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EXHIBIT PAYS HOMAGE TO NEBRASKA MILITARY PERSONNEL WHO GAVE THEIR LIVES TO THE COUNTRY

BY MICAH MARTIN
 staff writer

From Sept. 22 through the 26 the Remember Our Fallen exhibit was shown in Central's gym lobby. Remember Our Fallen was funded by Patriotic Productions and Bellevue University. It was brought to Central by the Central High School Foundation.

The goal of this exhibit was to serve as a tribute to the military personnel from Nebraska that have given their lives to protect the United States. "It's an exhibit of all of the soldiers, sailors and airmen [all of the military personnel] that have given their lives from Neb. They do this with every state, but the exhibit here will be the ones specifically from Neb., so it really hits close to home," said LTC Michael Melvin.

"The exhibit is a very meaningful thing. It allows us to say thank you to those who have sacrificed their lives for ours," said Cadet Captain Connor Grosseohme. This exhibit consists of pictures and memorabilia for each of the fallen, which makes every piece of the

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NICK BRONIECKI | The Register
 Left: A Nebraskan soldier's boots serve as a memoir of his life.

REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN

OPS decides seniors will cross the bridge for their graduation

BY TIA SPEARS
 editor-in-chief

As for all OPS high school graduations, ceremonies will be held at the Mid America Center in Council Bluffs, IA for the 2015 class.

Opposed to Central's venue for quite some time in history, graduating at the Civic Auditorium will be an outlook every class after the class of 2014 won't get to see. The Civic Auditorium will be torn down and reconstructed into a different establishment.

That left a question for those affiliated with Central: Where does the class of 2015 graduate and when? It has been decided amongst a few other graduation venues that the Mid-America Center would suit not only Central's graduating class, but all 2015 OPS graduates the best. Central's graduation date is May 20.

One large event that made planning harder was State Track. "Some areas weren't available because they were booked up at particular times," one of Central's Assistant Principals, E. Dionne Kirksey said. "State

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The Mid-America Center is located at 1 Arena Way, in Council Bluffs, IA. May 20 is the date all of OPS seniors are scheduled to have graduation.

ALLIE VORTHMANN | The Register

OPS one of ten national winners of Green Ribbon Schools award in late July

BY KELSEY THOMAS
 executive editor

The U.S. Secretary of Education Anne Duncan and Chair of the White House Council on Environmental Quality Mike Boots announced the winners of the Green Ribbon Schools award in late July, a program now in its fourth year.

"Today's honorees are modeling a comprehensive approach to being green by encompassing facility, wellness and learning into their daily operations. They are demonstrating ways schools can simultaneously cut costs, improve health, and engage students with hands-on learning that prepares them with the thinking skills necessary to be

successful in college and careers," Duncan said in a press release.

Omaha Public Schools was one of nine districts nationally to win the award. Fontenelle Elementary was also honored, along with 47 other schools across the United States. In 2013, King Science Magnet School was honored, and in 2012, Lothrop Magnet and Miller Park schools were awarded.

Omaha Public Schools was nominated by the Nebraska Department of Education, who recognized the strides in energy conservation and healthy living that the district was trying to make.

In February 2010, OPS adopted the Green Schools Initiative (GSI) and created an Energy Action Plan to "to reduce consumption of energy, water, and other resources... and embed environmental

responsibility in the culture," said Susan Colvin, a representative of the program for OPS and the GSI coordinator.

The Energy Action Plan asked all schools in the district to consider how they could save energy and help the environment. At each school, students are involved with recycling, litter pick-up, the planting of new trees, and other environment-based community events. In addition, all administrative offices, and 81 out of 82 OPS schools participate in the GSI effort. Recycling volumes are now at a 5-year high for the district.

Water is now being utilized better through collection of rain in barrels and troughs, and the irrigation of

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CHS GOES GOLD ▶ page 3

A DECA sponsored project has two seniors, Erika Regier and Megan Peterson leading the school in donations.



AIDA ▶ page 4

This year's musical follows an Ancient Egyptian theme, leaving those behind the curtains and on the stage eager for the big performance.



BRIGITTE IRIMUS ▶ page 6

Sixteen year old Austrian exchange student comes to Omaha to enjoy cultural differences.

Foundation brings exhibit to Central, remembers soldiers



NICK BRONIECKI | The Register



HANNAH PETERSON | The Register

Left: Sitting in the middle of two flags is a description of the Remember Our Fallen exhibit. Right: A view of a portion of the exhibit displays the photos of some, not all, of Nebraska's fallen soldiers.

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exhibit unique in itself. On top of these aspects there was also a video that played throughout the exhibit.

Remember Our Fallen is comprised of individual components, but it is all tied together as a whole memorial. "It's kind of like a bunch of families embracing memories right there in front of you.

This exhibit allows you not to forget the person, to put a name to just a fallen soldier," said Danielle Jorgenson, a senior cadet involved in organizing the event.

This exhibit included a remembrance ceremony on the first day that featured guest speakers and an honor guard of Central cadets. Jorgenson said that she was looking forward to having classes going to the exhibit to learn and seeing their reaction when everything clicked, realizing how important the exhibit was.

"It's a way for us to honor those who have given their lives to allow us the freedoms that we have. I think it is important that young

people get the opportunity to understand that freedom is not free; that there are people who die to ensure that they can do the things that they do," said Melvin.

Not only is this exhibit a way for us to honor those who have sacrificed their lives for us, but it is also a way to remember that freedom is far from free. "There are a lot of people in this world that want to take our freedoms away and without people, like you see in the photographs that are willing to die to maintain that freedom, we won't have it.

People in this country tend to take their freedoms for granted. I've had the opportunity to be all over this world and I've seen a lot of different countries and a lot of different cultures; the rest of the world is not like this country," added Melvin.

The Remember Our Fallen Exhibit was a way to give thanks to those who gave their lives, as well as a way to see them on a more personal level. It really emphasized the fact that the fallen are not only

soldiers, but people as well.

"The exhibit gives you an opportunity, to at least at some level, touch these people personally. You can put a face to names you may have heard or read in the newspaper. For me there's two or three that I did know personally," said Melvin.

The exhibit was mainly organized by a committee of student cadets that worked diligently to make everything run smoothly. From making posters, planning the floor layout and announcing the event these cadets fulfilled JROTC's mission, which is to help young people to become better citizens.

"JROTC teaches you things that you need for the real world, not just things that you need for college and above. It teaches you outside experience," said Jorgenson.

Helping to organize such an event as this exhibit not only exemplifies this standard, but also shows one of the positive impacts that this program has on Central.

Environmental Green Ribbon award given to Omaha Public Schools

CONTINUED FROM 'OPS' ON PAGE 1

fields with rain.

The movement for a more environmentally-friendly bus program is one of the biggest projects within the district. OPS evaluates routes of buses to make sure they are efficient, and has converted over 400 buses to propane autogas systems. OPS currently owns the largest fleet of autogas buses in North America, which saves over 2.3 million pounds of carbon dioxide from entering the atmosphere each year.

"Schools all over the country can look to today's honorees as models for creating a healthier learning environment while lowering

energy bills and preparing students for success in the 21st century economy.

"The schools and districts being honored today are taking smart, innovative steps to reduce environmental impacts and teach students the kinds of sustainable practices that they can carry with them into their homes and future careers," Boots said of OPS and other honorees in a press release.

In many schools, particularly elementary schools, even more measures are being taken for the environment and for public health.

Many schools have a before-school walking club that encourages physical activity for both students and staff.

Community gardens are also being implemented at more schools in order to teach young children where the food they eat actually comes from and how it is produced.

The district has saved around \$2.7 million in the past four years since the integration of the Energy Action Plan. Other benefits have been present as well, like the wealth of knowledge about the environment and healthy living.

Colvin, among many other people involved with the district, hope to see the initiative grow more and more within the city and other school districts.

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Graduation for all OPS seniors set at Mid-America Center

CONTINUED FROM 'OPS' ON PAGE 1

track is the last few days of school. We always try to have graduation before or after state track."

In the heart of downtown Omaha is Centurylink, which would seem like the perfect fit for Central considering "downtown pride." Kirksey said, "Centurylink really wasn't available during state track."

Another factor was the tickets allotted to each student. "I think they were just looking at people and the amount of tickets and how it was directly affecting families," Kirksey said. "It'll be like it normally is. It'll be six free [tickets] and then you have the option to get an additional six at the cost of three dollars."

Many students began to worry about that, not only students of Central. The talk on social media became about the change in ticket allotments, especially on Twitter. Fortunately, the change was made.

Because the Mid-America Center is in Council Bluffs, IA, it is realized that transportation from Omaha to Council Bluffs might be yet another issue.

Crossing the bridge is going to be rather difficult for some families, especially for those traveling further distances from Omaha to Council Bluffs. "They're going to offer transportation for families," Kirksey said. "The details haven't been worked out... [but] that will accommodate people having to go across the bridge." Though Council Bluffs is right outside of Omaha and is relatively close to Central, there are students from every part of Omaha and transportation, even with assistance, could be an issue. "If [graduation was] down here, you know you, can just catch the bus if that's what you choose," Kirksey said. "So they're going to offer bussing for families but that'll come at a later date. The details will come later."

The specifics of graduation are still in the process of being perfected. It is a heavy task on the hands of OPS and accommodating the needs of every high school students is expected to be met.

the register
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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 hillary.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.

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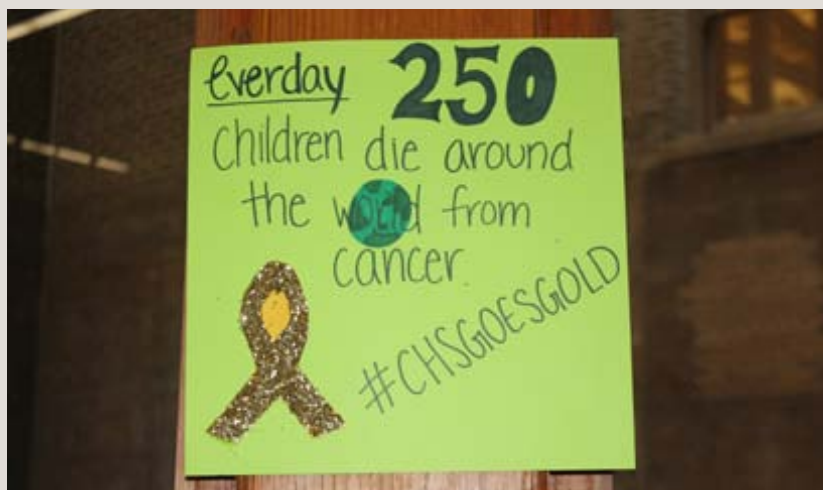
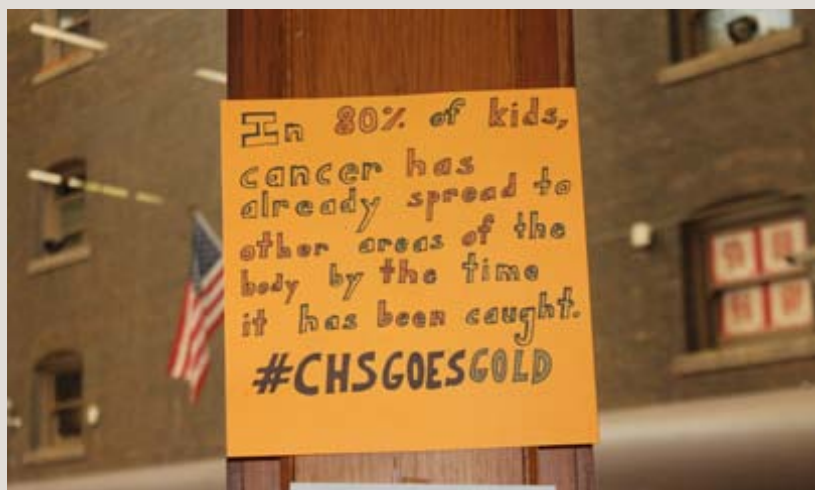
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#CHSGOESGOLD



CENTRAL SENIORS, ERIKA REGIER AND MEGHAN PETERSON, RAISE MONEY TO SEND TWO YOUNG CANCER PATIENTS TO CAMP QUALITY HEARTLAND THROUGH THEIR DECA PROJECT



Peterson and Regier, with the help of other DECA students, hung posters around the school to raise awareness about childhood cancer. They encourage students to follow @CHSGoesGold on Twitter for more.

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

The movement can be seen all over Central. Posters displayed, ribbons everywhere, the color gold present throughout the halls.

It's all a part of "CHS Goes Gold," a project sponsored by DECA with the purpose of bringing awareness to childhood cancer. The effort is headed by seniors Erika Regier and Meghan Peterson, whose passion for the cause is evident in their partnership with Camp Quality Heartland.

The camp, according to Regier, is a place where cancer patients can go and just be kids. Each camper is paired with one adult guardian and gets to enjoy a variety of activities from swimming, canoeing and fishing to archery and crafts.

"We want to send at least two kids to camp," said Regier. "Not only do we want to raise awareness in the community, we want to bring camp opportunities to these kids."

It costs \$950 to send one kid to camp for a week. However, Regier and Peterson know that the rewards Camp Quality Heartland brings to its campers are worth every penny.

As part of their 2014-2015 DECA service project, Peterson came upon the idea for "CHS Goes Gold" through a cancer patient who attended Camp Quality.

"I was volunteering at the Summer Bash for Childhood Cancer when this little girl came on stage," said Peterson. "She talked about how she couldn't run or play, and then she went to Camp Quality. She was so happy talking about it. She said it was the childhood she never had."

Peterson's experience at the summer bash prompted her to call

Regier, and the concept for "CHS Goes Gold" was born.

"Gold is the color of childhood cancer, and Sept. is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month. It was perfect," said Regier.

The girls' goals for their DECA project revolve around the gold theme for not only Sept., but the rest of the school year, as well. As gold symbolizes hope for those children who suffer with cancer at a young age, it also represents the big plans they have to make "CHS Goes Gold" a success.

"We are going to see if we can partner with Film Streams to get The Fault in Our Stars played," said Peterson. "We will also have candy sales, a car wash and just got a gold out approved for the homecoming game."

With ribbon, T-shirt and wristband sales also in the making, CHS Goes Gold is taking Central by storm.

"It's cool, because Camp Quality has never done this kind of thing with a high school before," said Regier. "Everything they do is through volunteers and donations, no government funding."

Camp Quality's devotion to cancer patients was another factor that committed Peterson and Regier to helping children receive free tuition to camp.

A life-changing experience not only for the kids, but for Regier and Peterson as well.

"We're emotionally involved at this point, raising awareness as well as money," said Peterson.

The fact that the public is largely uninformed about childhood cancer is an important motivator for Peterson. For example, so much emphasis is placed on the fight against breast cancer in America, Peterson believes the seriousness of childhood cancer is overshadowed.

"Only 5% of government funding for cancer goes to childhood

cancer," said Peterson. This is a statistic that the DECA students want to change with CHS Goes Gold.

Regier and Peterson's passion for their cause is also amplified by their time spent with children affected by the brutality of cancer.

"I teach swimming lessons to a girl who has a leg tumor. Cancer is a big deal...it hits home for me in a lot of ways," said Regier.

About 15,780 children in the United States are diagnosed with cancer before the age of 21, and one-fourth of them won't survive, according to the American Childhood Cancer Organization.

"It's awful to see these kids half my age have suffered more than I will the rest of my life. There is so much in our lives that we take for granted, that I take for granted," said Peterson.

The message that Regier and Peterson hope to get across through "CHS Goes Gold's" involvement with Camp Quality is that it is possible to bring those afflicted with childhood cancer a positive force in their lives.

"I think this makes a big difference for a lot of people," said Regier. "It's real, not just a project that sends us to nationals."

Along with Regier, Peterson wants "CHS Goes Gold" to have a profound effect on the cancer patients whose camp dreams it is funding.

"Children are so innocent. They are supposed to be enjoying life," said Peterson. "I want our project to show them they are not in it alone. There are people who care, who want them to be happy."

In the eyes of Regier and Peterson, childhood cancer can only be successfully fought against if people come together to bring awareness. With their project, the DECA students want to show that change can start anywhere. Regier and Peterson believe Central and "CHS Goes Gold" can be a catalyst to this change.

First historically-based Europe trip ties in accomplishments of former students

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ
staff writer

Scott Wilson explains the details of the 2015 Europe special-sized specifically for Central and its honors history students. This is the first trip that focuses on historic landmarks, in particular ones affiliated with WWII.

"This is the first one. This is our first overseas history trip. I've helped chaperone Ms. Ryan who's the former Latin teacher, I've been on two of her trips to Italy as an extra chaperone. But this one is a history focus instead of cultural, language based. This one is history themed. We've been talking about doing this for maybe 8-10 years and now we're finally going for it," he said.

Wilson explains that the trip was offered to every student in Honors or AP social studies classes. The teachers felt they would have the most interest in attending.

"We invited all honors social studies students, people who have a higher interest in history which is a pretty significant number of people in this school. We felt those would be the students that would be most interested in a trip that had a specific history theme like

World War II."

Wilson says that they will be gone for 10 days, and packing each day full of something the students will be interested in.

"It will be a 10 day trip, two days of flying, one at either end. We'll be flying to London and spend two days there. Then we will go to Portsmouth where they have a museum for D-Day. From there we'll take a ferry across the English Channel. Then we'll spend two days in Normandy about the D-Day invasion, there are several excellent museums that we will be seeing. Then we'll do a day in Paris, Eiffel Tower, Louvre, Notre Dame. Then we will have a day about World War I in Northeast France, and then from there we will go to the Bastogne about the battle of the bulge. We will spend two days in that specific area. Lastly, we will be in Cologne, Germany for a day, then Berlin for a day. Then we will fly home," Wilson said.

Wilson says that 36 kids was the maximum amount able to go on the trip with him, but many more showed enthusiasm.

"We're taking 36, which was our limit. The price for each student is about \$4200. It was first come, first serve. Those who had their deposit and enrollment form first got on the list. We took the first 36 then began filling out a waiting list," he says.

Wilson explains that the trip is not only focused on relating to the curriculum that they're teaching, but they're also visiting sites where former central graduates were laid to rest.

"We are going to visit several cemeteries with Central graduates who were killed in World War I or II and that will give us a chance to talk about what they did in the war. That will be very special; it will add a Central High flavor to it," Wilson said.

"The historic sites are not necessarily geared specifically towards Central, but we'll be able to talk about what those men from earlier Central classes did in the war and that will be pretty cool. We wanted to take Central students; we wanted our students to be exposed to these great sites and museums that are not normally offered on standard European trips so we developed a customized trip with the company that is putting it together for us."

All in all, the trip focuses on Central and praises its former graduates.

This trip is the first of its kind and students and teachers hope many more are in the future.

Two staff members receive Yale Educator Award for their achievements

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO
staff writer

Central emphasizes excellence and tradition to its students, but that excellence is due in part to dedicated teachers. Gregory Sand, a math teacher and counselor Karen Cirulis were recipients of the Yale Educator Award in recognition for being outstanding teachers who have supported and inspired students to achieve at high levels.

Matriculating students nominate high school educators, then a committee of Yale admissions officers review the nominations individually and designate the recipients. Winners were sent engraved desk sets and congratulatory letters. "I was very surprised to learn of receiving the Yale Educator Award," Cirulis said. "I'm genuinely honored to have been nominated by a former student."

Sand has been teaching at Central for the past 12 years; the experiences he has gained have helped him become a better educator. "I'm a much better teacher due to the experiences I've had at Central," Sand said. "This is a school that demands you become a better teacher."

Cirulis not only works for Central, but was also an OPS student and decided to come back after she graduated. "I'm a 'product of OPS' not only as a student but also as a teacher," Cirulis said. "Ultimately coming to Central in 1995—and I'm still learning."

Ryan Goding, a Central graduate, nominated Sand and Cirulis, the only winners from Nebraska. Cirulis note

Sand found out about the award by email from Yale, two days before receiving the actual award. "Anytime a student says 'thank you' is special," Sand said. "But to then have a student take the time during the very busy first days of their freshman year in college to nominate you for an award to honor your work as a teacher is very humbling."

Being a recipient of the Yale Educator Award is prestigious, because it comes from a teacher's student. "I hope it's a reflection of the work all teachers do with students," Sand said. "Often, I just try and find ways to impact kids and help them grow. I'm fortunate to have students who are willing to nominate me."

For Cirulis being a recipient of the Yale Educator Award is just another way of students showing her the impact she's had on them. "Anytime a student, or family member or peer says 'you've made a difference,'



ANN MILROY & ALLIE VORTHMANN | The Register

Left: Karen Cirulis, counselor, speaks with a student in her office. Right: Gregory Sand works at his desk during his plan period.

it's awesome," Cirulis said. "This award truly represents Central and Ryan as much as it does me."

