

Although many students have lost their sense of curiosity, it is still amazing to see that spark of interest someone when aroused by a topic (or something of the sort) of choice.

That spark should give hope to everyone that in the end, happiness can be achieved, but only if your curiosity shines bright for what you are determined for.

An important question to ask considering curiosity and the cat analogy is, "Although the curious cat died, did the curious cat live?" The cat did indeed live.

The phrase, "everybody dies but not everybody lives," explains that (thanks, Drake). One died doing the thing one had an interest in, which beats being bored all day.

Now picture you are the cat; the cat is you, you are one with the cat. Would you rather die with regret?

Or a heart full of enjoyment because you spent your last seconds traveling through the rain forest searching for rare monkeys, eventually being eaten by a snow white tiger? (Look on the bright side, you got to touch it, while at the zoo there is a cage between you and your future murderer?)

In addition to living on the edge, in my opinion I'd rather have my death shown on "1,000 Ways to Die" than die having pity and regret in my heart.

Pity is an emotion that many of us experience when we are regretful, when you have the feeling that you could have tried harder, the feeling that if you tried harder your life would have been less stressful, or even different.

Just imagine and think about that feeling.

Now do you want the feeling in your heart as you're slowly dying from blood loss (or some other horrible fatal health condition) to make you feel as if you did nothing in life? Probably not.

While being drilled with information that doesn't spark your interest is awful, it is good that you have some background information of everything. So that eventually, when it's time, you could dive deeper into the subject that you want to know more about, the subject you love.

Curiosity. The trait that brings us happiness that could eventually result into trouble—but that trouble could be translated back into happiness.



Sydney Spangrud | The Register

Same-sex divorces prove even harder to allow

Micah Martin
STAFF WRITER

The controversial topic of same-sex marriage has been one that society has come face-to-face with.

Since this issue first arose, there are now 17 states that have legalized same-sex marriage in the United States, including the District of Columbia. This allows same-sex individuals a right that everyone deserves.

Along with that, surveys have shown that 58 percent of Americans also believe that same-sex marriage should be legal, compared to only 36 percent that say it shouldn't. Public support surrounding this issue has reached a new high, but it's far from a topic that can be put to rest.

Even with the small successes regarding this issue, there's still the question of same-sex divorce.

It was hard for same-sex partners to be able to marry in the first place, and trying to divorce may prove an even more difficult task. The Register believes that same-sex couples shouldn't have to relentlessly fight to obtain a divorce.

If they are granted marriage then they should be granted divorces as well.

In America, there are still 33 states that don't recognize, or in more severe cases ban, same-sex unions. Those states will not grant divorces for marriages, that by their laws, never took place. This can make it extremely difficult for same-sex spouses to divorce.

On top of that, in most cases, it's legal to travel to another state in order to marry, but in order to divorce in those same states there are usually numerous rules that a couple has to meet for eligibility.

For example, to divorce in Massachusetts, a same-sex couple would have to establish or already have legal residency there. Otherwise, their appeal for a divorce would most likely be denied by the state.

Why are these couples able to marry without being legal residents, but not divorce?

If there are going to be rules hindering divorces, there should be those same rules implemented for marriages as well.

At least that way same-sex couples would know firsthand what dif-

iculties they could potentially have to face in the instance of a divorce.

If a state is going to grant same-sex marriage should also be willing to grant divorces in the same manner in which is allowed. The only way for this whole conflict to be avoided would be for a couple to marry in a state without a residency requirement; which currently includes states like Minnesota, Delaware and D.C.

Still, same-sex divorce can get even more complicated, because there are some states that don't allow same-sex marriage, but do allow same-sex divorce.

The issue with this: how can a state that does not recognize same-sex marriages dissolve them?

A state that outlaws same-sex marriage, but grants same-sex divorce would imply that it does in fact recognize them. One way or another, an instance such as this would cause controversy.

Divorce is something that should be available to people whether they are homosexual or straight.