Sand has cultivated a positive relationship with his students that make it easier for friendships to bond and makes it easier to teach. "I hope to cultivate strong relationships with students through teaching mathematics," Sand said. "I begin with my primary role, teaching math. As different circumstances occur, I find way to advise students through the difficult parts of their lives. These don't happen at first, but only after we have worked together and built a trust between us."

It's this relationship that Sand shares with his students that helps him with his job. "My job is much more effective due to the quality of relationships I have with students," Sand said. "Often, when I have strong relationships with students they are willing to

work harder than they would otherwise, challenge themselves and not give up when things become difficult."

Sand received positive feedback from both family and co-workers. "They [family] thought it was great... it was a neat honor," Sand said. Co-workers congratulated both Sand and Cirulis. "My own family includes generations of teachers, and it was something they also valued," Cirulis said.

Being recognized as recipients of the Yale Educator Award was a high honor, but these educators value their students and work more than any recognition. "I, along with other educators, chose this profession with an intention and commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of our students and communities," Cirulis said. "This recognition was a bonus."

The Aida Musical

INSIDE LOOK AT THE DRAMA DEPARTMENT'S FALL PRODUCTION OF AIDA, A CLASSIC EGYPTIAN LOVE STORY

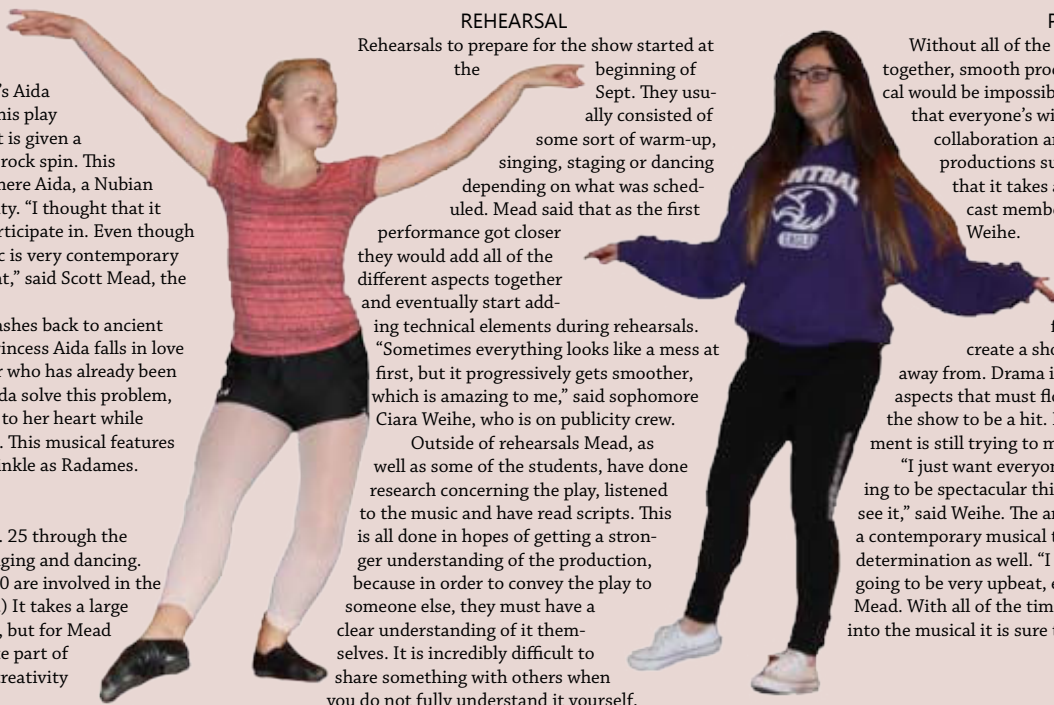
BY MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

Central's first production of the fall musical, Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* is on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. This play is inspired by the classic opera by Verdi, but is given a twist with Elton John's and Tim Rice's pop rock spin. This musical is a timeless Egyptian love story where Aida, a Nubian Princess, must choose between love and duty. "I thought that it would be a fun show for the students to participate in. Even though it is an ancient Egypt production, the music is very contemporary and I thought the students would enjoy that," said Scott Mead, the drama director.

Aida starts off in modern times, but flashes back to ancient Egypt where the story unfolds. Enslaved Princess Aida falls in love with a Radames, who is an Egyptian soldier who has already been given to another woman. Not only must Aida solve this problem, but she must also figure out a way to listen to her heart while dealing with her responsibilities as a leader. This musical features Melissa Comstock as Aida and Jonathan Hinkle as Radames.

AUDITIONS

Auditions for *Aida* were held from Aug. 25 through the 27, and consisted of three parts; acting, singing and dancing. Around 80 people auditioned and about 110 are involved in the show (including actors, crew and orchestra.) It takes a large amount of students to put on a production, but for Mead that is a bonus. The students are his favorite part of the drama department; their enthusiasm, creativity and teamwork are all things that he enjoys.



REHEARSAL

Rehearsals to prepare for the show started at the beginning of Sept. They usually consisted of some sort of warm-up, singing, staging or dancing depending on what was scheduled. Mead said that as the first performance got closer they would add all of the different aspects together and eventually start adding technical elements during rehearsals. "Sometimes everything looks like a mess at first, but it progressively gets smoother, which is amazing to me," said sophomore Ciara Weihe, who is on publicity crew.

Outside of rehearsals Mead, as well as some of the students, have done research concerning the play, listened to the music and have read scripts. This is all done in hopes of getting a stronger understanding of the production, because in order to convey the play to someone else, they must have a clear understanding of it themselves. It is incredibly difficult to share something with others when you do not fully understand it yourself.

PRODUCTION

Without all of the different components working together, smooth productions such as the fall musical would be impossible to orchestrate. Mead added that everyone's willingness to work together, their collaboration and overall teamwork that makes productions successful. "Everyone should know that it takes a lot of dedication to be a crew or cast member, but it is so rewarding," added Weihe.

A significant amount of time and manpower goes into making drama productions successful, but it is all done to hopefully create a show that the audience cannot turn away from. Drama is a medium of art that has many aspects that must flow together smoothly in order for the show to be a hit. Despite the difficulties, the department is still trying to make the production a success.

"I just want everyone to know that the musical is going to be spectacular this year and everyone should go and see it," said Weihe. The ancient Egyptian love tale of *Aida* is a contemporary musical that deals with not only love, but determination as well. "I want people to know that *Aida* is going to be very upbeat, exciting and adventurous," added Mead. With all of the time and preparation that is going into the musical it is sure to be a spectacle.

ALLIE VORTHMANN | The Register

Newly created positions to assist principals across Omaha

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web editor

For the 2014-2015 school year, new positions have been added within the OPS district. They have been established to help the principals do their jobs more efficiently and effectively. The positions are called secondary support for principals. Pamela Cohn, who is one of the Executive Secondary Support people, has a background in education as well.

Before taking on this new role, Cohn was a teacher. First a music teacher at Thomas Jefferson High School in Council Bluffs, then she taught at Bryan Middle. Cohn then went back to college to get another degree that would help her to become a principal. Then was an assistant principal at Marrs Middle School, where she then became the head principal for 14 years. Cohn is almost certain that her job will be easier to be done because of her background as an administrator. "I believe that it will [help] as I have a deep understanding of the intricacies and demands of the position [of principal]," said Cohn.

In an interview with the Omaha World Herald Cohn said, "The position of principal is a very, very complex position. I don't think people realize that complexity, the different decisions one has to make, not only about student achievement, but everything else that goes on in the building." In this role Cohn will oversee all the high schools and alternative schools, along with some others.

Her responsibility in this role is to assemble the instructional leadership abilities of middle, high and alternative school principals. She said, "We are leaders of leaders that support principals in all areas of their work. In addition we are advocates and the voice of the principals." Along with advocating and supporting these administrators, the Executive Secondary Support person also provides professional supervision of principals.

“It is my hope that schools will be able to reach their highest potential... If the principal is at full capacity, then the school will be a high performing school.”

Pamela Cohn
Executive Director of
Secondary School Support

The idea for these new sets of positions came about this summer. Cross and Joftus, a company came in this summer to evaluate OPS. This company gave the district the idea to implement this new system.

Cohn is hopeful that she will be able to help schools achieve and succeed all that they can. "It is my hope that schools will be able to

reach their highest potential through my coaching. If the principal is at full capacity then the school will be a high performing school," Cohn said. Her aspiration is to coach the principals to "work smarter, not necessarily harder."

Cohn will potentially have to make some tough calls throughout the course of her work. "If necessary there may be some individuals that may have to be coached out of the position of principal if they are not able to meet the many demands that his/her role requires," said Cohn.

The role that Cohn will play in OPS secondary schools will be as an assistant in making sure that each school meets its requirements, including Central. "I am here as a support to all of my schools. Each school has different needs. I will take my lead at Central through the needs that Dr. Bennett requests and what I observe during my visits," said Cohn.

Cohn said that the biggest difference between Central and all the other high schools that she works with is the tradition it has. "Central is the oldest high school therefore the traditions are more firmly imbedded than in other high schools. How do we strike a balance of respecting the traditions but keeping up with the needs of students in a rapidly changing global society?" she said.

Rooted in her own tradition and experience, Cohn will help the administrators and in turn the schools, to the best of their abilities.

Math club takes home third place at North High competition

BY TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

Student math club members competed at a competition at Omaha North High School on Sept. 2nd. Any school was welcome to come and compete. 12 local schools showed up and Central took third place as a team. "It was a good start to the season," said Grace Billig, junior.

"Last year we had a very strong group of seniors and so there always is a big void when losing strong leadership and we started this competition off as a, 'ok let's see how we do kind of thing,'" said Sand. Winning third place showed Sand this year's leadership is just as devoted as last year's.

12 students competed in the competition. These students were Michael Svolos, Nick Lacroix, Tomo Bessho, Alea Bilyeu, Grace Billig, Marshall Biven, Lucy Cordes, Miles Kay, Caleb Pecka, Mike Rose, Regan Seims and Dylan Schufelt. Competitions usually vary with the amount of students that compete.

Michael Svolos won two individual prizes; fifth place for junior

free response and second place for junior multiple choice. Nick Lacroix won second place for speed round.

"There is a core group who will be doing the extra practice outside of school to be prepared for upcoming competitions. This year that group ranges of ten to 15 kids which make it hard when you can only bring six to a competition. But at that point it's the students who have done it longer that will be more successful," said Sand. He described this group of twelve students as the core group minus two seniors who could not make it because of other commitments.

At competitions the students compete in events that range from test to buzzer activities. At the North High competition there were two written test they did individually and two tests they did as a team. "Very rarely is it take a test and go home," said Sand. This event lasted four to seven p.m.

However, duration on events depends. There is a competition at the end of September that starts at eight a.m. and ends at three p.m. Although not a full eight hours, the North Competition included a break and then an event and so on. "After school competitions usually last three to four hours while school day competitions will last

an entire eight or seven hours. One national event in June last two days," said Sand.

The duration of competitions is not also tense. Students can use break time for socializing with their peers. "Early on the atmosphere is very jovial, everybody is getting reacquainted, a lot of the kids know each other, not from just completion math but from music and other academic competitions," said Sand. "A lot of it is chit chat and saying 'hi' and getting organized. Once it starts you can feel the tension in the room raise and the volume drops, there is just nothing." Throughout the day the energy level is up and down, in-between breaks and events.

The competitions range from Algebra 1-2 to Pre Calculus. Competition math is putting ideas together that is not usually seen in the class room. Most of the problems are out of school math and require a higher thinking.

Overall math club is preparing for the upcoming season and competitions. "Central had a good showing and still is preparing for future competitions," said Michael Svolos.

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BY TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

Aug. 13th was not only the first day for freshman but also for the new security guard, who has replaced Ray Grace. Gerard Christian, Central graduate of the class of 1994, started his adventure straight out of high school by entering the military.

In the military, Christian was tactical and combat control in the air force and a military police investigator in the army. He served the country for 13 years.

"I came back from the military in 2007 for some different family and financial issues that made come back to Omaha, but looking back I wish I would have stayed in the military on active duty for another seven years," said Christian. He was deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan once.

By staying in active duty for 20 years, Christian could have received military compensation. Military members who serve a minimum of 20 years may retire and receive pay which is certain amounts of money each month based on the retired pay base.

In 2013, Christian started his job as a security guard at South High School.

"Basically I went and applied with OPS because I have always wanted to work with kids and I had different military training," said Christian.

Of course, being at Central sparks memories for Christian. When he attended Central there was no air conditioning or a football field. Instead of Seaman Stadium, apartments took its place. The cafeteria used to be the old gym until they extended the new section.

However, the biggest difference resides within Central's halls. "A big difference from now and then is the students, although I think they have things established here as far as holding students accountable for their actions," said Christian. "The excellence that is expected, I think that is great because that is what it was like when I was here.

Central has always been known for their academics and athletics, so I think that tradition had been carried on from principle to principle. I've always looked at Central like a private school but still a public school."

Christian explained the best part of his job is building relation-



NICK BRONIECKI | Contributing Photographer

Christian smiles amicably as he makes certain that each student leaves Central without harm.

ships with the students.

"It's honorable to be a male role model in their lives, they come to you for guidance or advice. The students think of you enough and trust you enough to come to you and ask for your advice, they value what you tell them. Everybody doesn't have a male figure in their lives where they can ask questions and come to you for advice," said Christian.

Even the little interactions count, such as escorting students to their administrator and advising them how to handle themselves.

Working with students is something that makes Christian enjoy his job. This included giving advice to girls about boys they like and how they should be treated as young ladies or giving advice to young men about how they should conduct themselves wearing their clothes and how they should treat young ladies.

"I just try to give some of them guidance, I try to be a mentor or a big brother," said Christian.

While Christian enjoys working with students, his co-workers have other thoughts about him. Jeff Anderson, security guard, described Christian as a person with, "a gift of gab."

Alternate Curricular Program provides students with ultimate high school experience

BY JORDAN YOUNG
co web editor

Nine years ago Central didn't have a special education program to accommodate students. But ever since the district came knocking on the front doors, room was made for the program and the Alternate Curricular Program (ACP) has resided in the basement ever since.

One closet and one loading dock tucked in the basement each transformed into classrooms to provide space.

The new program would also represent a first for special education teacher Megan Townsend, but for a very different reason. "[My] first teaching job," she said. "I've always been passionate."

Townsend worked by herself in the special education department until Connie Kellen, a teacher with eight years of teaching experience and approximately 30 years spent in the district, joined staff.

"I started in the fall of 1982," said Kellen about the beginning of her teaching career. After her start at the Nebraska Psychiatric Institute, Kellen moved around to many programs before settling at Central for seven years.

Kellen and Townsend are currently "it" for the Alternate Curricular Program, with them being the only two teachers over 27 students.

To be in the program, students are first tested to see if they qualify. After a series of parent-teacher meetings they join.

In some different cases, "resource kids" or kids also from special education classes, though slightly different, can be retested and wind up becoming a part of ACP, however Townsend stressed that it doesn't happen often.

"Most have been in ACP since elementary," she said.

Though in high school, the two run their classrooms similar to that of an elementary school class to help students learn to the best of their abilities.

"I have them for four years," said Townsend. "They're pretty much with us." And the same goes for Kellen.

From 7:45 to 2:45 students nearly spend their entire time with the two teachers with an exception of a few classes, like Art

and P.E.

However, there are definite differences in the way class functions for ACP students.

Since both Townsend and Kellen teach the same classes, kids move between both teachers' classrooms which is the alternative to an "inclusion" system in which kids remain in the same classroom with the same teacher all day.

"[It] makes it feel more like high school for them," Kellen said.

In addition to that aspect, not all 27 students are in the same class all the time.

"We do ability group them," said Townsend.

To give an example, Townsend and Kellen both teach science, reading and an additional class called Daily Living.

There are varying levels of each subject they have to teach at, which also includes the Daily Living class.

Daily Living works with kids on how to perform different, ev-

“When our kids learn something its really cool. Their innocence, their stories, just the students... it's just fun. I learn from them.”

MEGAN TOWNSEND

special education teacher

eryday tasks, like washing, drying and folding laundry, or working on social skills.

"It depends on the group," said Townsend.

In addition to working on social skills and doing laundry, Daily Living classes also include "work sites" which allows sophomores, juniors and seniors to work and volunteer at different businesses with their teachers helping them.

Sophomores go to Educare, Walgreens, ConAgra and Mama's Pizza. Juniors and seniors get more independence and can go to the VA, zoo and even UNO without the assistance of a teacher.

Besides lessons set at a possible elementary level or injecting classes outside of general education, ACP also requires extra work

by the teachers.

Loads of extra paperwork due to preparing specialized lesson plans, parent contacts and data taking make Townsend and Kellen's job a hard as well as different behaviors.

"[We have to] meet the needs of all levels of behavior," said Townsend. "[It's] different every single day...it's interesting...never boring."

"It's all by learning," she said. "Letting them make choices, repeating directions, giving them the chance to express themselves... give them space."

What's interesting can also be a challenge for teachers to deal with, but never anything impossible because that's what this job is all about.

But what's most important and special about ACP is the kids. "You have to have the relationship in order to teach," said Kellen. "[You] have to look at each [relationship] uniquely."

"When our kids learn something its really cool," she said.

"Their innocence, their stories, just the students...it's just fun. I learn from them."

Since the initiation of the program almost a decade ago, Townsend expressed the fact that nothing has changed. However both she and Kellen hope that ACP can be more involved with students in general education classes.

"We've done a few things," Townsend said.

These "few things" include events and activities like after school diversity club, "Friday Friends" in which students sit with Student Council members on Fridays, participating in Latino Leaders and helping out with No Place for Hate.

They even worked with last year's senior class president Tanzy Givens to sit in the student section during games.

But what Townsend referred to, a student helping program at Buffet middle school, was what she wanted Central's program to emulate.

And Kellen also felt that way. "That would be nice—for our students," she said. "It's hard to do with our location."

Despite their location in the basement, ACP can't possibly be hidden. The unique students, teachers and classes contribute to the tradition of excellence and diversity that the school wouldn't be complete without.

Senate race close between Domina and Sasse as each present contrasting views



ALLIE VORTHMANN | The Register

Signs promoting either Democratic candidate Dave Domina or Republican and Tea Party Conservative Ben Sasse are strewn throughout lawns within the city. The Nebraska Senate election will take place Nov. 4.

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

With Senate elections coming up, both parties' hopes play into major long term congressional strategies. While Republicans seek to gain a majority, Democrats look to hold on to theirs. As the days get closer to November, the races across the 50 states continue to tighten, and Neb.'s is no exception.

This November, Democrat Dave Domina faces off against Republican conservative Ben Sasse. Also running, are Independents Jim Jenkins, Todd Watson, Dan Buhrdorf and Dennis Macek. Even with the large number of Independents running, Sasse and Domina are the favored candidates and are at the opposite ends of most of the issues that people will be looking at during these elections.

On abortion, Sasse is pro-life, while Domina maintains that it should be accessible yet rare. Both Domina and Sasse agree that Washington needs to cut its spending and balance the budget, but

only Sasse supports reforming entitlement programs. Sasse supports traditional marriage, while Domina wants the government to recognize the tax breaks marriage provides without getting involved in the private matters of it.

Taxes have been a huge issue in Nebraskan politics, Domina and Sasse are on the polar opposites in terms of policy. Domina supports the rich paying more while Sasse supports a tax that is standard across the board. Domina also opposes running the Keystone XL Pipeline through Neb., because it could potentially contaminate the Ogallala Aquifer. Sasse feels that using Neb.'s own shale deposits could help lead to energy independence.

Domina seeks to maintain a sizable Washington presence in the states, while working to remove bad laws. Sasse on the other hand says that Washington is the author of bad laws and that removing its presence in the states is the way to reform government.

Sasse also supports the Second Amendment, while Domina is quoted as saying "all constitutional rights have restrictions," and therefore tougher gun control is needed.

After the temperamental roll out of the Affordable Care Act

last fall, politicians have scrambled to find the right footing on the controversial law.

Domina says there are still some kinks that need to be ironed out, but that the general idea is good, Sasse supports the repealing of the law and replacement with a less regulated system.

Sasse wants to reform Social Security and entitlement programs, Domina wants to retain the existing system and the stipulations that go along with it.

Although Sasse has made it clear that he wishes to create opportunities through welfare change, Domina has taken no concrete stance on extensive welfare reform.

Lastly, Domina favors a somewhat isolationist view in foreign affairs in order to prevent any more global entanglements, while Sasse feels that when threatened, the United States must show strength. All in all, the two favored candidates in the 2014 Nebraska Senatorial Elections come from the opposite side of the aisle and carry with them uniquely different views, and it will be up to the people of Nebraska to decide who best represents them.

Exchange student excited to live in the States, hopes to bring adventures back home

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

A few weeks into the school year, Austrian exchange student Brigitte Irimus is starting to settle into her time at Central, Nebraska, and the United States.

For the sixteen-year-old living in America for the first time, the decision to go on student exchange was an easy one.

"I applied to go here because I want to have more experiences, have a better view of everything. I wanted to do new things, meet people, and get off on my own two feet," she said.

Of course, she has had to make some adjustments as she traveled thousands of miles away from home.

"Getting used to the transportation here has been hard. If you want to get anywhere, you need a car. In Austria, we have everything," Irimus said.

Cultural shock is also something Irimus has encountered, understandably. "It's been weird, realizing that I live in America now for an entire year," she said.

"I had never heard of Nebraska before I came, so I asked myself, is it in America? But I like it here. It's very pretty."

Obviously, being away from one's ordinary lifestyle and surroundings can have its perks. For the girl from the land of Mozart and The Sound of Music, going to school has been the coolest part of her year in America so far.

"It's been fun to see how Americans act," Irimus said with a smile.

She has also enjoyed observing differences between studying in Austria and life between the walls of Central. "My school in Austria is much smaller," she said. At around 300 people, it has about 15% of the numbers Central has.

"We have just one classroom, so everyone knows everyone, and you're with all the same people all day. The teachers just switch classes. Here, I like being able to switch classes because you get to meet different people," Irimus said.

And she has already had plenty of opportunities to do that. An avid runner, she is on the cross country team for the fall season.

"I love to run. I am not the fastest, but I like to use running as a way to think about things, to relax. In running cross country, I have encouraged myself that I can keep going," she said.

As for vacation must-sees while in America, the sky is the limit for Irimus.

"My host family and I are going to California in January. I would like to get to Detroit, New York, the big cities," she said. As much as she likes Omaha, the girl fluent in German and Romanian knows there are exciting places out there to discover—places where she can



PAIGE COLBURN | The Register

Austrian exchange student Brigitte Irimus will be in America until the end of the school year. While here, she hopes to experience many things that will make for interesting stories back home.

preferably take a subway.

Irimus also knows that as big as America is, there are many opportunities to try some things she could not necessarily do back home.

"I would love to go bungee jumping here. It costs a lot of money in Austria, so I haven't had a lot of chances to do it," she said.

Until that time comes, the teenager is taking things day by day. She loves being able to tell stories to her friends and family back in Austria.

"One cool thing I have done here is participate in the ALS ice bucket challenge. I nominated my cousin in Austria, so it's like I'm the bridge between the countries. I like that," she said with a smile.

Chances to have fun in America will be abundant for Irimus, but she is approaching her adventures across the pond in a serious way as well.

"I think this experience will help me mature. I want to do something to make people happy, to change something," she said. "I want to bring something from America to Austria."

Administrator rich in experience, holds deep passion for making a difference

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

According to Psychology Today, only 20% of the population of the United States is bilingual, and Administrator Thomas Wagner is one of the select few. Born in Des Moines, Iowa, Wagner has excelled in the study of the French language since he began taking it in 8th grade. He has also worked in a local café and his father worked for the United States Postal Service. After his father's passing during his freshman year at South High School in Iowa, Wagner found solace in sports, playing basketball and baseball all four years.

He talked of the time following his father's death that his football coach was a great mentor. "He was a great guy, a great coach. He was always there for me." Also while in high school, other than enjoying PE and French classes Wagner said, "I didn't even know what I wanted to do after college."

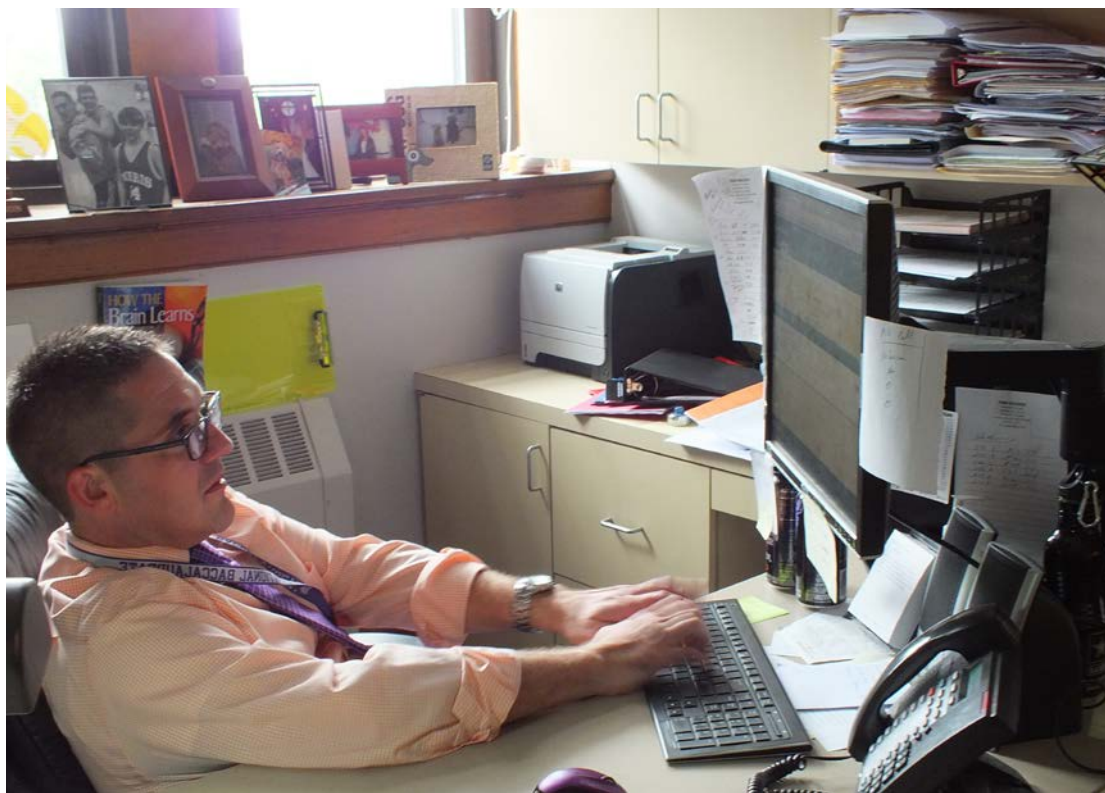
After high school, Wagner attended Coe College in Rapid City, Iowa, where he played football, coached football for a local high school and learned French. His foreign studies eventually took him abroad, spending the last six months of his senior year at La Sorbonne in Paris, where he took the entrance exams and studied French right alongside native French citizens. As well as the French language, Wagner also studied literature, geopolitics and grammar. On his time overseas he simply said, "I learned a lot about English through French."

Upon graduation, Wagner taught French at Norris Middle School for two years, and also worked as assistant principal there for another three years. During this time he also coached boys basketball and earned his Masters in Educational Administration at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, as well as dating and marrying his wife Erica.

Interestingly enough, Wagner and his wife actually attended college together and found each other in Omaha through the alumni newsletter. At Norris, he worked as the assistant principal at South High School for another five years.

Now in his fourth year at Central High School, Wagner is the data administrator. This means that he is in charge of the master schedule, all classes are taught, where they are taught, GPAs and transcriptions. Though this may sound overwhelming to some, Wagner has been doing this ever since his first days as an assistant principal back at Norris. He said on being an administrator, "One of favorite parts is lunch. Although sometimes a hassle, because I get to go out and meet the students." One such student is Sophomore Levi Anderson, who says, "As my lunch advisor last year, Mr. Wagner took a special interest in me and I would always check in with us to make sure everything was going well."

As well as making a difference in students lives, Wagner is also im-



PAIGE COLBURN | The Register

Administrator Thomas Wagner works at his desk. The 2014-2015 school year will be his fourth at Central.

pacts his fellow co-workers.

Secretary Kathy Thompson said, "Mr. Wagner is very busy, very nice, loves animals and has a good sense of humor." On the animals, Wagner and his wife have two labradoodles, Tate and Hayden. IB Middle Years Program coordinator Paul Nielson also said, "He [Wagner] always has his door open, with his lights out, and is ready to help whoever is in need."

Outside of work Wagner enjoys playing NCAA Football on his

Play Station 3, reading action and adventure fiction, going to farmers markets and movies with his wife and working out, when he "doesn't talk [him]self out of it."

Wagner has worked several schools, but he says that Central is where he plans to stay. "I don't know of any other place where students and staff take so much pride in their high school. There is so much diversity, but when you walk down the halls you'll see that it works."

IB students gather 1,700 books for children in Cameroon, will continue to collect all year

BY ALEC ROME
staff writer

Over the past several weeks, IB teacher Tracy Menten and IB Diploma Program students have been collecting books in collaboration with the reading drive through UNO. "Other than to get a lot of books, it was a program through UNO. They talked to us at the end of last year and the two women that came and talked to us were from Cameroon. Each school in these countries has to devote one room to a library and if they do so, then this group will supply materials to transform the room and fill it with books," Menton said.

After one week, they collected over 1700 books for the drive and she talked at the time on an estimate of how many books were collected. "I believe where we are at currently this week, we collected more than 10 large boxes along with some books from the English department that are going to be discarded, so altogether around 20-25 large boxes. Very successful," Menton said.

The IB students have been mainly in charge of running the project.

Menten explained, "The IB kids have to do 150 hours of creativity, action and service for a year to earn their IB diploma. They don't have a class for this, however. So they have to do this on top of their regular classes. They already have a rigorous academic schedule, so this is a pretty big commitment outside of their course work." This project also reflects on different characteristics of good citizens.

"Big projects like this reflect character in terms of commitment and perseverance and they help to pick projects that are significant in terms of global impact. They become more aware of the world around them, and when you have to coordinate things like this you find out what your strengths and weaknesses are," Menton said. "It also shows them how big initiatives globally can be accomplished when you are doing them on the local level."

This entire drive is sure to bring worlds a better education, and she commented on the idea of a first-world country helping a first-world country.

"We are very conscious of the idea that we are the first-world country helping the third-

world [countries], but I think one of the reasons why we feel invested into this project is because the women who are working with this are from Cameroon and so we can trust that what we are doing is not an imperialistic thing. The kids also may end up getting a chance to interact with each other. When we work with our local community it feels more collaborative," she said.

The drive is planned to continue for the foreseeable future, and Menton said that there would be very few circumstances in which this effort would stop.

"There would only be two things that would stop this. One would be if UNO decided not to do this anymore and the other being if the kids didn't want to participate in it anymore as part of their class work. The good thing about the program is that UNO ships the books, so we only have to worry about collecting them. If UNO stopped the effort, that would be a problem."

The IB program is also very unique in its "Creativity, Action, Service" initiative, and it seems to get students more involved with communities and charities on a permanent basis that goes farther than the required limit.

Menten explained, "Since it is a big commitment, they have to do 75 hours with one organization. What is funny is that when you say a number out loud like 150 hours or something like that and when you see the students get to the end of the program, a lot of the students log more than 300 hours of work. It starts almost as a have to do thing, and then it become a want to do thing. They choose to keep working even after the requirements are met."

"This whole thing reflects well on Central culture and one of the cool things is since we are so diverse, we understand there are all types of different needs. IB has a lot going on and it does well with literacy and reading and those kinds of things and so I think it is important to offer people opportunities and access to reading materials," Menten said.

She also talked about upcoming IB projects.

"I think Central is really good at reaching out to the community locally and attempting to globally, we also have a connection with a school in Afghanistan and we plan to do some video conferencing and a long-term project. We also fundraised during open house and what we received was matched by an organization so they can try to buy a school bus for them. It just really reflects the diversity of our school, and it's really cool."

perspective & commentary

GRADUATING TOWARDS A CHANGE

SAYING GOODBYE TO THE CIVIC AUDITORIUM MEANS A BITTERSWEET WELCOME TO THE MID-AMERICA CENTER



ANN MILROY | THE REGISTER

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO
staff writer

When news of the Civic Auditorium being scheduled for demolition came, many people affiliated with Omaha Public Schools wondered where the 2015 spring graduation ceremony would be held.

Changing the venue was a challenge for OPS officials. The Mid-America Center in Council Bluffs was one option as well the CenturyLink Center arena, CenturyLink exhibition hall, Ralston Arena and University of Nebraska Omaha's Sapp Fieldhouse. Of these venues, OPS settled for UNO's Sapp Fieldhouse at first.

UNO's Sapp Fieldhouse was deemed the best option, both for the cost and the proximity to most OPS schools. It cost less than the other venues, and officials didn't want to cross the bridge to Iowa. From the view of OPS officials it seemed like the perfect option, yet parents and student weren't happy about the decision.

UNO's Sapp Fieldhouse held less seating than the Civic Auditorium did. Because of this, tickets to graduation were reduced to four per family instead of the usual seven allowed. The 2015 graduates would have been the only class to have their graduation held at UNO's Sapp Fieldhouse, since the 2016 graduation ceremonies will be held at the newly built UNO's arena at 67th and Center streets.

Parents were quick to voice their complaints to OPS. Not everyone was happy with the reduced number of ticket options. Most families were accustomed to having seven and purchasing even more.

CONTINUE TO 'VENUE' ON PAGE 8

Charity justified in refusing support for ALS due to stem cell research

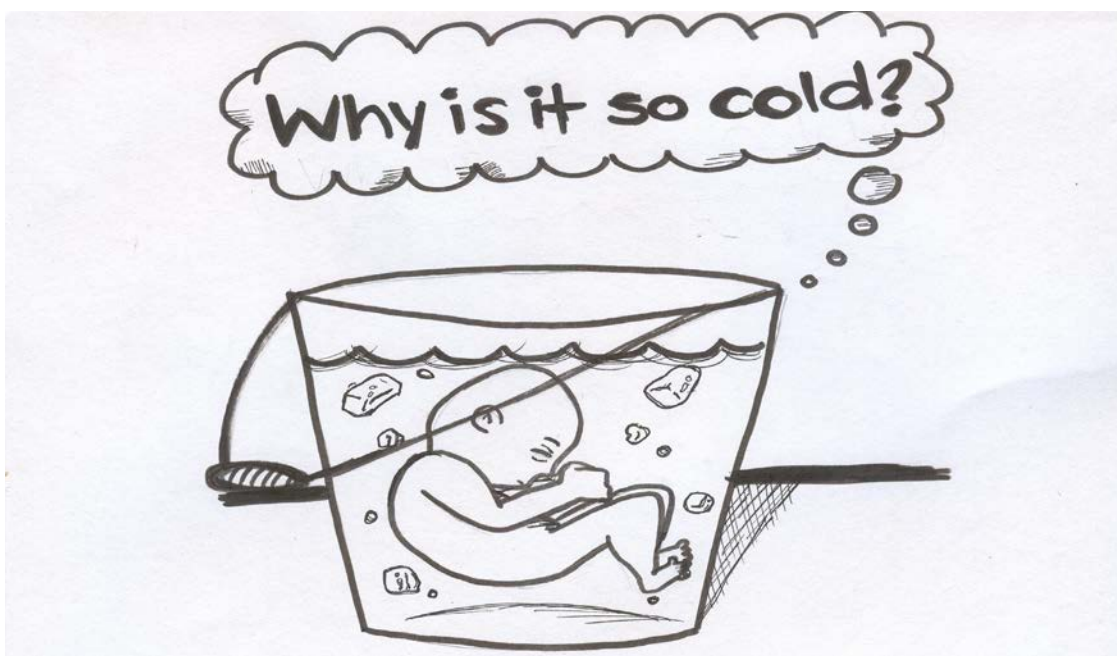
BY CHOATEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

As the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge has become a headline in recent months, other somewhat lesser known pieces of information have also come to light. The biggest one was the fact that the ALS Association supports embryonic stem cell research which utilizes cells that have been harvested from aborted babies. With this revelation, Catholic Charities pulled its support from the ALS Association, and has decided to fund the search for cures through its own research, and rightfully so.

As with the majority of Christians, Catholic Charities cannot in clean conscience support an organization that essentially funds the killing of thousands of babies each year, even when in the guise of a harmless activity such as the Ice Bucket Challenge. Although the funding is indirect, as the ALS Association claims they only fund one embryonic stem cell study, that does not change the fact that the cells being researched are still from aborted children. With this in mind, it is justifiable for Catholic Charities to refuse support and instead put their money and efforts into research laboratories and methods that do not bother their consciences.

Upon their decision to pull support from the Ice Bucket Challenge the ALS Association, Catholic Charities was immediately attacked by left wing media outlets who derided them as uncaring and uncompassionate. One blogger on the liberal news site politicususa.com even went so far as to say that using Christianity as a reason to not support the Ice Bucket Challenge is invalid because "The Religious

CONTINUE TO 'CHARITY' ON PAGE 8



YEILY BARRERA | Contributing Cartoonist

Gubernatorial candidate Hassebrook is more knowledgeable, has better intentions than Ricketts

BY KELSEY THOMAS
executive editor

In November, a new governor will be elected for the first time in ten years. Republican Dave Heineman has held office for the past decade, causing Nebraska to become an even more distinctly right-wing state than before. Democratic candidate Chuck Hassebrook is in a close race with his opponent Pete Ricketts, but his motives are much more ethical, and his presence is much needed in Nebraska legislature.

One of Hassebrook's biggest concerns is financial help for Nebraska high school students planning on attending college. He served on the Board of Regents for 18 years, and in that time, he accumulated more than \$18 million in financial aid for modest-income

families. Most scholarship programs focus on very low-income students, and neglect to realize that a family that makes up to \$50,000 a year, considered middle class, cannot pay 50% of that to college tuition each year. His influence while on the Board of Regents has made college easier to stomach for many families, not just middle income.

Hassebrook is also an avid supporter of renewable energy, particularly wind. Nebraska has the third-most available wind energy of any state, but we fail to use it. Neighboring states such as Colorado and Iowa host hundreds of wind turbines, and have modeled a successful system, but Nebraska legislature has so far discouraged the implantation of wind turbines.

On September 1, Hassebrook and Republican candidate Pete Ricketts debated for the first time in Grand Island at the State Fair. The debate lasted for 60 minutes, and each candidate alternated

answering questions first. They were allowed 60 seconds to give a response.

The candidates covered topics such as their plans for their first six months in office, minimum wage and how they would differ from the incumbent governor Dave Heineman. Each candidate also was given the opportunity to ask their opponent a question.

Hassebrook answered the question about how he would differ from Heineman first. He said that he wanted to take a more "hands on" approach than Heineman has during his time, and explained how he aimed to immediately begin changing the prison system and enhancing preschool education. Ricketts responded that he wanted to "build on the foundation" that Heineman has left, and that he wanted to use his background in business to start making

CONTINUE TO 'HASSEBROOK' ON PAGE 8



EVERYONE GETS A TROPHY? ▶ page 10

Participation trophies are perhaps sending the wrong message to today's youth.



VOIDED SCORES ▶ page 11

NeSA scores for last year's junior class were voided due to too many technological malfunctions.



SAFETY IS THE NEW BLACK ▶ page 12

A nail polish is made to change colors when dipped into a drink containing possible date rape drugs.

Graduation at Mid-America Center provides relief



ALLIE VORTHMANN | The Register

Left: The Centurylink Center in Omaha is pictured as it was one of the possible graduation venues for this year's graduation. Right: The Ralston Arena was considered as another viable option for the ceremony.

CONTINUE FROM "GRADUATION" FROM PAGE 7

OPS began to reevaluate their decision once it became clear that families were unhappy. Though it is in Council Bluffs, the Mid-America Center was chosen as the new venue. Bigger than UNO's Sapp Fieldhouse, and still not as expensive as the other venues, it provided a great solution.

Because of the move, families will get seven tickets instead of four and there will be plenty of room to accommodate all OPS families.

In the opinion of The Register, moving the commencement ceremonies to the Mid-America Center was a great option.

It would have been extremely unfair if one class' graduation ceremonies would have been sacrificed. As a senior I can confirm that it

was disheartening and worrisome when students had to say goodbye to the Civic Auditorium. Then to experience walking across the stage and receive their diploma in the same place where those before them have. A new tradition would have started while an old one died.

Future classes won't be able to experience a graduation ceremony close to their school.

One could easily see the auditorium from school every day, and every day the thought of one day finishing high school and then to walk across the street onto a stage where you could receive your diploma was motivation enough.

It was hard for Central students, and all other OPS students, to realize that the venue was going to be torn down and graduation moved someplace else.

It was no consolation to have graduation at a venue where seating was compromised. It wasn't fair that the class of 2015 would be the only class to be succumbed to that unfairness.