No one should be denied rights, because they are different than the "norm."

There will always be people in this world who are different, and just because they are doesn't mean they should be treated as if they are inferior. Some people would say that no one is calling homosexuals inferior by not allowing them to be married or divorced. Yet, what else could it mean?

How would you take it if someone told you that your lifestyle was unnatural, or that you were a disgrace to God? This issue is truly about so much more than just divorce and marriage or even same-sex individuals. At the core of all of this is the battle between personal beliefs and human rights.

Allowing same-sex divorces and marriage is not going to magically change the world, but it is a step in the right direction.

People are always going to have differences in belief. However, those beliefs shouldn't blind us to the point where we're willing to neglect the constitutional rights of our fellow Americans.

This is why The Register believes that divorces should be accessible to any person that seeks it; no matter gender, religion, ethnicity, culture or even sexual orientation.

Hospitals overstepping boundaries, children removed from families

By Georgia Chambers
STAFF WRITER

Cases around the United States have surfaced, and they go to prove that the rights of families and the parents of children can be limited up against the state or even local hospitals.

The Register disagrees with the power the state and even hospitals have over the families of patients.

For instance, take a case that surfaced a year ago, but is still occurring.

A young girl, Justina Pelletier, had been diagnosed with a disease that causes loss of muscle control.

However, when she went back to the hospital years later when she had the flu, the doctors said they had misdiagnosed her, and claimed she had a mental disorder.

Her parents would not believe this and tried to check their daughter out of the hospital.

The hospital denied it. On top of that, the parents of Pelletier are limited to two short phone calls and one hour-long visits a week.

The Register believes that the hospital did not have any right to keep the child somewhere against her parents' will.

Even if she did have the disease, the years in between when she was misdiagnosed, she never acted up or gave anyone reason to believe she was harmful to anyone around her.

On top of this, the families' rights are totally violated. It is inhumane to take a

child away from his or her parents and limit the parents' visits.

In other words, this sounds much like kidnapping.

One knows that the poor, young girl is not happy—isolated from her family and held against her will.

The worst about this, though, is that the girl seems perfectly fine.

She had sent a note home hidden in her origami saying, "I know you trust in me. Don't forget it. I love you more than everything in the whole world. Justina." (benswann.com). How could a mentally unstable girl have the ability to do this?

The angered parents still fought for their child, and took this issue to the state. While fighting for their daughter's freedom, Pelletier stayed a long 12 months locked up in the hospital.

Now most recently, Pelletier is still not in the hands of her parents, but is out of the hospital.

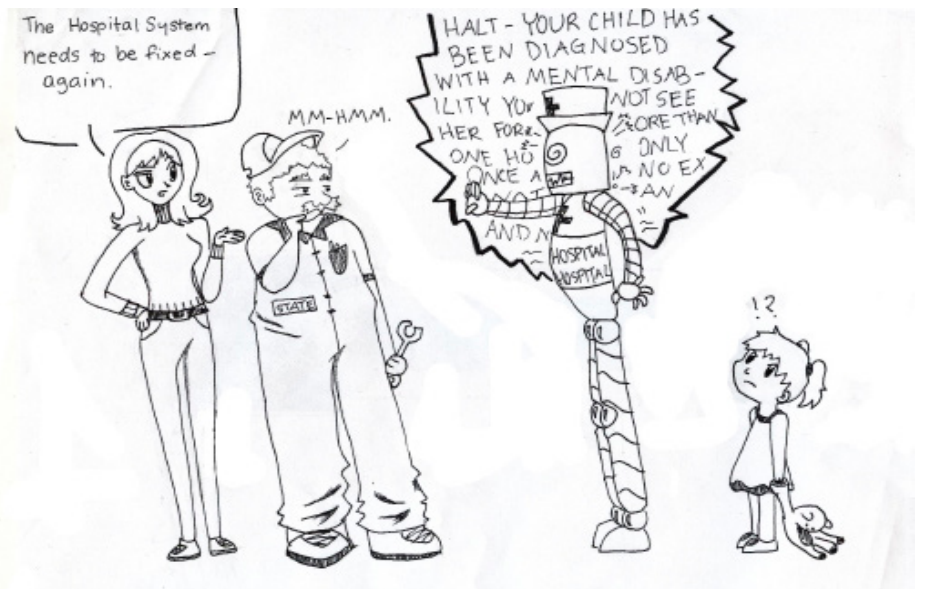
Even though this is better, the state of Connecticut still does not have the right to take a child who has done no harm away from his or her parents.