Central students won't have the honor to graduate right in the heart of downtown anymore. It won't feel comfortable but it's a change that is more than welcomed.

Moving commencement ceremonies to the Mid-America Center was the best compromise.

It would allow as much family members to attend and it accommodated to the needs of OPS families. Yes, it will feel weird to graduate in Council Bluffs, but it's one feeling OPS students and families are willing to deal with.

Catholic Charities does not turn a blind eye to ALS Association, rather what they support

CONTINUE FROM "ALS" FROM PAGE 7

does all the mocking of Jesus that will ever be needed and then some."

If it is uncaring to defend the rights of the unborn, then how is it caring to promote the killing of them? Catholic Charities and Christians oppose abortion on faith-based grounds as well as several other reasons shared with secular pro-life supporters. The first being the Biblical perspective in which all human beings are uniquely created in the image of God.

Secondly, there is a Constitutional perspective. According to the Declaration of Independence, "All men [people] are created equal & independent, that from that equal creation they derive rights inherent & inalienable, among which are the preservation of life, & liberty, & the pursuit of happiness."

Therefore if all are created equal, then life begins at conception in the mother's womb, and therefore the rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness apply as well.

It is important to note that life is mentioned first, as well as in the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments which guarantee "life, liberty and property", because without life there is no chance to pursue liberty and happiness or obtain property.

The third principal in opposing abortion, as shared by both faith-based and secular pro-life groups, is that of simple compassion. If we do not protect the smallest members of society, the ones who cannot defend themselves, then what does that say about the rest of us?

This compassion applies both to the child as well as the mother, as stated by retired neurosurgeon and conservative activist Dr. Benjamin Carson, "It is important to try to understand the emotional state of young women seeking an abortion.

Instead of judging and condemning them, we need to provide compassion and support.

They need to be provided with easy access to adoption services and information about assistance available to them if they decide to keep the baby. I have visited many warm, inviting facilities around the country that exist solely for the purpose of helping these young women."

One of the main points used by the pro-choice movement has been "my body, my choice." If choice is really the point, then consider all the choices that can be made to prevent pregnancy.

These options range from "the pill" to simply not having sex. Even after becoming pregnant, the mother does not have to raise the child. There are thousands of people out there who would happily open their heart and home to a child. Secondly, once egg and sperm unite, it is no longer only the mother's body.

Almost instantaneously, a new human being begins to form, and in a little over three weeks a heartbeat, other than the mother's, can be heard through an ultrasound.

In videos of abortions, which can be accessed throughout the Internet, the baby, or "the fetus" moves away from the surgical tools inserted into the womb and will even open his or her mouth in a silent scream of terror.

Catholic Charities choice to not fund ALS research through the Association does not mean they are turning their backs on curing the disease and the people who are plagued by it.

Catholic Charities has a very extensive network of health care providers and research facility contacts, and all of whom do not use the cells of aborted babies to conduct tests.

The support that is being pulled will be put behind one of these laboratories to search for the same cure as the ALS Association, but through testing that does not utilize the cells of aborted children.

In tumultuous times such as these, it heartening to see people and organizations stand for what is right, especially in the face of vehement opposition.

Catholic Charities stood for what they believed in and defended the rights of babies across the United States to live, enjoy liberty and pursue happiness.

They are not turning a blind eye to the suffering and devastation that ALS wreaks, but are choosing to pursue a defeat of this disease that ends with a cure that does not include the baggage of hundreds if not thousands of babies' lives along with it.

This is truly an exemplary case in which one organization can take a stance that demonstrates to the whole world what standing for conviction is all about, even if it's not what the crowd is saying.

Democratic candidate Hassebrook presents thoughtful arguments against Ricketts' ideas



JULI OBERLANDER | The Register

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money.

The first question was followed by asking for their plans for the first six months in office. Ricketts used his 60 seconds to say that his first six months would include "getting the team in place" and "getting the right people." Like in the first question, Hassebrook replied with a much clearer and more directed answer. Hassebrook also said that his first six months would include "making critical hires," but unlike Ricketts, he stated who those critical hires were.

He aims to search nationwide for the best people to lead Nebraska's Health and Human Services department, then he will decide if the department would be better off separated into smaller, more specialized areas.

Minimum wage, a topic very important to high school students, was also discussed during the debate. The moderator asked Hassebrook first to act as if he were explaining to a small business owner how they could survive an increase in minimum wage and how it could even benefit them.

Then, Ricketts was allowed to refute.

Hassebrook said, "All the research shows, in fact in recent years, those states who have raised minimum wage have grown jobs at a 24% higher pace than states who haven't...One of the things that raising minimum wage does is it creates more earnings and spending capacity, and stimulates the economy, and that's good for small business."

Ricketts countered, "You know, I had a minimum wage job in high school, so I understand the importance of it. And if I thought this was the best solution to help increase household incomes in Nebraska, I'd vote for it in a heartbeat."

The Ricketts family owns the Chicago Cubs, and began multimillion dollar company T.D. Ameritrade. Many family members are also on the Board of Directors or a CEO for Chicago company Incapital LLC.

The Ricketts family are on the Forbes Top 400 list. While he may have worked a minimum wage job in high school, he has never depended on a minimum wage salary. He has never had to support himself, or his family on a minimum wage salary. To say that he understands the importance of minimum wage is a slap in the face to any of those who have actually depended on it.

Ricketts continued by saying that Nebraska needs to grow the economies, particularly the ones of agriculture and manufac-

turing. Then, he said, "We need to make sure people have those skills, in order to take those jobs."

Ricketts fails to understand that it is necessary to have people in jobs that require less skill.

Hassebrook took advantage of this, and responded, "I support job training. But we still need people to clean hotel rooms, to work cash registers, to wait tables, to work hard every day doing those jobs that aren't high skilled jobs. Don't they deserve to make a living that enables them to feed their families without relying on public assistance?" Hassebrook's rebuttal received cheers and applause from the crowd.

Though the chances of a Democratic governor being elected in Nebraska are considered slim, Ricketts is not widely supported by other Republican politicians and citizens.

He won the Republican primary with only 26% of the vote, the least percentage of votes ever to win a gubernatorial primary in Nebraska. Ricketts' beliefs are too outlandish for even those in his party to support. Hassebrook offers a clear plan for his term if he were to be elected, and his goals, if achieved, would benefit Nebraskans much more than Ricketts' would.

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Dress code regulations go to far, promote slut shaming in school

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web editor

It's the beginning of a new school year. It's hot outside which allows many the option to wear somewhat skimpy clothing. Tank tops, dresses, short skirts, shorts- you name it. Dress codes are aimed to keep the skimpiness to a minimum, but when do they go too far? Is the line between slut shaming and making sure one looks appropriate for school?

School dress codes inherently promote the act of slut shaming, and this shaming is more aimed towards girls than boys. Slut shaming is essentially when someone calls another person a slut, maybe not by directly doing so, but in essence calls someone that.

Girls are held to completely different standards than boys are. Boys are rarely sent to their administrator for wearing too short of a short, or for showing too much skin because it is "distracting." While it is understandable that some things are not appropriate to wear at school, (such as shirts that make references to drugs and alcohol) it's important to note that these are just clothes. Girls who wear them are not actively making threats or hurting anyone by doing so. What schools are teaching students is that it's okay to judge someone based on the clothes they are wearing.

It's almost like those who make the argument that victims of rape are asking for it based on the clothing they are wearing. Women (and men) don't asked to be sexually assaulted like that. The absurdity of pleading that women "ask for it" is just as absurd as extreme school dress code.

What are the schools teaching kids, boys and girls, at school to do by enforcing dress codes? Nothing helpful or constructive. We teach the boys to look at women like pieces of meat, and by asserting that a girl's shoulders are distracting, we enforce the idea that boys simply cannot control sexual urges. Say one gets in trouble for wearing to skimpy of a shirt- "You're showing too much skin," or "Your skirt is too short you need to cover up those thighs." The human aspect of these people is gone and what is left is the feeling of shame because of what you are wearing.

Central is not immune to this epidemic. Recently the dress code has been more heavily enforced with certain days of the week called "wardrobe awareness days." There was a girl on one of these days that was sent home because she was wearing



ANN MILROY | The Register

a spaghetti strap tank top, a violation of the dress code. The girl took to Facebook to rant about how this made her feel saying that the only reason why she was wearing a shirt like that was because she had just gotten a tattoo. After getting a tattoo, it is necessary to wear clothing that will not touch it. In this particular case the dress code went too far in not only promoting slut shaming, but insensitivity towards the girl's current situation.

The point of all this is to stop the idea that women are merely

objects of other people's desires. One should not be judged based on the form-fitting top she is wearing or by the sleeveless dress that doesn't technically adhere to the dress code. The dress code, while its intentions are not malicious, needs to be reworked and looked at on a case-by-case basis, otherwise it will continue to further the presence of slut shaming in schools and other areas.

Drug possession in the NFL should require harsher punishments



PAIGE COLBURN | The Register

Even though Bowe previously had a charge for a possession of marijuana filed against him, he only had to miss a couple of hours of playing time in a 16-game season.

According to the New York Times, the NFL does not test for drugs on game days, which allows players at least 24 hours to use fast-acting drugs to avoid being caught.

This adds more work to the already-busy agenda of city police. Another example of the drug possession issue in the NFL is that of Bell and Blount. The two Steelers runningbacks were recently charged with driving under the influence of marijuana. Yet, Coach Mike Tomlin allowed both to share the workload in the season opener versus the Cleveland Browns.

In a similar case, Denver Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker was only suspended the first four games of the 2014 season for using amphetamines, a substance specifically infringing the NFL's drug

policy.

Why is it that these players are seemingly being let off the hook for their offenses?

According to Uscollegesearch.org, there were 507 total number of NFL arrests in 2010.

Thirty-four percent of the most notorious arrests were due to drug possession in players.

The NFL may talk a big game, but when it comes to penalizing athletes for drug misdemeanors, the league falls miserably short.

Instead of leaving specifics of a players' suspension period up to teams and coaches, the NFL ought to be even stricter in the enforcing of its drug policy.

The crimes that Bowe, Bell, Blount, Welker and countless others' are facing qualify as serious felonies under state and national law. Thus, drug possession ought to be dealt with in a similar, no-nonsense manner by the National Football League.

The reputation of the sports organization has recently been under fire based on its levying of fines on players for penalties naturally occurring in the game. Yet, shouldn't a drug offense be treated more sternly than a helmet to helmet hit on the part of a defensive player?

Shouldn't a player be fined more heavily or given a longer suspension for cocaine use than a violation of the league's social media policy?

In a perfect world, this would be the case. But it's not too late to make a change.

NFL officials should recognize that being caught with drug possession ultimately hurts the character of the athlete. The lack of harsh punishments for drug possession on the part of the NFL does nothing to impress any sort of remorse in the hearts of guilty athletes.

Instead, it only increases the likelihood that the offender will continue their wrongdoing until the full force of the law catches up with them.

If a team has to continually punish a player for drug possession, they have to make the penalty increasingly worse until the athlete sees the error of his ways. However, if the league were harsher with its drug policy, if executives intervened as they ought to, the wrongdoing could be nipped in the bud the first time, instead of weak one game suspensions being levied by coaches.

Bowe, the Steelers running backs and Welker all play critical positions on their respective teams. If they were given a longer suspension for their initial misdemeanors, it would harm their squads.

But, maybe it would impose a much more meaningful lesson on the NFL stars: for every crime, there is a consequence. Until the NFL gets stricter with its drug possession policy, the endless cycle of drug suspensions and fan complaints will continue.

If the league ogot to the root of the problem instead of leaving that up to the police, the game could be improved. Most importantly, athletes would be cleaner on and off the field.

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

The frequency of NFL players being caught in possession of drugs is increasing at a high rate. Dwayne Bowe, Le'Veon Bell, LeGarrette Blount and Wes Welker are just a handful of names who have been prosecuted for having illegal drugs found in their systems.

The authorities are laying down the law on these offenders, but the NFL fails to do its part in properly disciplining players for their crimes.

The NFL suspended Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver Dwayne Bowe for violating the drug policy.

As a result, Bowe was not allowed to play in the season opener versus the Tennessee Titans.

That's right, one game.

"Paper or plastic?": simple question boosts environmental protection

BY NATALIE NEPPER
executive editor

One of the most commonly asked questions at the grocery store, "Paper or plastic?" might leave some in a tricky situation. Of course, the easier option is to pick plastic- a lighter material that's easier to reuse (especially for things such as packing lunch and picking up dog doo). However, the environmentally responsible side might lean towards paper, a recyclable item with a seemingly less heavy impact in nature.

But what if someone couldn't make a decision at all? A few cities around the world have decided to choose for the consumer instead- and the answer is not plastic.

In 2008, China, one of the most populous countries in the world, decided to take action against the millions of bags being handed out to the public each year. Their "plastic bag ban" saved them more than a million tons of oil and 41 million plastic bags, causing the closing of one of their biggest bag manufacturers.

The idea has been recently replicated by a various cities around

the US and Chicago was one of the first. Large retailers will not be able to offer plastic bags after August 2015, and anyone who wishes to bag their items must bring their own bag. Fines for failure to comply could land between \$300 and \$800. Although the idea looks sufficient on paper, would this really help the city at all?

Some argue that the ban would raise the cost of doing business, force customers to pay more, repel potential grocery tenants and impact the economy negatively. Consumers would be forced to bring their own bags or accept paper ones.

But here's the problem- new research shows that paper bags impact the environment much more than plastic ones do.

Paper has been found to produce 70% more air pollution than the production of plastic bags do. Plus, the manufacturing of the paper bags themselves emit 80% more greenhouse gases, uses four times as much fuel to produce and 91% more energy to recycle. And despite popular myths, paper takes longer to break down in landfills than plastic does.

It seems like some cities have acted too quickly when deciding to ban plastic bags. So what are the real solutions?

The first is to change the ban. The idea of completely getting rid of plastic bags is unrealistic and not ideal for many cities. Instead of enforcing the use of paper bags, business should have consumers pay for their bags (perhaps 10 cents per bag?) or make people bring their own. It is not uncommon to see many retailers selling reusable bags for the customers to use. If they enforce the usage of reusable or have people pay, they can earn money either way.

The second solution is to offer ways of recycling plastic bags. Many cities offer little to no outlets for the recycling of plastic, as it might seem a bit expensive.

However, if the general population is able to recycle plastic bags during weekly recycling, take their bags down to a plant or even give them back to the grocery store, the impact on the environment will become much less.

Despite the fact that some places lacked researching the little environmental impact of paper, these bans will most likely continue to take place.

So, in the battle between paper and plastic, which do you choose? The answer- neither. Save everyone the trouble and bring your own.

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EVERYONE GETS A TROPHY?

REWARDS FOR MERE PARTICIPATION DISILLUSION CHILDREN AND DECREASE COMPETITIVE INCENTIVE

BY ALEC ROME
staff writer

Many sports programs for children teach them that everyone wins, and everyone deserves a trophy. In the real world, that statement is far from reality, and will negatively affect them later in life.

In elementary school captains were chosen, who then went down the nervous line-up of peers to pick who would be on their team. Some kids were always picked first and there were some that were picked last. But as years go by, teams were split up by teachers to make the game fair. Was that really the way to fix the problem? The kids that maybe were not as good before, and cried over getting picked last for teams, could now stop caring and choose not to get any better. Kids that previously chose to go out in the backyard and practice for hours on the weekends because they just wanted to be on the winning team now had no reason to do so. When having to face getting picked by classmates, it makes children want to get better.

When children are put onto teams by teachers in order to level the playing field and avoid hurting feelings, we hurt children in another way. We take away the competitive drive from children, and give them a distorted view of the world. Some parents don't like competition, because then they believe that we are not teaching them anything. Competition is what this country is based on. From athlet-

ics, to academics and even business. Competition happens naturally, and should be encouraged sometimes. At the end of the day, not everyone earns that same amount of money and gets the same type of car. Therefore, it's better to teach competitiveness than fairness.

The real world is full of good things and bad. Some people become successful business men and some become McDonalds cashiers. Not everybody turns out the same way, but kids are taught otherwise. There's nothing wrong with kids having big dreams like becoming a professional athlete or the next president of the United States, but only 44 people have done so. Telling young ones that you could be something that only a small amount of people have become may not be truly realistic. Yes, it's sad, but it is also very true.

Competition also drives our economy and others around the world. Hong Kong has had more economic freedom than any other country in the last twenty years. They have had small government, low taxes and light regulation. But even the index has said that Hong Kong's "strong commitment to economic freedom has become somewhat less exceptional as average world economic freedom has advanced."

Because countries try to outplay each other economically, they all have become freer on average. Economic freedom is also beneficial for the people and businesses in those countries. The more freedom that those countries have, the more they can improve. With the freedom, they have the drive to get better. That is quite contrary for

communist economies, because there is virtually no competition. In communist countries everything is fair, structured, and not based on merit, so nobody has the drive to get better. If a person try to earn more money, it just goes back into the economy until you are equal with everyone else. The outcome of countries like this is never pretty, as exhibited by the collapse of the Soviet Union.

However, there is a very fine line between competitive and wrong. Friday Night Tykes, a show on the Esquire Network, documented real-life youth football. The mindsets of the coaches were as serious as those in the NFL. Bleacher Report described the events on the show as "kids are crying, coaches are screaming and the youngsters are shown exchanging helmet-to-helmet shots." That would be an example of wrong. The competition at such a young age doesn't need to be as intense as pro-football. But as long as there is some friendly competition, kids will have the drive to at least attempt to outplay each other. When that happens, they all become better because they try to improve.

So, some friendly competition is a good thing for everyone. Competitive economies are much more successful than non-competitive ones. People must realize that depicting the world as perfect to school-age children is not beneficial to them, it will only cause disappointment in the future.

If we teach our kids to work hard and try to get better, they will end up better off.



IMANI BROWN | Contributing Cartoonist

Delegate absence at general's funeral failure of administration

BY MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

On Aug. 9, an African-American teenager named Michael Brown was shot and killed by a Caucasian Ferguson, Missouri police officer. The murder caused racial tension that led to protests, looting and violence. The protests of Brown's death was so intense that Obama's administration sent Cabinet Secretary Broderick Johnson to lead an all-black delegation to the funeral on Aug. 25. Obama sent a delegation to Ferguson, Missouri, but failed to send one to the funeral of the two-star General Harold Greene. The Register believes that this decision was unpatriotic as well as a telltale sign of President Obama's poor leadership.

Brown's death does justify the fact that police brutality has to be addressed, but it more so addresses the racial issues that exist in America today. The delegation a group of people designated to represent others was sent to reassure the community of an independent and credible investigation of the circumstances surrounding Brown's death. The delegation consisted of Johnson, Marlon Marshall and Heather Foster. This seems like a move in the direction of healing, but it still does not seem to call for a delegation more so than Greene's funeral.

Major General Harold Greene was the highest ranking officer killed since 9/11. The death of a high ranking official such as this is an extremely rare happening and one would think that it would be appropriately addressed by a representation of the president. In this instance, the president's reaction made it seem as if that was not the case.

Not only did Obama fail to send a traditional delegation to Greene's funeral, if he actually sent anyone at all, but he was on vacation golfing at the time it took place. It may have been dumb luck that caused these two events to coincide, but that does not give an excuse to neglect a pause for reverence. If the first thing was not bad enough, the latter is truly the icing on the cake. Obama's and Biden's absence at the funeral offended many Americans.

Contrary to what many Americans believe, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Army Chief of Staff General Ray Odierno did attend Greene's funeral. So, technically, a high-ranking member of Obama's administration was present. However, just because an official was present,

does not mean that they were sent as a delegation to represent Obama. In fact, there is really no proof that this was actually the case.

Regarding Brown's funeral, it was easily accessible knowledge that the representation was directly connected to Obama's administration; this was not the case for Greene's funeral. The Register knows that it is not necessarily customary for presidents to attend military funerals, but sending a delegation is far from the same thing as attending in person. If Obama's administration could organize a delegation to one of these funerals, they could have done the same for the other.

This decision is not being scrutinized because Obama is the one who made it, it is being questioned because people believe that it is not right. In truth, it has nothing to do with Obama being Obama. It has everything to do with moral beliefs, moreover. The only reason people have "anti-Obama hate" is because they disagree with his leadership and decisions regarding his presidency. For some people, his race may be a defining characteristic, but for the majority of people his ethnicity has nothing to do with anything else.

In both the case of Obama and the coverage of Brown's death society is trying so hard not to be racist that they are in many ways actually nurturing racism. A perfect example of this double-standard is the death of Dillon Taylor, which was nearly identical to Brown's death. The only difference is the fact that this tragedy happened in Utah, and that Taylor was white while the police officer was black. This story was nearly identical to Brown's.

Yet it got zero media coverage compared to its counterpart. In some ways Obama and his affiliates are hiding behind "racial hate" when the public response is not positive.

In the opinion of The Register, Obama's choice of sending a delegation to Brown's funeral and not Greene's in some ways was unpatriotic. Greene served and sacrificed his life for his country. He deserved to be recognized by the president of the United States with at least an official delegation.

In no way are we saying that Brown's death was undeserving of being recognized, because his death should have been. What we are saying is that Obama's administration's decision clearly defines where they stand when it comes to matters of this importance.

New strategies for classrooms not needed, ineffective



KELSEY THOMAS
WE'RE GETTING THERE

Many of Central's most experienced teachers attended Kagan workshops over the summer in hopes of increasing academic achievement and providing a more welcoming classroom environment.

While these workshops have good intentions, they often make succeeding in school more difficult for students. Moreover, Kagan strategies are superficial, cosmetic changes that try to solve big-picture issues without doing any real work.

One of the new strategies is "pod seating." In this arrangement, desks are assembled into groups of four; each pair of students is side-by-side while they face the other pair. Pod seating is supposed to encourage group discussion and collaboration, as well as help students learn social skills and how to communicate. On paper, the concept of pod seating sounds useful and effective—a teacher may think there is no reason not to use that system. In a real world environment, pod seating makes learning difficult and causes distractions. Desks are turned inwards towards the middle of a classroom or sometimes even turned towards the back. Listening to a teacher who is lecturing at the front of the room or taking notes off of the board becomes extremely difficult for a student facing the opposite direction. Pod seating does encourage discussion, like it intended to, but of the wrong kind. When students are given a concept to discuss conversations wander from the topic.

"Cornell notes" are not a new idea to many students; in elementary school they were taught the system as a suggestion. But until this year, Cornell notes have never been forced upon students. The notes require students to divide their pages into one skinny column, one large block and a horizontal area of a few lines. The column is where headings and subtitles are supposed to go, the block of space is for details and the horizontal area is for a summary of the section. Like pod seating, the idea seems excellent on paper, but when actually put to use, the support for it falls apart.

The system is harmless, but it fails to recognize the real issues behind low academic achievement. The reason that students don't earn good grades isn't because of lack of organization in their notebook, it's the lack of notes at all, and simply devising a new way to write down information does not motivate low-achieving students to start paying attention in class. Instead, students require more motivation and higher expectations from their family members and teachers.

Kagan strategies are ultimately ways for school officials to look for a quick-fix in the school systems. They attempt to address and solve relevant issues, but they fall short. Low test scores won't be raised by changing seating arrangements and methods of taking notes, instead, it is up to teachers and families to inspire motivation and students to work hard inside of the classroom.

NULL & VOID

DESPITE THE HARD WORK OF THE 2014 JUNIOR CLASS, RESULTS OF THE NESA EXAMS WERE VOIDED

BY TIA SPEARS
editor-in-chief

They spent days behind computers excluded from their classrooms. They sat through a number of expectation assemblies. They were threatened with Dr. Bennett having to wear the colors of Burke High School if they did not score high enough. They took the test... and then the scores were voided.

Great news for Dr. Bennett – no public humiliation. However, for the students the spirit is less jubilant.

The NeSA website does not display the scores of the 2013-2014 group of juniors, as of yet. The competition (light-hearted in nature) was what inspired the students to do well. The junior class of 2014 were bombarded with “sponge” activities in their classrooms that were completed with the intent to prepare them for success. Then the scores were voided due to a computer conflict.

It seems plausible that such an important test should be completed in a much more trustworthy form that is not technological. Computers don't fit that description. Think about it college entrance exams such as the ACT and SAT. Both are done on paper and it is necessary that they be completed with a number two pencil.

It is structured. It is formal. It is dependent.

The only way that scores of the ACT or SAT would be voided is if the instructor made a major error that skewed the results of the students who paid to take the test. Now, it is obvious that on a scale, the NeSA test is not exactly as serious. However, if school funding, educational comparisons and a reflection of the school are at stake it would make sense to have the students take the test in the same format as the ACT or SAT (in much more relaxed format.)

Beyond consideration of the students, is the time spent for the teachers. Central is a large school. With a junior class of over 500 students and a student body over 2,000 students, displacing a teacher into a classroom specifically for the NeSA test is unnecessary. Add a handful of technical difficulties and it the situation is even more unjust.



IMANI BROWN | Contributing Cartoonist

Time spent for the teachers should be teaching, grading and doing other things to further the performance of their students. The NeSA score isn't that... It's just a reflection of what the students are supposed to know.

It is understood that planning a statewide exam like the NeSA would not happen without a flaw. What date to schedule the test, what way the students will be organized to take the test and rallying up enough staff members to instruct the test do not easily happen in harmony with one another. So it makes sense to ensure a successful outcome. That was one major step skipped within the planning of the NeSA test. If it would've been correctly planned, it likely would've been disagreed upon to have the students take the tests on computers.

Also, if there were technical difficulties then why would those particular students not be pulled aside to redo the test at a later date? If anyone was absent during any part of the NeSA test, then that student would be pulled out of class in order to complete the state exam.

If the students who had technical difficulties were given the same opportunity, then having to void the results would've been avoided. Hopefully, when the NeSA test is extended to this year's junior class and the classes to follow, it will be decided to have the test completed in a Scantron form or traditional pencil and paper. It is a waste of time to have students pulled from classes if the results do not serve their purpose of reflecting the knowledge of a specific set of students

New standards of beauty infused within media; body acceptance views fueled by Dove campaigning



IMANI BROWN | Contributing Cartoonist

BY TRENEY NEWSOME
staff writer

Society, the eyes of the people, is continuously changing, repeating itself. Instead of women coming together, they have grown apart because categories such as “curvy” and “skinny.” Instead of thinking of one another as a group, women are separated into two categories. Put an end to the category list. There are no grey areas in a woman's beauty, it is all black and white.

Models are usually skinny, wearing less than a size two in pants. Is this realistic? In modern times there have been many efforts to bring attention to all body sizes and capture the beauty each of them represent. One example of this is the Dove Campaign for Real Beauty.

In 2004, Dove started the new campaign which featured “real women” whose features were outside of the stereotypical “norms” of beauty. In 2005, Dove kick started the second phase of the campaign which was used to get rid of the stereotype that only thin is beautiful.

In 2006 Dove established the Dove Self-Esteem Fund which was created to inspire and educate girls and women about a wider definition of beauty. In 2007 Dove launch the third phase of the campaign, that celebrated women over the age of 50, wrinkles, age spots, grey hair and all.

The Dove Campaign was made to widen the narrow definition of beauty and has been successful since.

In 2010, Dove created the Dove Movement for Self-Esteem which provided women everywhere with new opportunities to mentor the upcoming generation. To make their vision a reality Dove partnered with Girl Scouts, Girls Inc. and Boys and Girls Club. This partnering gave Dove the ability to create self-esteem building, educational programs and activities. They have reached over 7 million girls with these programs. Their global goal is to reach 15 million in 2015.

Continuing their movement in 2011, Dove released a study that revealed only four percent of women thought they were beautiful. The study also revealed that 72 percent of girls, age 10 to 17 year olds, felt a tremendous pressure to feel beautiful and only 11 percent felt comfortable using the word beautiful to describe themselves. Six in ten girls stop doing what they love because they feel bad about the way they look.

The Dove movement has altered the society on a global scale but there is still work to be done so girls don't feel over pressured for beauty. Since they are a known brand around the United States their movement should impact everyone, not just women.

Dove is just one example of capturing the beauty in varying body shapes but not all examples are similar to this movement.

Society has started to accept womanly curves but has also started to degrade skinny girls as a result. This is not a healthy start, it's a repeat of history. Early in the century curves were not usually displayed in media and women felt degraded because they didn't have the size two figure, but now the roles have somewhat changed.

For example, Nicki Minaj's song, “Anaconda,” brings acceptance to curvy women in a provocative way. However her lyrics say other wise about skinny girls. This song has taken over media in more than one way. Instead of accepting all body sizes, society entered the wrong path to take creating the same issues just with a new victim.

Instead of discriminating each other, women need to come together and realize the beauty in one another. Everyone is different, indicating various body sizes. Use the energy you have degrading one another to come together and accept each other. Acceptance is key to achieve the unthinkable, no more discrimination.

Equipping police officers with more technology; innovative or excessive?



IMANI BROWN | Contributing Cartoonist

BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

American police officers are seen as under protected by many people across the United States and after riots across the United States, questions have been asked regarding the equipment of Police Officers.

Common equipment for police officers includes handcuffs, radios, hand-held protection devices such as, pepper spray, firearms and ammunition, taser and flashlights. Clearly, modern day police officers are heavily unprotected when dealing with potential life or death situations.

However, with recent cases of riots and crimes lacking details the introduction of safety devices for both suspected criminals and police officers has been heavily considered throughout the country.

Much of the intrigue in new gear for police officers began after the death of Missouri teen Michael Brown which seemed unjustified. Clearly more precautions and advancements in police technology must be made to further the safety of civilians and officers.

Citizens have called for the use of a police camera which would document the daily proceedings of a police officer and help to verify that all actions taken by police officers are justified with their investigations and give suspects their rights as well as enforcing them.

The camera widely suggested would be similar to the “Go Pro” camera which replays what has happened from a person's own point of view.

Cameras have already been implemented by the New York Police Department. Over sixty NYPD officers will test the product. The NYPD hopes that the program will help to deescalate conflict between civilian encounters.

The idea behind the cameras is that the person under investigation is aware that he or she is recorded and knows that although they may have made a poor decision, they are safe and will be treated properly.

The cameras should also help to protect officers and give them reassurance that no misconduct on their part will be falsely reported. However, some officers and police chiefs have questions about how the cameras will work and how much they will interfere with their daily police work.

The cameras are seen as the next wave in keeping police officers protected as well as keeping those who are under suspicion protected. Nearly 4,000 police agencies have adopted or plan to adopt some sort of camera program that will aid police officers. Clearly the cameras are a fitting alternative for both parties because they do not violate anybody's personal space and they only provide reassurance in foggy situations.

Another concern sparked from the riots across the United States is what should be equipped on a police officer's body when he or she is serving the police department. Currently Police Officers who have to deal with riots are assigned with militant like gear but the question has been asked as to whether the gear is too hefty for police officers dealing with riots as well as whether or not the day to day officer should be given an extension of gear.

From one side, protestors believe that as long as they peacefully protest they should not be harmed and using tear gas or military gear is barbaric. Protestors and those against excessive police gear primarily believe that police agencies operate like small armies and believe that is unhealthy for the people who these “small armies” are supposed to be protecting.

The belief stands that police officers excessive gear evokes some of the violence from protestors. A commonly held view is that the best option is to try to deescalate a situation primarily before taking militant action.

On the opposing side, the view is held that in life or death situations police officers should be equipped with the utmost protection. With mass shootings or bombings, stake outs and police chases officers should be kept in the safest manner possible without any risk.

Police officers are people like anyone else and they should be kept safe too.

Ultimately, with criminals involved there is no perfect course of action which can be put in place. However, equipping officers with more technology and safety features can never do harm to an officer or even a suspect.

The main issue is finding when using the gear is safest, having something comparable to a “small army” will never be good in any system with hierarchy but as long as the equipment is handled properly equipping officers with more safety features makes the most sense in the modern world.



THE COLOR OF SAFETY

NEW NAIL POLISH THAT DETECTS DRUGS USED IN RAPE COULD BE A BREAKTHROUGH IN DATING SAFETY

BY MADDIE HAYKO
staff writer

Recently spotted on social media and then applauded by the media is the revolutionary product of an anti-date rape nail polish that women can wear to stop date rape. When first seen on Facebook it was seen as an incredible innovation, one that could possibly save lives. But after doing some research on the new nail polish that was given so much attention, it has been found out it isn't all it's cracked up to be. Just seeing it on social media says it may need to be looked into to make sure it really works. Well it works but not to the best of its ability.

The Washington Post was very clear that it had to be a fake saying "The vast majority of date rapes don't involve the four drugs the nail polish detects." But after looking at other sources the Washington post got it wrong. The nail polish can only detect three types of date rape drugs: rohypnol, xanax, and GHB, which isn't great. The more drugs it should be able to detect the better, and then the nail

polish can be more helpful in a date rape for women. The Washington Post also said "a chemical test used by the new nail polish often fails to detect drugs in question, while turning up false positives for lots of other benign things." One thing is for sure, this nail polish needs to go through much more testing before it should be sold to the public.

The creators of this anti-date rape nail polish are four male undergraduates from North Carolina State University. They have named their product Undercover Colors. The Register feels like if this product is for women then women should have helped produce this nail polish because these men are getting criticism for making a product for women.

Many people have made comments that this invention could actually hurt women by placing the blame on them for the date rape because they didn't do anything to prevent it. "Rape Crisis does not endorse or promote such a product or anything similar. This is for three reasons: it implies that it's the woman's fault and assumes responsibility on her behalf, and detracts from the real issues that arise from sexual violence. For us, we work with victims to make them real-

ize that they did nothing wrong," said Katie Russell from Rape Crisis England & Wales (newsweek.com).

This could then lead to women having mental issues or suicidal thoughts. But it is good that young men want to target sexual assault because most young men these days see women as sexual objects and don't give them much respect.

On newsweek.com they sum up the men's goal saying "they aim to combat sexual assault by combining modern chemistry with traditional cosmetics." The product is simple. After applying the bright colored nail polish, you dip your fingers in a drink containing the drugs that the nail polish can detect then the nail polish will turn black in response. But nail polish might not be the only thing that can become a date-rape-drug detector. psfk.com says "other things like this are being produced like color changing coasters, straws, and cups will be available next year." These products should not come out so soon if the nail polish isn't exactly the best thing to prevent date rape right now. But the enthusiasm is good because now the public can be more aware and stop date rapes.

Correlation between longer school hours, better education performances perhaps non-existent

BY JORDAN YOUNG
web editor

One part of the bargain (deal) of being an American kid is this: you're not a legal adult so you go to school. School. The word makes some people cringe; others brighten up, others...who knows. The bottom line is that school is an intricate part of almost every boy and girl's life in America, but based on some debates, its involvement in their lives just might start getting a little more intimate.

According to some experts, the 180 day school year all schools in the United States adhere to isn't good enough for pupils. There are reports of students forgetting information over the summer and American children falling behind on a global scale. To solve the problem, a grand plan proposes to fix this by making the school year longer.

Sorry kids, although school might get out for the summer, there will be a whole heck of a lot less of it.

The Register condemns this plan as a terrible one. Although we know that lengthening the school year undoubtedly has its perks, we also know that sentencing (or just sending) kids to more days of school will overall hurt them as their freedom to be kids and live will be unfairly cut down and traded to sit in a building all day to learn information that not all will utilize.

Although The Register doesn't fully support the plan to lengthen school days, we do know that the people who support it are on to something.

To begin with, longer school years could definitely help the U.S. catch up to be one of the top worldwide academically achieving countries.

People supporting longer school years are paying attention to the fact that leading countries such as Japan, Korea and the Netherlands have more days in their school year (umaine.edu). This is in comparison to the U.S.'s 180 year school schedule.

However, this data may not be so seemingly dependent. According to umaine.edu, in Switzerland students spend 170 days in school, 10 days less than the United States and they are far from falling behind. They are reporting high achievers in math and science.

Conversely, it's very possible that the correlation between number of school hours and performance doesn't exist. Two quotes from umaine.com emphasized on the quality versus quantity of a

school day. "The issue isn't time per se, but how it is spent," (Raizen as quoted in Aronson, Zimmerman & Carlos, 1998). The other states, "The key to increasing achievement is not necessarily more time in school but maximizing the amount of academic learning time" (WestEd, 2001, p.2.).

In addition to the possibility of school length not mattering in achievement, longer school years could also pose a threat to kids' health. For example, one of the leading countries, Japan, has a very high rate of young adult depression and suicides because of the academic pressure they have to face.

By no means would this be an absolute outcome, but it could be a possibility. Because longer school years mean less of a break, more pressure would be compounded onto young people. Their new reality would be that school is literally life.

On the other hand, longer school years could better the well-being of kids. Specifically for those who come from poorer homes.

When considering the benefits school can provide (food, shelter, positive role models, social activities, learning tools), one can realize that being able to provide more of this for young people would be more than beneficial.

In fact, according to the CNN article "We need a longer school year," many poorer kids forget quite a bit of information during the summer because of the activities they don't have a lot of access to.

It's one of many perks that would come from lengthening the school year and something to be very heavily considered.

In addition to the argument against longer school years, what also should be considered is the money it would take to carry this plan out...it's always about the money.

Teachers would very unlikely have their income raised which could lead to the creation of teacher unions. Not only does that pose an issue, but schools would spend more on maintaining their buildings and possibly on raising pay for teachers.

Whether one decides to support or condemn a longer school year, there is one fact that is true about American kids: they're, we're, spoiled when it comes to school.

There is more freedom given, more leeway and just because that's true doesn't mean it should be taken away. Longer school years in a sense would do that.

What should be viewed in improving education in America could simply be acquiring better teachers, enforcing stricter (and fairer) requirements and tests for each grade.

Omaha Fashion Week grows over the years; rise in expected visitors



TIA SPEARS

3:16

On Sunday, Aug. 17 the Omaha World Herald published a spread about Omaha Fashion Week and its growth since 2012. To my astonishment, the audience has grown by the thousands.

As I grew up in Omaha with aspirations of working my way through the fashion world until I became the Donatella Versace of my time, it was very frustrating to be an Omaha citizen. I had my focus on New York and Los Angeles with a disappointment in my surroundings.

Fashion wasn't a big deal around here in my middle school years when my aspirations were at their peak. Shortly after came the "Vintage Era", so I like to call it where raiding grandma's closet meant that you were making a fashion statement. Omaha, being as historic as it is, allowed room to expand and Midwesterners stampeded their way onto the stages of various fashion shows locally and elsewhere. Too bad my Donatella Versace dreams were dead by that point.

Unfortunately, I was unable to make to Omaha Fashion Week shows during middle school, but I will never forget what I saw when I was able to attend this year. One student Bre Pittman and one alumna, Quinton Lovelace showcased their collections on Thursday, Aug. 21 Lovelace's designs were a crowd favorite.

Omaha Fashion Week makes me think of possible success of the featured designers. Allison Dutton was a 2013 alum who showed her collection in the Fall 2013 show. Now, she's in school for fashion as a full-time student in San Francisco. The possibilities really are endless and I'm happy that some local designers are going very far with their talent.

I knew that we are attracting attention from all over the nation. I can see Omaha growing and modernizing. I don't know if we'll see the day that we're neck and neck with New York and LA, but I do think that if people travel and keep showcasing their work here, Omaha will be more recognized and respected as a fashion city.

I've met a lot of people who have artistic interests that want to move to the coasts and most of the time they do. I admit, it seems frustrating as an outsider. I know if I was as creative and artistic as some of the people I know, I wouldn't really want to stay here. One of my good friends, Brittany Story is one of those people. She has an eye for art through various forms and is on her way to Los Angeles as a result of that. I'm sad, because I want to watch her blossom. In the same breath, I'm happy because now she's where she needs to be.

In relation to Omaha Fashion Week, I'm thinking that if all of the artistic souls combined, brainstormed and collaborated they could really make a monumental collection that could be noted in the fashion industry. Ultimately, my hopes are high and my expectations for prospective designers are as well.

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OMAHA HENRY DOORLY ZOO RANKS
1 IN THE WORLD

BY JORDAN YOUNG
staff writer

What makes a zoo a zoo? Animals, sure. Those of various kinds? That's a good idea too...But what makes a particularly spectacular, noteworthy, kids-screaming-and-kicking-refusing-to-leave zoo? Well, ask the people at the Henry Doorly Zoo. According to TripAdvisor, the Omaha zoo is number one in the world, beating out those in San Diego, Spain and even Brazil.

In addition to the recognition from TripAdvisor, Henry Doorly was also placed at number one by Family Fun Magazine in April 2014.

The Henry Doorly Zoo was founded in 1894 but featured very little, with only around a dozen animals. But many upgrades paved way for the future and the zoo's spectacular present.

In the past 10 years, openings such as the Berniece Grewcock Butterfly and Insect Pavilion in 2008, the Skyfari aerial tram in 2009, Expedition Madagascar in 2010, the Omaha Steaks® Grill and Patio and the Durham Lodge and Birthday House renovations completed in 2012 have helped improve the zoo. This also includes multiple renovations to the main entrance and other exhibits made over the course of the years.

Now, 12-plus exhibits are currently being showcased in truly amazing ways that encourage people to visit not just once, but over and over again.