Another case was shown through a transplant that young Sarah Murnaghan's parents fought for.

Her parents battled the state, and even the Supreme Court, demanding organ-donation regulations be altered.

In the beginning, Murnaghan was denied a transplant due to her age and the withstanding organ-donation regulations.

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Imani Brown | Contributing Cartoonist

However, after a long fight with the state, her family won and Murnaghan received the lung transplant she desperately needed.

Even though Murnaghan was more fortunate than Pelletier, it still was a long struggle before she too could get the freedom that should be granted to her, and the freedom that the parents should have in assisting with the decisions.

All in all, regulations and codes for the hospital and even state need to be altered.

It would be against the Constitution for a hospital to

have the right to take an innocent away from the family while the family sits unhappily beside, helpless.

It is also not lawful for a state to deny one a transplant because of age or other restrictions—if a life could possibly be saved, everything should be done to try to help the suffering patient.

Countless other cases go to support the fact that the system right now has some errors that need to be erased and reworked, putting the family's needs and rights upfront.

PRESERVING THE EARTH

THE U.N. PROPOSES DRAFT TO LEADING SCIENTISTS WARNING TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO FIX POLLUTION PROBLEM



Keali French | The Register

By Stephanie Paul
STAFF WRITER

During the week of April 7-12, top scientists of the world reviewed a new U.N. draft about a study noting that the world is running out of time to fix the pollution problem.

The draft is 29 pages about how the world powers need to have agreed limits on high-polluting fossil fuel use.

The draft report also shows that the earth temperature has increased 1.4 degrees since 1990. The worst offenders with greenhouse gas emissions are China and the United States.

It is not shocking that China is one of the most affected by the greenhouse gases.

In a communist country, the government should have more control over its citizens' use of power and fossil fuel.

But a country that has so many factories affects the whole world, since the factories are polluting air and contributing to the greenhouse effect.

It is sickening that the United States is one of the worst offenders to this planet.

The older generations and even generations from the Industrial Revolution era should be blamed for this entire "greenhouse effect" and all this "global

warming" nonsense, but the younger generations are the ones who will be forced to assist with these problems.

The older generations contributed the most to this; before, the United States outsourced all of these companies and factories and all of the smog produced was polluting the air.

And it is unfortunate that the United States fails to realize the risk at hand, when it is partially to blame, too.

The U.S. needs to own up and admit that the industrialization that occurred during the 19th century (largely in the United States) has affected the world's environment and pollution problem until now.

It is understandable why the U.N. just put out this draft for the scientists; because the nation needs to wake up and realize that Mother Earth is dying.

She needs help to make sure she stays around for many years to come so future generations will be able to hike up the mountains and see wildlife in their natural habitats. Or surf without trash on the beach.

Now to younger generations: It is time to clean up grandparents' and parents' messes and save the planet from greater destruction.

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Tension rises when choosing between cultures

By Cheyenne Alexis
COPY EDITOR

Culture defines people and teaches them different customs that make them stand out and create a unique world.

Without so many vast and unordinary cultures, how could the world be as distinct as it is? But how would it be to come to a new country and raise one's young here and have them almost have to choose between two cultures? Really, it is not wrong to have two cultures and celebrate them easily.