What makes the even more unique is the fact that students attending Omaha Public Schools and Papillion-LaVista Public Schools can experience hands on work through the Zoology program provided by the Career Center. Now a teacher at the Zoo Academy, Pat Purkhiser started the program in the early 1990s and realizes its positive effect on students.

"I know it impacts them quite well," he said.

After working in the aquarium at Henry Doorly, Purkhiser started a partnership with schools in Papillion that began to evolve.

"[We're] now up to 90 students, OPS and Papillion," he said. The program has also expanded so that not only science, but math, English and social studies are courses offered.

Students at the academy could spend "...all day, [or] half a day" there.

The day includes an experience called "work externship," where students can work in nine different areas in the zoo and can eventually choose a permanent spot designated as their "job."

But before being accepted into the program, students have to apply by submitting a short essay about themselves to "have a little bit of a filter", according to Purkhiser. In addition to the aspects of admission, Purkhiser emphasized the fact that a wide spectrum of students participates in the program, but those who aren't so "zoo minded" might not fare well.

"[You] get what you put into it," said Purkhiser. "If they have the right attitude, personality and desire...[they will] do awesome here."

CONTINUE TO 'ZOO' ON PAGE 14

WORKING WITH THE BEST

ANN MILROY | The Register
One of the zoo's most popular attractions, the Desert Dome.

Drama student featured in South Dakota travel television commercial

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS
staff writer

Sophomore Lily Gilliland has been involved in the drama department since she began high school at Central, but she has just recently taken her talent to a new level and successfully completed her first commercial.

Students may have seen this commercial without realizing that the girl featured was from Central.

The commercial highlights visiting South Dakota and all the activities there is to offer—all the way from feeding a buffalo from within your car to witnessing Mount Rushmore.

Gilliland first realized her passion for the arts at a young age.

"I got into acting and modeling when I was about five years old. I occasionally go to auditions for commercials, and sometimes get called by a company to be in their commercial," Gilliland said.

For this commercial specifically, the company contacted Gilliland's family to see if they were interested in filming for it. Gilliland's entire family was featured in the commercial, besides her father.

Gilliland is a part of drama here at Central under teacher Scott

Mead's supervision. Gilliland has taken his class and subsequently landed a supporting actress role in Central's spring play.

Gilliland expresses the importance of taking drama classes prior to this opportunity. "Drama helped in many aspects of shooting a commercial such as social skills, acting and teamwork," Gilliland says.

The process of preparing for this commercial, filming and then finally composing the quick commercial took patience and a fair amount of time.

To prepare, Gilliland was told to pack basic articles of clothing that could be worn during the shoot.

Gilliland explains, "We were gone for four days and the longest day we filmed was from 5 a.m. to 12 a.m."

Even though this whole opportunity was a grand learning experience, it also had its fair share of stress and difficulties.

Gilliland expresses her few obstacles she came across when filming. "The most difficult part was the really long days and trying to keep my younger siblings alert and not cranky," she says.

For anyone that has siblings, he or she knows the difficult task of trying to keep them under control. Doing this on top of filming a professional commercial would be difficult.

However, this did not get in the way of Gilliland's experience as a whole.

"I took so many things away from this experience such as social skills, the understanding of how hard work pays off, and how to work with many different types of people," she says. Gilliland continues, "Honestly, there isn't anything I would change."

For the future, Gilliland will continue to search for opportunities like this one. She hopes to complete more commercials and other unique offers in the future. Gilliland will also continue to be involved with the drama department at Central.

Even though she is not in Mead's class this year, she is an officer for Central's drama department and is involved with the plays performed yearly.

Next time a commercial break comes on, instead of checking your phone, pay attention and you will maybe catch Gilliland's work showcased in her South Dakota commercial.

With the proper mind-set, students can find themselves in the same position as Gilliland. Opportunities are waiting, and with hard work, can be attained.

Addition of Chamber Orchestra brightens strings program for new school year

BY MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

With the new school year comes the creation of the new Central Chamber Orchestra, otherwise known as the IB Orchestra. This addition has been brought about by the huge increase of students in IB interested in the program.

"I'm really proud of the fact that we have grown; we're adding so many new students. I think that's a good reflection on our program and Central High School as well," said Brad Rauch, an orchestra leader at Central.

"Because of our large numbers there was a need to split up the group into two smaller groups. And I felt the need to give incoming freshman the chance to play more challenging music with chamber strings," added Rauch. The number of players in the two groups are going to be based on rankings and scoring from the auditions that participating students performed within the first days of school.

"I choose two scales and two etudes that I thought would be accessible and yet challenging for all of the students, providing them a chance to show more advanced playing techniques and skills," said Rauch. The recordings of the students were given to string professionals in the community for rankings that will determine placement. Sophomore Abby Petrick said that one of the hardest things about this audition process was finding the time to practice. "Be patient, take breaks, be positive and keep at it," was Rauch's advice about practicing for the audition.

Chamber Strings will allow students to play music at higher difficulty, making it more challenging for those mu-

CONTINUE TO 'ORCHESTRA' ON PAGE 14



ANN MILROY | The Register

The bassist, Robert Johnson, in the Chamber Orchestra focuses amongst the rest of the orchestra on a piece they will perform later in the school year.



QUINTON LOVELACE ▶

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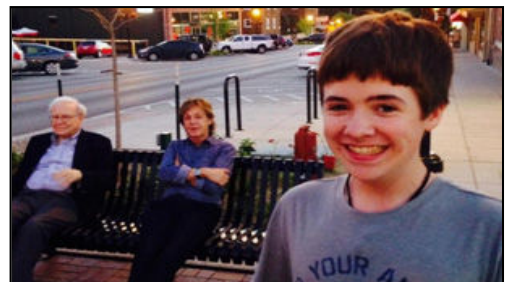
Alum becomes "crowd favorite" after his Omaha Fashion Week runway show.



JUSTIN BENNETT ▶

PAGE 16

From performing at the Road Show to releasing his own single on iTunes, Justin Bennett's career takes off.



SELFIE ▶

PAGE 17

Upon coincidentally meeting two celebrities, a student experiences his 15 minutes of fame.

INSIDE THE CHAMBER



ANN MILROY | The Register

Top: The Chamber Orchestra group attentively plays a musical piece. Bottom Left: Morgan Bennett focuses as she plays her violin. Bottom Right: Christina Severin playing her violin along with others.

CONTINUE FROM 'ORCHESTRA' FROM PAGE 13

sicians. Rauch hopes the possibility of making Chamber Strings will inspire students to work harder and be more prepared. "The addition of Chamber Strings is interesting. I didn't like it at first, but now I think that it'll be a good thing," said Patrick, cellist.

Despite the hesitation from some, most believe this addition will improve Central's reputation and credibility when it comes to the orchestra department.

"North has an orchestra and an honors orchestra, but I don't know of any other OPS schools that do have something like this," said Rauch. Unlike North's honors group, Central's Chamber Strings will make recordings for the International Baccalaureate program.

"I'm looking forward to playing awesome music for our IB concerts. There will be some separate concerts and I think there will be some times that orchestra and Chamber Strings will perform some pieces together as an entire group," said Rauch. If all goes

according to plan, the first concert will be Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. in the auditorium. Rauch urges everyone to attend and support the students.

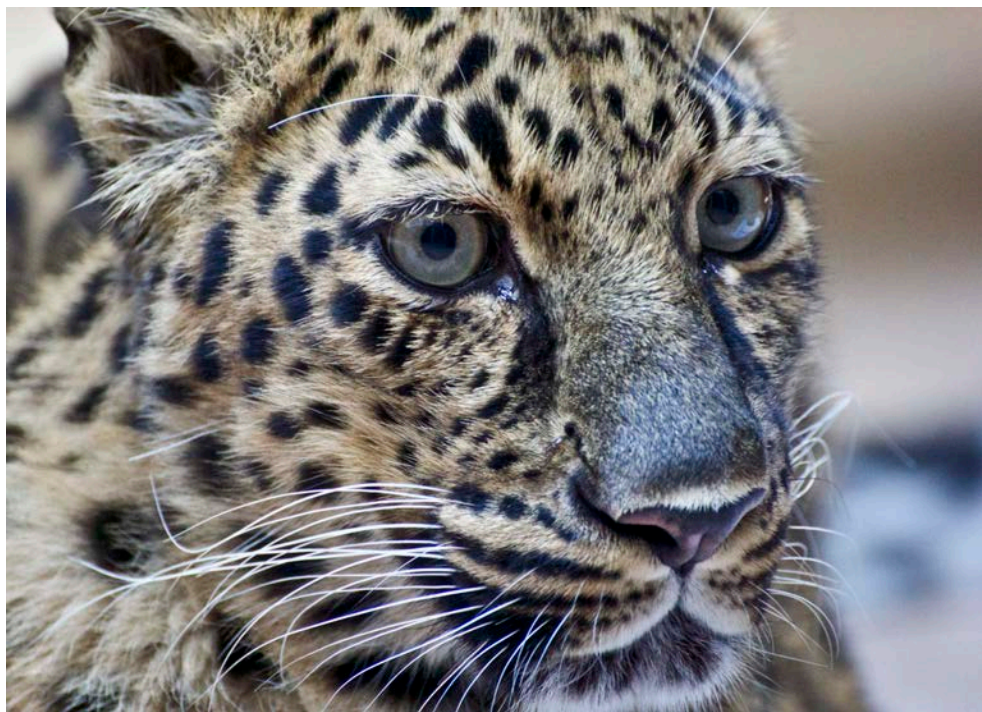
Chamber Strings also brings with it new policies and changes to the orchestra department. Many of those who have invested their time, and participated in orchestra for several years have high hopes for the outcome of this addition. Not only is this another way for student musicians to become involved at Central, but it is also a way for them to push their limits and improve their abilities. Despite how excited Rauch is about the music and the addition of the group, his favorite aspect of orchestra is the students and the chance to play strings music with them.

"Orchestra is a very friendly community. Everybody tries to help, and it's just fun," said Patrick. Those involved in orchestral activities at Central are looking forward to seeing how this addition will affect the program and the students involved.

"I wish everyone could experience the joy of playing orchestra music with a group of awesome eagles," said Rauch.

Zoo tops TripAdvisor's international list, uses technology to teach students

CONTINUE FROM "ZOO" FROM PAGE 13



ANN MILROY | The Register

The amur leopard is just one of eight different species of cats displayed in the Omaha Henry Doorly Zoo's cat complex.

That certainly must be the case for many students, including those from Central especially who have been able to benefit from the academy.

"It's an amazing opportunity," said former zoology student Marcus Polk. "Obviously if you asked any of the [zoo] keepers, they never had those opportunities at school."

Polk recounted his interest in exotic animals and wanted a real feel for the occupation, which he most certainly witnessed.

"Shadowing the keepers was fun...we got to shadow in most areas," he said. During shadowing chances, Polk got to feed penguins and interact with the gorillas in the Gorilla House. Like Polk, another Central student Veronica Hatfield received the same experience last school year, but has decided to continue with the zoology program this year.

"[I'm in] vet's science. You can shadow zoo vets or at a veterinarian clinic," she said. Hatfield shadows at the aviary and helps zoo keepers figure out "what's going on" with the birds. They also learn the anatomy of smaller animals like a house cat and apply it to understand the anatomy of a bigger animal like a tiger.

Hatfield aspires to be a marine biologist, photographer for National Geographic or animal master. Her definite path is unclear to her now, but working at the zoo has still given her insight about what she is interested in. "Obviously working at the #1 zoo in the world is better than anyone could ask for," said Hatfield. "...[the] hands on experience is the most you can get out of it."

Between Polk, Hatfield and Purkhiser, one can get the impression that the Henry Doorly Zoo deserves recognition.

Hatfield went on to describe what she thinks makes Henry Doorly especially unique, such as the especially comfortable conditions in which the animals live, the organization, the work they do with I-Max and how professionals take care of the animals.

"Oh yeah, I've been to zoos in like 13 different states. It's easily the best. Even the San Diego zoo and that's in like the top five. You can tell as soon as you walk in," said Polk. With this attitude, Pat said students see the whole experience as "more exciting" and they are generally "proud to be here."

According to TripAdvisor, students, teachers and keepers alike most certainly should be.

Recreations of the "purge" rampant in American cities, on social media sites

BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

Movies and the art of cinema capture people's attention in America, and most popular television shows and movies offer insight about culture today.

The popularity of movies is validated by the millions of dollars made at box offices every year. Programs like Netflix, or even the DVD that is growing less and less prominent each day, can be found in almost every American home.

However, people must be able to distinguish the difference between a science fiction or horror film and our day to day lives. This became tragically relevant in 2012 when a gunman bearing the likeness of the Joker character in the infamous Batman films released fire in a movie theatre in Aurora, Colorado. The story may have appeared

as a rare phenomenon but another movie series has again made an impact in the day to day lives of Americans.

The American action horror film "The Purge" and its sequel "The Purge: Anarchy" have caused radical groups across the United States to recreate the films, under the idea that all crimes are legal for one night only.

News of "Purges" in over 10 cities including Phoenix, Atlanta, Detroit, Philadelphia, Chicago, Louisville and Milwaukee were started online and spread.

Although, primarily appearing as an overblown hoax, police stations and government officials across the country are not taking the threats for granted.

In Louisville, chaos spread throughout the city. Giraffes were let out of the local zoo and citizens stayed in their homes all day because of fear.

Over 80,000 people listened in on police scanners in order to make sure they were aware of the threats in Louisville. In other cities like Chicago and Philadelphia dates for "Purge days" are not uniform however; no crime has officially taken place in those cities that bears the likeness of "The Purge" films.

Although the characters that are choosing to partake in the madness are few and far between they are still making an impact on the well-being of entire cities by taking away from the police departments day to day work.

Police departments across the country are uniformly warning people to be "vigilant and practice common sense" when in fear of Purge like threats. What started as horseplay on social media has evolved into a serious problem for police departments across the United States.



THE CROWD FAVORITE

QUINTON LOVELACE IS ADORED BY VIEWERS AFTER SHOWING AT OMAHA FASHION WEEK

PHOTO COURTESY OF Rebecca S. Gratz



PHOTO COURTESY OF Greg Higgins

One of Quinton Lovelace's model, walks the runway in an outfit displaying the "simplistic edge" idea he created.

BY MADELINE HAYKO
staff writer

Quinton Lovelace, an alumnus of Central, was one of the top designers in Omaha Fashion Week this year. The Omaha World Herald called his designs a "crowd favorite."

Lovelace has been interested in fashion since he was young. "Basically it started from art about middle school then I started directing it more towards fashion because I think fashion is a form of art," Lovelace said.

As a new designer, Lovelace was surprised by the amount of publicity he was given during the week. Quinton also discovered on his first appearance the large size of the Omaha fashion community. "I didn't realize how big the fashion community really was in Omaha until this year because this is my first year doing fashion week and it's pretty big," said Lovelace. Quinton had concerns about standing out in such a large talent pool, but he had his mom's name to help him along.

"Fashion week was a huge help as far as promotion goes, and my mom has been a performer for about thirty years. She has a lot of friends that look forward to seeing her perform so my name got connected with hers... her friends and fans gravitated towards me, so I guess that kind of helps," said Lovelace.

Lovelace also had help from other designers to prepare for Fashion Week. "I did work with a designer by the

name of Denise Urban. She's been my mentor throughout this process. I learned a lot from her and I would go to her and say, 'Hey I want to create this, how can I do that?' She would basically say to do this, this and this and then I'd go home and create... She gave me the skill, taught me the skills and knowledge on how to construct a garment properly," he said.

For his first year at Fashion Week Lovelace created a "ready-to-wear" collection of composed of seven pieces. "The idea behind the collection was an idea of simplistic edge and so I wanted to do something edgy...that utilized bold colors, interesting shapes and lines," he said.

His inspiration was something that Lovelace appreciates, as it made him enthusiastic about designing this line.

"I love edgy looks. I love motorcycle jackets... I'm very black and white as far as style goes, so when I see zippers and leather and things that are very edgy, I was like, 'How can I do that in a simplistic style?'" he said.

In a month Lovelace will be heading off to college. He will be attending the Fashion Institute of Design in L.A. Even though he doesn't attend Central anymore, he wants to remain connected to it.

Lovelace calls his four years at Central amazing, and he asserts that Central is the best high school in Omaha. Lovelace wants to show again next year in Omaha Fashion Week, and continue to grow his skills as a designer for the rest of his life.

Two students honored in first-ever citywide theater awards

BY KELSEY THOMAS
executive editor

The Nebraska High School Theatre Awards were launched by the Omaha Performing Arts organization, and took place for the first time in the 2013-2014 school year. In late May, two Central students were given awards through the program.

Haley Clark graduated last May with the Class of 2014. Clark earned recognition in Outstanding Achievement in Stage Management. This award recognizes those whose work behind the stage and out of the spotlight has been exceptional. Haley's back stage technical work involved lighting, sound, stagecraft and management of actors and other technical workers.

Senior Melissa Comstock also won an award. Melissa won the Triple Threat Award, awarded to someone with talent in acting, singing, and dancing. Melissa has had starring roles in Central drama productions since she was a freshman. Melissa earned a scholarship to the Broadway Dreams camp, which offers intensive training in theater led by Broadway professionals.

Other awards given out by the NE HS Theatre program include Outstanding Musical Theatre Production, Outstanding Actor in a Lead Role, Outstanding Actress in a Lead Role, Outstanding Actor

in a Supporting Role, Outstanding Actress in a Supporting Role, Outstanding Ensemble Number and the Backstage Spirit award. In all categories besides the Backstage Spirit award, the top seven schools or students are recognized.

Kathleen Lawler, the Education Manager for the organization, stated that, "The Nebraska High School Theatre Awards was designed to celebrate, support and advocate for musical theatre education in Nebraska high schools. The program aims to recognize and encourage artistic excellence in musical theatre, provide high-quality learning experience, and other educational opportunities students interested in musical theatre."

Although the awards are only given out annually, those high-quality learning experiences for students take place throughout the year. Lawler said that the NHSTA program includes "discounted or free tickets to touring Broadway shows at the Orpheum Theater (when available), feedback from performing arts professionals, performance opportunities, the chance to engage in pre-professional training with Broadway teaching artists and other high-quality education experiences. For example, students from participating NHSTA schools are invited to attend free master classes and workshops in audition technique, acting, singing, dance and technical theatre throughout the year. Last year, these workshops were led by cast

members from touring Broadway shows... We have already confirmed several similar master classes this year, starting with an audition technique master class led by five-time Tony Award nominated actress - Kelli O'Hara."

Signing up also provides opportunity for adjudication—judging of a theatre production—by professionals in the industry. There are 27 NHSTA adjudicators, each with extensive but widely varied experience in the performing arts field. One adjudicator, Erika Overturff, is the founder and artistic director for Nebraska's professional ballet company Ballet Nebraska. Another adjudicator is Bob Fischbach, the Omaha World Herald's movie and theater reviewer since 2004. Several performing arts professors from UNO, UNL and Creighton also adjudicate. Adjudication takes place from fall to spring, and each member school provides the program with the musical or play they will perform that they would like to be evaluated. These productions provide the basis of who receives the annual awards.

There are four main categories of evaluation for a production: vocal music and singing, acting, movement and dance and overall production. Over 25 schools participated in the program during the 2013-2014 school year. This year, the NHSTA program wants to include up to 40 schools within a 65-mile radius of the Holland Center. Within the next several years, they hope to go statewide.

Q & A

THE REGISTER SITS DOWN WITH LOCAL RAP GROUP, BOTH, TO DISCUSS THEIR MUSICAL ENDEAVORS AND LIVES AS ARTISTS

BY ALEC ROME
staff writer

How did you come up with the name BOTH? Does it stand for something?

"It really doesn't stand for anything, it just means the both of us. We had some names a few years ago, like Financial Aid, and something else kind of stupid, but BOTH stuck."

Can you walk me through a little about how you make a song?

"Infinite Loop is the producer of everything, so he makes the sound and the feel of the track, and I add the content. It really is based off emotion and music in general. It's really laid back, and almost hard to explain. We just hang out, say jokes, then one day, something happened to me, and he's having trouble, and we help each other."

How do you feel creatively you set yourself apart from others in the rap community?

"I don't do the gimmick thing. I don't exactly do what the people want, even though it's for the people. I'm genuine, and that's how I set myself apart. Some people do it for the money, and we all would like to be paid for what we do, and we make somewhat of a living with it. I think how Infinite Loop and I set ourselves apart is that we care about what we do musically and artistically, for ourselves and those who give a damn to listen to it."

Photo Courtesy of BOTH



Would it be an accurate statement to say that your voice is a mix between Childish Gambino and Wiz Khalifa?