Having two cultures could be a blessing and a conflict. While some children will want to please their parents who are immigrants and live by their own culture, they may also know that they are a bit different from their parents because they are going to grow up around "Americanized" children. In school, a child may have to mask their own culture and strive to "fit in" by acting similarly to their American friends, and then at home, they will have to switch back?

Of course, one should appreciate both cultures one has, and not necessarily have to choose one over the other. At the end of the day, it is one's own decision what he or she wants to practice or morally stand by.

Coming to a new world, parents may expect a child to stay closely knit within their own culture, but truthfully, children are going to want to fit in and experience a new, American life, because after all, that is where they are living. They think they cannot blend in if they are not doing the same thing as their American friends, and it could tire them trying to switch back and forth to their respective cultures that they in turn forget their heritage.

On an article titled "Children of Immigrants Often Torn Between Two Cultures: Assimilation" on LATimes' website, Lynell George writes, "While his push to mainstream, to 'Americanize'—and his persistent, if low-grade inner turmoil with it—is certainly not unique, it is complex. As immigrant parents continue to bring their families' hopes and expectations to the United States, a multichambered tension can develop," about Michael Balaoing, a Filipino-American. This tension can exist simply by keeping pride in one's country and not having any desire to educate children on where they are now living.

This, in turn, can confuse a child and serve as a barrier between two choices: Do they want to go off and live how they want to and away from their family or do they want to experience only one culture and have everything decided for them? The answer should be they should be able to experience both without all of the confusions.

It can be an amazing experience being surrounded by two cultures. To go to school and feel like a true, American citizen can make a child feel good, because at a time post-adolescence, children are greatly influ-

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enced by their peers, and desire to be at equilibrium and not judged by where they came from, though sometimes inevitable because children can be mean. But then, coming home and being immersed in the culture their parents had before they came to America can be quite a blessing.

In an interview with a Haitian-American man in George's article, Alix Baptiste says, "The first generation has a tendency to stay within the culture. . . . The focus is not to become an American per se, but to provide a better life for the children," which is sufficient because parents could be torn as well, because they will want to yes, provide their child a better life in America, but at the same time, would rather keep them closer to home without having to "go home."

Being bilingual can also cause some issues between parents and children. In America, some parents may want their child to adapt to

both languages, and it varies from child to child whether they want to learn their homeland language or not. At school, they will more than likely speak English and then switch back at home to see to it that they have not forgotten their culture can be challenging. English is a universal language, and once a child becomes fully immersed in it, they will want to speak it more. Sometimes, parents will detest this, and solely want their child to develop both languages or their own native tongue.

When it comes to being bi-cultural, what one should do is expose their child to both. To not feel conflicted between one culture as opposed to the other can make the child feel at ease. It is wonderful to experience a culture with family and a culture on the outside, but a child should embrace both that they have so they do not feel stuck. Being introduced and living in two cultures is a beautiful thing, and it helps the world become even more universal and vast.

Paige Colburn | Contributing Cartoonist



Advanced Placement program can cause more stress than achievement

By Jordan Young
STAFF WRITER

Advanced Placement (AP) is everything.

Take the courses and you'll be smarter. Cram every class in your schedule and your transcript will be appealing to colleges. Dual enroll or take the exam and then money, coupled with a few credits to diminish overall college expenses, will come pouring out like coins from the Monopoly Game Machine at the arcade.

This mindset towards the program, being that it can make or break you in all accounts, can literally destroy a student. Because although the AP program really isn't everything, some students forget that, as they may pile on courses in addition to extracurricular activities. And unfortunately they will know a world tightened with stress and anxiety all too well. However, in light of this, The Register isn't saying that AP classes are not beneficial, that students shouldn't strive for excellence or work hard to minimize the amount of money and time that could potentially cost them in college.

But should a high school student spend his or her high school career being a stressed out mess? Should students take advanced classes that they can't keep up with (and maybe can) just to have an attractive transcript, just to look appealing to colleges without having any true curiosity or goal to reach excellence in what they are learning?

These questions ring in our minds as we try to determine how AP classes benefit students in leading them towards success. Because, whether AP classes are truly beneficial or not, there is an almost invisible pressure that may guide a student to take them and students need to push the pressure off and let true learning and other factors guide them to success instead.

According to Cathy Andrus, supervisor of the International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs, a total of 201 students

at Central will be taking 393 AP tests. Doing well on an AP test could potentially get students college credit and sometimes they take multiple ones, which explains the higher ratio of tests to students.

Andrus noted that whether kids took the AP tests or not, they are beneficial courses and are helpful in preparing students for their next steps to doing well in college as well as on a certain scale, being accepted by them. "Colleges tell us they like vigor," she said.

She explained that on a certain level, if a college had to decide between two students with the same GPA and grades, they might pick the student with more AP level courses, considering that he or she performed well in them despite a well-rounded résumé.

Because this is true, pressure weighs heavily on students' shoulder. So where do they turn to? Well, they take the courses. However, for those who focus on the college credit and transcript factors, a downfall is sure to come to them.

AP Literature and Composition teacher Marcella Mahoney gives insight saying, "Students take AP courses for a variety of reasons." This includes the desire to learn more, improve in certain skills, the AP label on transcripts and parental pressure. Mahoney strongly pointed out that those are the wrong reasons for students to take these classes and The Register agrees.

Students may pile on courses and create an overbearing work load of too many of these classes and they get frustrated if they aren't cut out for the rigorous work and sometimes they consume information only to spit it back out on a test rather than to let it sink in.

That's still a problem.

Junior Emily Jezewski decided to take four AP classes this year and said she took them for none of those reasons, but can understand why some would, noting that there are no real other options between AP and regular classes and the transcript factor.

Jezewski was overall content with the AP classes she has, although

she noted that they do get stressful, but that's just a part of the game. "You're going to have good days and bad days, there's nothing you can do about it," she said.

Jezewski pointed it out, as well as Andrus and Mahoney, that the upside of earning college credits and recognition should come after the fact, as they too are important.

In even more emphasis on the issue, a study conducted by Challenge Success in 2013 found that there are no actual studies that prove AP alone contributes to college success, because kids who take these classes are already ambitious and intent on doing well in school.

The study also referred to success depending on how good AP teachers are and similar to what Mahoney said, on whether students are cut out for the work or not. It requires hard and diligent work. So should students bother with APs? Yes, only if it will do more help than harm.

But let's back track a little here, because some may praise AP courses and so might others, but they aren't the only aspects that can make a student successful neither in college nor in life.

Although Andrus pointed out the importance of academics and college acceptance, there is still an importance to be well-rounded—to possess other character traits like being a leader or a person who gives back.

The quiet reminder that goes through many students' heads during at least one point in their lives is that school isn't everything, can be applied here, but also not overpoweringly. APs are advantageous, all who strive to be the best. But they shouldn't make or break one's entire life, because face it, everyone is only a high school kid once.

It's not a matter of having the most AP classes, cramming schedules and stressing out. It's about the process of learning valuable material that will remain far beyond the tests, quizzes and even graduation.

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Historical campaign is honored 18 years later with women's museum

By Kira Hawkins
STAFF WRITER

It's been almost 18 years since the "Free the Sisters of the Crypt" campaign, which was led by a small group of female Capitol Hill workers to move an enormous, 10-ton unfinished marble statue of suffrage pioneers. The women raised \$85,000 in donations for their cause.

This small success then later sparked an idea to build a women's history museum in D.C. The movement has raised over \$10 million dollars, but despite this accomplishment, 18 years have passed with no museum. This museum was to be built to honor major figures in women's history and to hold key moments.

Women have worked—and are still working—to be equal, not just in this country, but all over the world. The efforts made by brave and strong women need to be highlighted and honored. After all of these years, women deserve to have even this small piece of honor.