"That's a first, maybe Childish for sure, but Wiz, I don't know. I used to look like him when I first grew my hair out as a kid. I liked old Wiz back in the day, but I'll take Childish, that's a compliment. I love Childish Gambino's sound, and I'm down to end up like Wiz, with his popularity and fame."

What is your favorite song out of all that you've made?

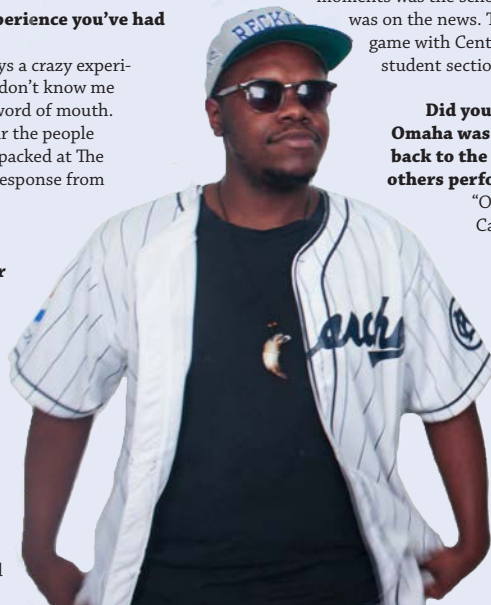
"My favorite, I don't know if I have a favorite. My favorite to perform would be 'What's the Word' because it is such a crowd participation song. 'Magnum' is pretty fun, and our newest project has a song called 'World' and also 'Toothpaste.'"

What was the most memorable experience you've had on your journey so far?

"The reaction from the people is always a crazy experience. Some who know me and some who don't know me and they come out to see me because of word of mouth. When you step out on that stage and hear the people scream, it's a great experience. It was packed at The Slowdown and I didn't expect the response from the people."

Why do you insert old video clips into some of your music videos?

"In Magnum, it's like an old-school kung fu thing, and I put some clips of old school kung fu movies that I liked. I just enjoyed those movies, and I was really inspired by ancient China and Japan, and did a little ju-jitsu myself. It's just something that I'm infatuated with."



What part of Omaha did you grow up in, and what was growing up here like for you?

"I grew up in the North part of Omaha, around 30th and Ames. It was tough, Infinite went to North, I went to Northwest. There was gang activity, gang involvement, fun stuff like that. I had plenty of black friends, plenty of white friends. I was blessed to know a lot of people and have a lot of experiences."

What was your high school career, and what was the most memorable part?

"I had a great time. I played basketball for Northwest, we lost all of our games, but I had fun at least. One of the most memorable moments was the school riot, when KETV came, and I was on the news. There was a lot of fights. And the game with Central vs. Northwest was crazy, the student section was insane."

Did you think a live session in North Omaha was a good way to sort of give back to the community, along with some others performances in Omaha?

"Our first big show was at the Carter Bank, we did it for free, and there was a lot of black youth watching us, and most of the people that come to see us are white. There's nothing wrong with that, but those kids don't really know what is going on in their city, I mean we've already done three festivals. There are a lot of kids who don't know who we are."

Any shoutouts to family, friends, etc?

"Shoutouts to Make

Alumnus Justin Bennett releases his first iTunes single; music video accompanies release gaining instant YouTube successes

BY TIA SPEARS
editor-in-chief

Justin Bennett, 2013 alumnus, released his first iTunes single "Pour U (Thirsty)" July 19. Since the release, Bennett's success as both a singer and choreographer has skyrocketed.

"Pour U" reached 500 views in less than 24 hours, to Bennett's surprise. This is his first major milestone in his career. Four years ago, he began furthering his interest in dancing despite the fact that he spent most of his years dancing for fun.

"I started dancing when I was probably five... I thought I was just dancing," he said. Annexing singing to his career was decided his freshman year of high school.

"It's so fun being able to do both," he said.

Growing up in a home with a mother who loves to sing and a father who loves to dance, Bennett has been surrounded by musical influences for all of his life.

Back then, he thought he was "just dancing," however, people would always tell him to get into anything that has to do with dancing. Bennett commented that he simply enjoyed dancing at a young age and didn't fully realize what it would mean later to him.

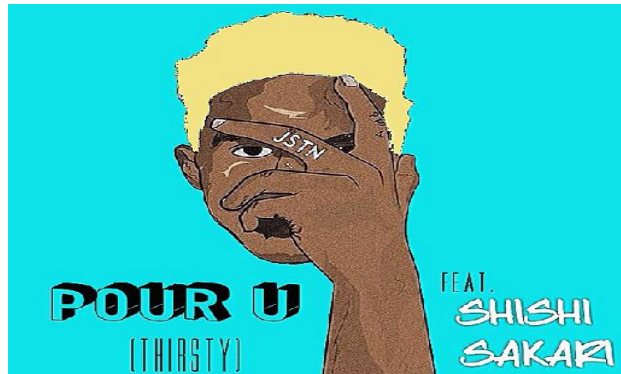
Flash forward 13 years later, Bennett (who goes by the stage name of Broderick Black) is gracing stages all across Omaha with his gift of dancing. "I plan to go on a city tour hopefully end of year of beginning of next year."

I want to take two other artists," he said. One of Bennett's good friends who is an Omaha rapper, "Shishi Sakari" helped him to make the single take off, since the "Pour U" song has become a hit.

One of Central's current students, Christina Remijio, is also a dancer and she performs with Bennett frequently. "Justin is extremely spontaneous... We always have fun," she said. Both Remijio and Bennett practice at the same dance studio. "I've performed with him in several shows... The Allstar Game and at Heartland Pride too," Remijio said. "He puts a lot of time and dedication into his work."

Remijio isn't the only Eagle who teamed Cha one of his favorites. "It's funny because I've always seen her around school until we had acapella together she was like, "We should do Roadshow." So we met up and started practicing," he said. The two did perform in 2013 on stage as a duet. Bennett admitted to being slightly intimidated at the sound of it, but agrees now that it was a good thing.

Both Remijio and Sanders dance behind Justin Bennett



Top left: A snapshot of Bennett dancing. Top right: The cover of Bennett's single. Bottom left: Bennett and other dancers perform at the Allstar Game for Heartland Pride. Bottom right: Bennett's back-up dancers.

during various performances.

"I can call us a group even though we're not really," he said. The three spend an ample amount of time together. Remijio said, "Sometimes we're up til two or three in the morning coming up with ideas and routines."

Bennett plans on releasing more music soon.

He is working on an album expected to be released Oct. 22. The album is titled "Audio Coverage." The next song Bennett will be releasing is "For Your Love." The song is one of thousands Bennett has written. "I've written a lot of songs, some of which I'll never dare play again," he said.

Within the next months, Bennett will be planning his tour and performing his newer songs. Bennett also has plans on returning to school and majoring in Performing Arts.

"I told myself I was going to take a year off, but I'm still deciding where I want to go to college," he said.

"I definitely have seen him progress as an overall performer but especially as a dancer.

I think the amount of exposure he's been getting has motivated him a lot and has given him the confidence to pursue his dreams," Remijio said.



Thirst-Tea Cafe opens over summer, immediate success

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ
staff writer

Thirst-Tea Café is located in the heart of Omaha, and it will surely capture yours. Their intricate decor as well as their sweet and simple drinks will attract anyone's attention. They specialize in bubble tea, but they also have an entire menu of fresh teas and snacks to choose from.

As you walk in, you are instantly energized by the bright color and decorations. On one wall a huge mural catches your eyes. When you look up, you're greeted by a large electronic menu along with dozens of glowing light fixtures.

The café is centrally located in the middle of Midtown Crossing. There is limited parking directly outside, as well as two parking garages nearby.

Most people that visit the café are college kids or young couples. But the varied menu provides enough choice so that people at any age could find something to enjoy.

The first drink I enjoyed was P5, a mango-flavored jasmine tea with mango popping boba balls. It was extremely refreshing, light and fruity. Then I tried M3- coconut with boba. This one was made with milk, not tea. M3 drink had a rich, indulgent flavor. The consistency of the chewy, jelly-like boba balls was perfect. This tea was definitely my favorite, but the taste is almost indescribable.

The two drinks I tried were only a fraction of what Thirst-Tea has to offer. The dozens of flavors vary from green apple to spiced Thai tea. There are light, dark, jasmine or black teas. They also come with an interchangeable choice of flavored jellies-- chewy boba or bursting boba. The chewy boba is made from tapioca. They are tiny black balls

with a consistency similar to gummy bears. The ingredients include things like sweet potato, brown sugar, and cassava root. Popping boba is very different in comparison from tapioca boba. This kind has a fruity center that "pops" when you bite into it. The outer shell is made from seaweed extract.

The jelly that some drinks include is made from "nata de coco" which translates to cream of a coconut. It's soon marinated in sweet flavors to add some sweetness. This jelly is often served as a healthy dessert alternative because of it having high dietary fiber, low fats and no cholesterol. Lastly, once all teas are made, they're sealed, making it convenient to travel and enjoy them on the go!

Thirst-Tea has an amazing range of snack options. The first food item on the menu is Takoyaki which is octopus pieces battered and grilled. Next are pork and vegetable egg rolls, they are pretty self explanatory. Third is edamame which are 'immature' soybean pods topped with salt. They also offer fried chicken wings. Next is Gyoza, they are essentially a spin on dumplings with pork and vegetables inside. The last item on the menu is onigiri, there are several variations with either vegetables or seafood. Onigiri is a rice ball filled with some sort of substance. It could be compared to sushi except there is no raw fish at all.

I enjoyed an avocado onigiri which had a light refreshing flavor, but I added a kick by eating some spicy mayo along with it. I also had a kani onigiri which is a rice ball with spicy crab meat on the inside.

Both were very delicious as well as filling. I recommend this cafe to anyone who is willing to try something new and adventurous!

Classic novels gain fresh spark with creative Youtube adaptations



JULI OBERLANDER
OVER THE HILL

We've all encountered these books in some way: assigned reading for school, book clubs or personal pleasure. Like it or not, classic literature has maintained a high level of popularity over the years.

And popularity that is not going to go away anytime soon, as indicated by the recent trend of Youtube web series that are retelling beloved stories, but with a modern twist.

It all started in April 2012 with The Lizzie Bennet Diaries, a modern version of Pride and Prejudice retold in vlog format. Throughout its 100 episode run, the show generated more than 250,000 Youtube subscribers and a Primetime Emmy for Original Interactive Program.

Along with its huge fan following, The Lizzie Bennet Diaries franchise generated its own production company (fittingly named Pemberley Digital), a book and collection of DVDs. Most significantly, it revolutionized the way classic stories are presented to the public.

A major goal for the Pemberley Digital team has been to convert situations from stiff, classic literature into events that could realistically occur in the twenty-first century. Through Lizzie Bennet and other Youtube adaptations, the media company has placed a specific focus on making characters relatable to viewers.

That has been accomplished through something referred to as transmedia, the use of Youtube, Twitter, Tumblr and Instagram to portray famous fictional characters as average people trying to get by like everyone else. It's a groundbreaking development for two hundred year old heroes and heroines to have Twitter accounts. The concept is interactive, original, and fans can't get enough of it.

Bernie Su, the executive director of The Lizzie Bennet Diaries, spoke to the phenomenon of modern Youtube adaptations in a recent interview with USA Today. "When I was growing up, you never got to interact with your favorite characters," said Su. "This is why I think the format works and there's a demand for them and a shelf life for them."

"I like to think we're creating franchises rather than just Web series," continued Su. "A lot of branching out has been outside of Web content, with books and interactivity. This is the greatness of what we do--is we grow the roles out bigger than just video."

The legacy of classic literature has only been intensified by Lizzie Bennet. Pemberley Digital has shown that the process of adapting classic novels to the contemporary era can be completed with relative ease, leading the way for successive Youtube users to retell other stories.

The creators may not have their own media companies or the funding of Youtube entrepreneur Hank Green, but, according to Ashley Clements, the star of The Lizzie Bennet Diaries, that doesn't matter.

"I am very happy that our show inspired other people to be creative," Clements told USA Today. "The model that Lizzie Bennet set up is very doable. It relies heavily on the writing and actors, but not on extensive equipment."

Pemberley Digital's experiment in modernizing a famous Jane Austen novel built a fan base. As a result, classic novels ranging from Mary Shelley's Frankenstein to Jane Eyre, Peter Pan to Romeo and Juliet are receiving are being adapted through Youtube.

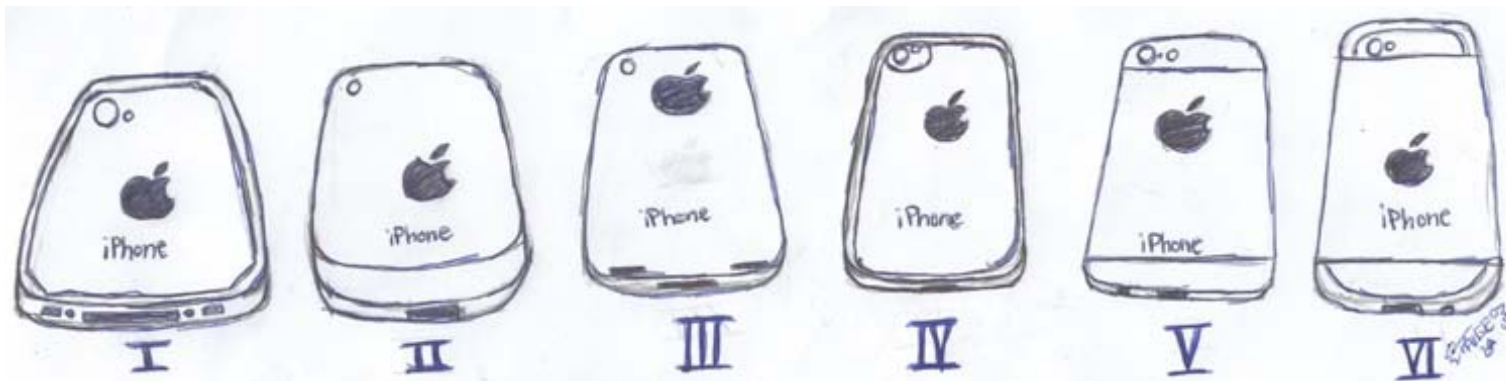
These productions are low budget and informal. To web show creators, the logistics of filming comes second to (re)kindling an interest in literary classics among modern viewers.

The goal has been met, as indicated by the thousands of Twitter followers, products, and Emmy and Streamy (Internet awards) wins.

Jane Austen, Charlotte Brontë, Lucy Maud Montgomery, and others' works have been enjoyed by generations. Now, with fresh Youtube adaptations, the legacy of these books is as lasting as the Web.

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THE RUMORED iPhone 6



PAIGE COLBURN | The Register

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

Apple unveiled the very first iPhone in June of 2007. Now, seven years later, Apple has released their sixth model of this popular product.

Prior to the iPhone, Blackberry had the corner on the cell phone market, but following the iPhone, the only two real competitors were Apple and Android. Even with their head start, it wasn't long before Apple was being challenged by Android devices.

More recently, the Galaxy S5 has been outselling the iPhone 5s by nearly a two to one ratio, according to NASDAQ (Wall Street Stocks).

No longer would brand loyalty provide Apple with enough of an edge to maintain a solid monopoly on the smart phone market.

With this in mind, they looked to consumers to see what the iPhone really needed and what people really wanted in their smart phone. The polls were overwhelming in the categories of screen size, durability, and more customization. The culmination of this feedback is the iPhone 6.

The iPhone 6 was revealed to the public on September 9, and was released several weeks later, corresponding with the

launch of iOS 8.

In fact, prior to its release, an Omaha area store conceded that the phone's name could not even be confirmed, and that no other information other than the unveiling date had been made officially known.

In response to consumer's want for a larger screen, the iPhone 6 was revealed in two screen models, a 4.7 inch and a 5.5 inch. Both feature an improved Retina Display, a retractable camera for higher resolution picture and video shooting, a slimmer profile and possibly most importantly, a high impact screen.

These new Sapphire displays, are a glass like plastoid, which gives them increased shatter protection and less vulnerable to finger prints and smudges.

The aesthetics of the design have also been changed, moving away from the more boxy and rectangular shape of the 4, 4S, 5, 5c, and 5S, to a rounder appearance with more curvature.

This, along with its slim profile, gives it an appearance similar to the newest iPod touch. Combined with the new screen, the aesthetics give a more comfortable hold, as well as improved durability.

According to Macrumors.com, Apple plans to have around 100 million iPhone 6s manufactured by the end of 2014. Although this number sounds astronomical, Apple has high hopes

for their new product, as many of the innovations were spurned by the customers themselves.

Debuting along with the iPhone 6 is the next installment of the OS series, iOS 8. Unlike the iPhone 6, Apple has made information readily available since last year on the new operating system.

iOS 8 retains iOS 7s interface while making the visuals smoother, and takes basic functions such as notifications and makes them interactive, allowing even more efficient multitasking than before.

Other new features include voice messages, inter-sharing of all information with other Apple devices, and a new Health app. Lastly, Apple will allow third party developers to add their own key boards for use on iOS.

With this release, Apple hopes to regain the momentum that it entered into the smart phone market with back in 2007. The iPhone 6 will be bigger, faster and better protected than its predecessors.

This along with the iOS 8 update provides a new beginning for Apple that will allow them to better compete with Android devices like the up and coming Galaxy line.

Accidental encounter selfie gives student Jacob Murray fifteen minutes of fame

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

For Jacob Murray and his friends, July 13 started out as a typical Sunday afternoon.

He was bored, doing what most kids do- sit at home with no plans on a lazy summer day.

"I was on Instagram, and suddenly I see my friend Seth posted a picture of Sir Paul McCartney eating ice cream at eCreamery in Dundee. You know, normal stuff. Being huge Beatles fans, my friends Luke, Tom and I drove over there really fast. We asked some people if they'd seen Paul, and they pointed across the street," said sophomore Jacob Murray.

Of course, it became clear to the group of Omaha boys that it wasn't just a dream, that world famous celebrity was, by some miracle, casually walking around in their neighborhood.

The mobs of people lining the street, taking pictures to make their friends jealous made McCartney's presence somewhat obvious, too.

For the three high schoolers, documenting the moment that their idol was literally there in the flesh was their first priority.

"We had a six or seven minute encounter with him and Warren, just sitting there on the bench. We were freaking out, thinking, he's right there. He was probably about four feet away. I actually moved back to take a picture of Tom in front of them, he was that close."

So Murray snapped the picture.

The picture that made his friend Tom White (and he and Luke Koesters by association) overnight sensations across America.

"We were just in the moment at that point," Murray recalls. "I got a picture in front of them, too. Warren looked a little amused, and Paul just kinda looked at us and posed. It was unreal. After that, we asked if he could sign stuff. We had an Abbey Road vinyl and everything. Paul said he couldn't sign anything, though."

But it was what happened the next moment that was one of the highlights of the teenager's night.

"Paul was leaving in his Buick, so I told him to have a good day. He said, 'You, too.' I was so excited. I couldn't believe any of this was happening."

"Luke, Tom and I were pretty happy with meeting Paul," said Murray, still beaming from the memories of that day. "We went home and posted our pictures in front of Warren and Paul, not expecting much to happen. The next morning, the picture of Tom had 700 retweets and Tom called me



Left: Tom White snaps a selfie with Warren Buffett and Paul McCartney in Dundee on Sunday. Right: Murray, junior, poses with the two.

to say that Good Morning America, the Today Show and CNN called him. Local and national news stations are calling us. It's complete craziness."

The picture of a regular Nebraska kid, Tom White (who goes to



PHOTO COURTESY OF | Jacob Murray

Prep) in front of Warren Buffett and Paul McCartney just sitting on a bench, a picture Murray took, has gone viral.

In a matter of just a few hours, White reached 2,000 followers on both Twitter and Instagram.

Creating catchy beats the first step in artist's life dream of producing music

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
staff writer

When you hear those backbeats, sometimes referred to as samples in rap and other genres, what you're listening to is a product of countless hours spent by someone trying to put together different sounds. Often times these samples come from other songs, such as in M.I.A.'s "Paper Planes," in which the song "Straight to Hell" by The Clash can be heard in the background.

Senior Arnell Thomas makes these kinds of beats. It's his passion, and something he can picture himself doing for a long time.

"I mainly make beats right now, sometime I'll be able to record somebody when I have my studio stuff," said Thomas. To make these beats he uses something called "FL Studio" or "Fruity Loops Studio" which is a program. He noted that you can use any sort of computer to make the beats (Thomas himself has a PC), but it's better to have a Mac. "Really all you need is [a] program," Thomas said.

"Right now I'm trying to make my beats for myself, as of right now then when I get more equipment I'll be able to sell [more beats]," Thomas said.

For the time being he uses his computer, using the keyboard as his piano in order to assemble his beats.