There are plenty of types of museums in the world, many honoring different types of things. History, art, science; just to name a few. This museum should not be excluded from the list of grand museums. It is a great opportunity to educate the community about the struggle that women have faced throughout history. There are already precious and expensive artifacts owned by the National Women's History Museum (NWHM), the organization that is pushing for the museum to be built. The organization is starting to decline, and the workers are being paid less and less. Having this museum would not only help to keep these workers around, but give jobs to those passionate about history.

This museum would give more chances for this to be done. We can learn from our past mistakes. If more history is preserved, then we can better learn and discover what had happened in our past. It is exciting to know our past and what happened. Washington D.C. is filled with history; something new around every turn.

Women's history, like any other history, should be celebrated, not buried. There were good times and bad, but all of it should be recognized. The NWHM has worked tirelessly for this museum, and they deserve it. This museum should be built to honor the women that stood up and made a difference in this country.

Purpose of NeSA needs to be carried out differently

During the junior's expectation assembly prior to the week of NeSA testing, a student brought up a very valid point: Are the NeSA testing scores an accurate portrayal of each school?

From the outside looking in, it may seem cut and dry. "This school is better than this school because of this score," as some parents would assume, but that's incorrect.

Central is a school of diversity and tradition. We make it obvious that students from over 10 different countries are educated in this building. With that, there inevitably are different languages, religions and customs.

On the second floor, fourth side you run into two massive rooms in which case there is no typical student. Yet, their scores are averaged into the overall score of Central. Clearly there are some factors that do not apply to other OPS high schools, despite the fact that we're still compared to them.

My understanding is that with these scores, the district configures a certain amount they will fund us. I don't know if it's just me, but I have a hard time understanding why our scores should have anything to do with funding. It's almost bribery. "Do well on your test so we can give you money!" What?

Also, the juniors are at different levels despite their shared grade level. I know students who are in Algebra 3-4 and I'm in Pre-calculus/Trigonometry and I was sitting next to a Calculus student during. Obviously there's a range of different levels. Not everyone has reached the same levels, not school-wide but state-wide. In my opinion, it's like making us all take the same tests to give kudos to the Calculus kids and a "shame on you" to the Algebra 3-4 kids. This doesn't work.

On my break between different sessions, I discussed my opinions of the test with other students and we all came to a pretty unanimous conclusion that the tests were pretty simple, just repetitive and annoying.

In addition, the tests should not be utilized, in my opinion, for anything. Why do we have to set aside two days to just compare our

brains to other schools? It's such a pointless thing. I'm not attempting to be a stereotypical anti-test kid, tests are important. . . . Just not these ones.

If the school board and Nebraska Department of Education wish to compare schools, then do it with reported ACT scores with kids who actually care and what to further their education. Or, they can use the CBA's and Acuity tests that we take. This whole, "every junior go upstairs for two days and test your heart away" scenario is ridiculous.

The end of the year is pretty much here and this whole NeSA ordeal is a less than likable process, I think, for both the students and the teachers. The classes on the fourth floor all have to be relocated and if the students finish earlier than expected they have to shift back into a regular schedule. . . . the hassles are infinite. More importantly, the hassles are unnecessary.

So for next year's group of test takers. . . Well, I don't really know if I can speak on that considering the inconsistency of our school board and education system. If, by a miracle, NeSA testing is still a "thing," then I'd advise this year's sophomores to brace themselves for a rather bland, but easy, two days of questioning. I can't even bring myself to call it testing; it's just questioning.

Speaking of all the changing the school board and the Nebraska Department of Education does, this is the first thing they need to reconfigure. I think the purpose of comparing schools is fine, but not with these standards and tests. They don't do a great enough job explaining how exactly they go about grading the students or even what the benchmark should be.

I'm not sure if this was planned too well. I hope that this is abolished; if not abolished, heavily revised. I know the school board and Nebraska Department of Education can do better at comparing each school, even though it's not at all necessary.



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