"Most programs you can use your keyboard as piano so that's what I'm doing right now. To make your own sounds or to record people on your beats you have to have your own studio equipment. I have a mic- basically the more expensive the mic is the better quality it is. I have pretty good quality [mic]," Thomas said.

During his childhood, Thomas grew up around music. His brother found studio equipment in their father's basement, which prompted his brother to start recording music. Soon afterward, he showed Thomas the FL Studio program, which Thomas describes as a "home studio." Thomas' brother then showed him a demo, and Thomas said he just "fell in love."

"I've only sold one beat so far," said Thomas. He sold his first beat for \$10.00 to his sister's friend.

"I've been trying to make it by myself and it takes me about a week to two weeks to finish a beat." Perfection and precision is the key in finishing a beat for Thomas- it has to be just right.

Right now Thomas is strictly making beats in lieu of him needing a new laptop. Then he will start recording himself as well and work on his own music as well as beats. Thomas describes the kind of music he makes as "new school hip-hop, more modern type of day hip-hop. My idol is J Cole- J Cole and Kendrick Lamar are my idols," Thomas explained. His goal is to produce albums for multiple artists, including himself.

Producing sounds helps Thomas forget about other stress in his life. "I just get this feeling where I don't worry about anything else but this beat at this time. You know when you hear your favorite song come on? It's like this feeling when you hear your own beat that you made- it's- hard work pays off," Thomas said.

Sometimes he'll start off with an idea in mind of how the beat should go, but then it turns out totally different. "You never know what your beat is gonna sound [like] before you make it, ever.

Just piece by piece you build it up- like a house," Thomas said.

The aspiring producer doesn't give his beats away to just anybody. He is selective because he wants the people with real talent to have them. "I want to give my beats to somebody who [people are] actually gonna listen to," said Thomas. It's hard work that he wants people to recognize, so listening to his beats is key to his success.

"I would love to produce and have one of my beats on either J Cole's album or Kendrick Lamar's album. That would be so so awesome. That's my dream," said Thomas.

His other goal is to open up a recreational center for kids to come and record themselves.

Maybe one day you'll see Arnell Thomas' name on the back of a J Cole album, or maybe your own child will be recording his/herself at his recreational center 20 years from now.

Whatever happens, it is apparent is that Thomas will go far in his field because of the passion and commitment he has to the craft.



SANJUANA PARAMO | staff writer

concert



title
Maha Music Festival

date: **August 16**
location: **Stinson Park**

rating 9 out of 10

Music festival draws local crowd for big name bands

For a first time attendee to one of Omaha's great music festivals, Maha is one of the greatest music festivals in Omaha. And from the looks of it, it keeps getting better.

More than 1,000 people filled out Stinson Park and rocked out to the music of big named bands as well as fantastic local bands. Death Cab for Cutie, Local Natives, The Head and The Heart plus more played from noon until midnight.

Though on a small scale, Maha felt like a big-time festival. The atmosphere was phenomenal, the food was great and everyone was enjoying themselves. I may be biased, since this year was my first time attending, but it was definitely my favorite. There was something for everyone, the food was mouth-watering and there was even a Ferris wheel, the icing on the cake.

Each band put on engaging performances, the lineup was so good that it was difficult to keep up. Most festival goers agreed. I heard people say that it was nothing like the festival in 2012, and this year's festival proved that it was definitely getting better. There was plenty to see and do. There was no reason to sit around.

The big line ups were great; the indie pop-rock band Death Cab for Cutie put forth an incredible performance and gave Maha a boost as big bands go. What peaked my interest were the local bands, Maha was a place for them to shine and prove that Omaha

isn't as behind in the music scene as one would think.

Among an extraordinary lineup are some of the best bands from Omaha and the surrounding area. It's because of them Maha has such a comfortable homey atmosphere.

Omaha's local bands can give any big headliner a run for their money. As an observer enjoying their performances, they don't feel local. They put forth such engaging shows that one forgets that they are local bands. It's no surprise just how successful they are. Icky Blossoms' song "Babes" appeared in "Sin City: A Dame to Kill For" the trailer at Comic-Con. With a new album coming soon, they deliver more than any local band I've seen. It's one of the reasons, not matter how big Maha will get in the future, local bands are a staple, and it's what keeps the people coming back for more.

Maha is definitely establishing a niche, it's not going anywhere. It'll just keep getting bigger and better. I won't be surprised if it becomes more than a one day festival and heavy headliners start to appear. Honestly, a two day festival wouldn't hurt, as well as beefing up the headliners. It will become a stronger event if those changes were to be made.

There is no saying what event planners have in mind for Maha for next year. But from the looks of it, it's going to be great. The expectations are high, whatever's going to happen for next year it has to surpass this year. If 2014 was anything to go by, it was the best year for Maha, folks can't be let down. As Maha keeps growing and continues to establish its place in Omaha, the lineup has to do the same. A bigger headline will do wonders.

For my first time attending, Maha really exceeded my expectations, it was more than I hoped for. I'll definitely be back next August, ready to spend a day at one of Omaha's fantastic music festivals.



MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN | web editor

movie



title
Boyhood

director: **Richard Linklater**
genre: **Family-drama**

rating 8 out of 10

Captivating film follows child's life for 12 years

You walk into the theater, popcorn in hand-careful not to spill your large soda. You sit, unsure of what's to come next. That experience is exactly what filmmaker Richard Linklater wanted for his audience before they settled in to watch his (almost) three-hour long movie *Boyhood*.

Boyhood was over the course of 12 years, all with the same cast. Notable cast members include: Ethan Hawke and Patricia Arquette. It follows the life of a boy named Mason, from the age of six until he goes off to college. Even though the movie solely follows the life of Mason along with his family, there's a very relatable and real aspect that comes along with it. We see all of them grow up, not just Mason.

The actor- Ellar Coltrane who played Mason, was just a young kid when filming began for the movie. Coltrane said via reddit.com that he "grew up" on *Boyhood*. Which is one of the reasons why Coltrane's performance in the film is so good, because he was living it, breathing it.

There is no real plot line but the movie never seems dull or uninteresting. It follows the natural course of life, which is something that is unusual in films. There's the conflict, the climax, then the resolution, but this movie lacks that whole set up. It makes it more interesting.

Soon enough, the main character is not that cute little six-year-old we saw 20 minutes ago on the screen. He's now an adolescent, embarking on a camping trip with his father asking him "what

the point" of all this is. His father, unable to accurately respond to such a question, tells him that the point is to feel things, because when he's old like him it'll be harder to feel as much. Mason slowly learns how the real world is going to be like, how unfair and horrible but great at the same time it really is.

After the movie, what resonates the most with the audience is Mason's experimental years. He is 15 now, making out with a girl, smoking pot, drinking. He's even got the angry haircut down. Linklater doesn't sugar coat it. While this is still a movie, and the actors are delivering lines, it feels like we are watching snippets of someone's real life- Mason's.

And through Mason we see snippets of other lives. Along with him, his dad grows up as does his mom and sister.

Mason grows out of that adolescence, teen angst if you will, that many people go through- the unsureness of what's to come or who you really want to be, that underlying anger with the world. Mason really figures himself out after that. He goes off to college ready to make something of himself, but the viewer feels a little sad.

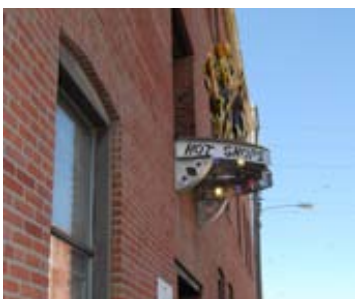
You just watched this kid grow up on the screen in front of you, and now he's leaving you. It's almost as if you're his long time family friend, watching him leave for the last time. It's like you've known him forever and that's the crazy thing- you've only known him for just under three hours.

Sure he'll make more mistakes in his life, but so will all of us. That's the genius of it. Realizing that not everything is perfect or how you expect it to be. And that's the beauty of it. The beauty of life, the beauty of boyhood.



ALLIE VORTHMANN | staff writer

gallery



name
Hot Shops

location: **1301 Nicholas St.**

rating 10 out of 10

Art gallery displays true technique

Hot Shops' front door could easily be compared to the wardrobe door that led to Narnia. A seemingly simple object that leads you to a different world. On the outside you're confronted with an average brick building, one that is among many other old buildings in the downtown Omaha area. The door to Hot Shops leads to an almost magical world.

Since 1999, this art center has been showcasing work from artists all over the metro. With three floors, more than 50 studios and upwards of eighty artists, Hot Shops knows how to blow your mind (literally, the glass blowing room is amazing.)

Upon walking in you will find yourself in a seemingly average art studio. With wide open spaces and fabulous works hanging on the walls. Then you keep walking. The art on the wall turns into vases the size of ten year olds. No rhyme or reason with how the rooms flow through to the next. It's a maze that takes you on a creative exploration. There are sculptures that make you think twice and children's art work that you wouldn't normally see in any other art gallery. Walking through the hallways you are confronted with vases that were so big you could hide inside of them. One artist's door was like something straight out of a story book. Wooden double doors with black hinges is an imagery that takes you back to your childhood.

Stopping to watch one of the artists' work was especially captivating. There was just something about the rhythm in which he created his work. This particular artist was blowing glass. There were ovens which seemed to contain molten lava but in reality it was just the extremely high temperature emitting the orange glow. His partner came over

and explained to me what the man was doing. How he had to be careful when blowing the glass because it was fragile and one wrong move could break the entire thing. I stood there and watched as this ball of glass was slowly transformed into an elegant bird. The time, technique and care in which he performed the task was amazing. It appeared to just come naturally to him. The way he made it look so easy and simple when you knew it was anything but.

The entirety of Hot Shops was set up so you could watch the artists at work. It was like you were a part of the creation process.

It drew you in and kept your attention for far longer than you would think. What felt like a few minutes was actually half an hour when I finally checked my watch.

I decided to drag my 11 year old brother along with me. He was anything but excited. The boy lives on the couch and I am surprised the Xbox controller hasn't started growing to his hands. He, however was even more entranced than I was.

He sat and watched the glassblower at work and even asked to stay when I needed to move on. While I know it was a singular case, but anyone that has been around an eleven year old boy know the shortness of their attention spans. This truly shows that this art gallery is unlike any other.

It makes you want to be there, to be cemented within the walls, to be a part of the greater cooperative of art and artists. There is just something that keeps bringing you back. No matter how old or young, your likes or dislikes, Hot Shops is a place for all varieties of people.

I have been to countless art related venues. From the Summer Arts Festival held in downtown Omaha to The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and countless others in between. Not a single one has fascinated me the way Hot Shops has. There is something almost magical that accompanies this gallery. Hot Shops is art that is alive.

It is in a league all by itself. The captivation that happens when you walk through that red wooden front door is almost magical.

A paradox where you forget everything else and your imagination and creativity are amplified.



NATALIE NEPPER | executive editor

book



title
The Giver

author: **Lois Lowry**

rating 6 out of 10

Book-to-movie transformation a disappointment

When Lois Lowry first released the American children's novel, *The Giver*, in 1993, he probably wasn't expecting the mere 192 page book to sell over 10 million copies. He also probably wasn't expecting the recent movie adaption of the novel to finish 5th place at the box office its opening weekend and gross over \$12.3 million. Yet this social science-fiction novel did all.

Set in the year 2048, Lowry describes a utopian society, filled with "communities" in which each human has no emotion, no differences and sees the world in black and white. The main character, Jonas, is followed through his twelfth year of life, where he is assigned to become the Receiver of Memory and learn all the things about the past that the communities are unaware of.

The burden of pain from past events becomes hard for Jonas to ignore. The utopia he had grown up in begins to appear like an ignorant dystopian society with each memory he receives. The citizens are oblivious to war, pain, starvation and death - but also to the joys in life: love, music and color. The past Receiver of Memory, who calls himself *The Giver*, decides with Jonas that it's time for change in the community.

The book itself is thought-provoking and interesting, although it takes a while for the plot to develop. Because the beginning is slower paced, it is slightly difficult to get in to and may leave you feeling like the story ended too suddenly. Since the fate of Jonas and others is left undecided on the last page, readers must infer what happens. However, Lois Lowry has three other novels in this quartet that are set in the same period and tell the story of Jonas and the communities.

The movie adaption, however, disregards the

fact that Jonas is a naive eleven year old at the beginning of the novel. Brenton Thwaites, the 25 year old Australian actor, was cast to play a much older Jonas. Although the movie does not specify how old the characters are, the love interests they added might indicate them being closer to 17.

Like any other blockbuster film, they had to make the main character fall in love. To be completely honest, the blooming relationship between Jonas and long-time friend Fiona felt awkward and dull. Even though they were on the emotion-less injection medicine, passion would've probably helped the movie out. Also, I was unsure where longtime friend Asher stood with the relationship between the two. At time the movie made it seem like Asher was jealous the soon-to-be couple.

However, other moments left an eerie feeling as if Asher would lash out against Jonah or Fiona. Regardless, neither of those ideas played out in the film, and it began to seem kind of empty.

Additionally, the idea of young adults struggling in a future society seems way too overuse at the moment, with the adaption of *The Hunger Games*, *Divergent* and *The Maze Runner*. Perhaps if the movie had come to life years before the dystopian-society craze, I would've loved it. Unfortunately, Meryl Streep's acting won't win her an Oscar for this one, and Taylor Swift's uncomfortable addition felt less like a convincing role among these unknown actors and more like a play for ratings.

The film version just isn't comparable to the standards that the book has held. I wish they would tear the screenplay down and start over. But I won't be surprised if a sequel pops up within the next few years.

Perhaps the next movie will focus more on convincing acting and emotion, and less on ratings.

However, the notably inspiring parts are still worth seeing, that is, if you can bare the awkwardness.

sports

BY KELSEY THOMAS
executive editor

The athletic eligibility and academic coaching guidelines have undergone a major revision within the past few months, and the 2014-2015 school year will begin the four-year process of implementing the new system.

Jodi Nielson, the Assistant Athletic Director, says, "We don't want this to be a punishment, necessarily, but students have to understand that grades do come first."

In past years, student-athletes in grades nine through twelve were required to pass four classes each semester. For this year and beyond, requirements will be stricter.

A "no pass, no play" rule will be in effect, meaning that a student must have passing status in every class they are enrolled in during the eligibility period- the quarter prior to the season in which the student is participating.

If the student has a course in failing status at the end of a quarter, they are ineligible until the next grading period. This means nine weeks with no play, and there are no exceptions.

Nielson said, "It doesn't matter if you make up the test the next week and your grades are fine. You're out for nine weeks-- a whole quarter."

Eligibility is not only concerned with grades for single courses, it also deals with GPA.

If a student does not earn a term or cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher, they are again ineligible to play. Nine weeks later, when new quarter or semester grades have been calculated, the student's eligibility will be put under review again.

If they have succeeded in raising their GPA to the minimum requirement, they may continue to play.

This also applies to fourth quarter grades; if a student does not meet requirements, they will be ineligible to play during the first quarter of the next school.

This is preventable if a student decides to take summer school. To prevent surprises at the end of each quarter, all Athletic Directors or

CONTINUE TO 'NSAA' ON PAGE 20

NSAA CHANGES THE GAME

THE FOUR YEAR PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING NEW "NO PASS, NO PLAY" GUIDELINES MAY SEVERELY AFFECT SOME PLAYERS

272 SCHOOLS
200+ DISTRICTS
1000s OF HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES
4 YEAR STRATEGY PLAN



Young quarterback hones leadership skills, thrives alongside upperclassmen

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS
staff writer

The front linemen of the opposing team, made up of mainly seniors, line up on the line of scrimmage waiting for the snap of Central's team to their quarterback; a sophomore by the name of Jordan Flowers.

The age difference between Flowers and his other teammates do not faze him, and he receives the snap without hesitation to make a play.

Last year Flowers was the starting quarterback for junior varsity, but now has earned his role as starting quarterback for varsity. "[The coaches] hinted at it last year, but I realized it this year," Flowers said.

Jay Ball, the head coach for Central's football team, looked for specific qualities that Flowers had. "Jordan is very athletic, intelligent, and makes very good decisions with the ball in his hands. Quarterback is a very difficult position to play, but Jordan has played it his whole life so he is prepared," Ball said. These qualities that Flowers have obtained and possess allow him to be the starting quarterback even though he is only a sophomore.

Being the quarterback, Flowers possesses leadership attributes that help him lead upperclassman. "The willingness to win and get everything done... Everyone shares the willingness to win, so it isn't hard to lead [my teammates]. I look at them as peers," Flowers said. In his mind, there is no age difference on the field.

However, stepping up to this position did not come easily to him. "I have to train daily, and am in the gym five or six hours," Flowers said. With all of this training, Flowers has developed into a better player than he viewed himself as in the past.

He has also improved from what his coaches used to see. "They have helped with my passing game. When I came to Central, I had terrible accuracy and bad flowing motions," he said.

Now, he has good accuracy and much better flowing motions. Flowers believes that this is the year that Central will bring home the state trophy.

Ball has witnessed Flowers' improvement from

CONTINUE TO 'FLOWERS' ON PAGE 20



RYLEE BOTTORFF | The O-Book

Jordan Flowers, sophomore, is one of the youngest members of varsity football. Flowers plays quarterback on the team.

Committee picks up work of former bike and pedestrian coordinator

BY NATALIE NEPPER
executive editor

The Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Position for the city of Omaha will not be included in the 2015 budget. The planning position, originally created four years ago, had been relying on grant money filtered from various local businesses such as Live Well Omaha, Alegent Creighton Health and the Metropolitan Area Planning Agency.

The funding, meant to last only three years, had been stretched out and used in "creative" ways into a fourth year, according to Julie Harris, Live Well Omaha's Active Living Manager and first chairwoman of the Active Living Advisory Committee.

The newly founded group, previously called the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, is in the process of being put together in an effort to continue the work of the previous coordinator.

Harris stressed that the new committee was not to act like a "replacement" for former position, but rather one that would further the work on bicycle and pedestrian issues in Omaha.

"The committee will be made of citizens who will be advising the mayor, the city council and the department head of issues that they see," said Harris. "If there are policies that need to be examined, if there are issues popping up that are not getting resolved, or suggestions that people have, that's what this committee will be working on."

The new group will be meeting monthly to address topics regarding all types of transportation. "A good, vibrant city isn't just built around getting cars from point A to point B," Harris said, "but rather also to accommodate bicyclists, pedestrians, people using public transit and all these things for everyone." The Active Living Advisory Committee also plans on keeping the citizens at large involved so that they know exactly what the assembly plans to do.

Although The Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Position is no longer in funding, the past four years have been filled with "a lot of momentum." In just this time, bike commuting has tripled, bike lanes have quadrupled and the city has seen an increase in public bike racks as well as sidewalks for commute.

CONTINUE TO 'BIKE' ON PAGE 20



PAIGE COLBURN | The Register

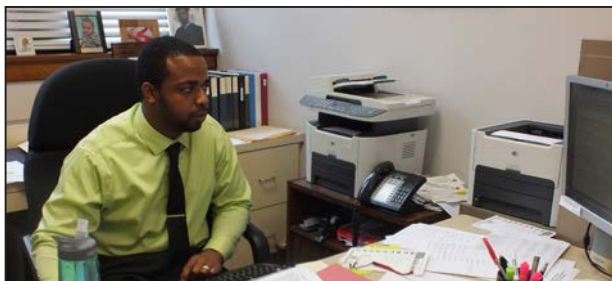
The bike trails in Omaha will continue to be maintained by a new committee.



4 FOR THE SCORE ▶

PAGE 21

The Register features four star players, one from each grade and all from different sports.



LUKE DILLON ▶

PAGE 22

Luke Dillon opens up to The Register as he is welcomed into the new school year as the brand new Athletic Director.



BASKETBALL COACHES ▶

PAGE 23

Learn about the new coaches for the boys' and the girls' basketball teams.

New rules require athletes to excel on and off field

CONTINUE FROM "NSAA" FROM PAGE 19

high-achieving students, but make it more difficult for students who struggle to get good grades. Last year, athletes were required to go to academic coaching each week for one hour, no matter their grades.

Nielson said, "There were a lot of athletes who were 4.0 and doing well with their grades, so they didn't want to have to do that hour a week."

Starting this year, only students who have a "D" or an "F" or a term GPA below a 2.0 will be required to go to Academic Coaching.

However, it has been extended to two hours. Student-athletes may stop attending these sessions once they meet these requirements.

Bob Danenhauer, the Supervisor for Athletics in OPS, played a pivotal role in manufacturing the new standards, which were passed in OPS last December. In regards to why the changes are occurring, he said, "The Board of Education wanted to raise the academic achievement with our student athletes."

But raising achievement by students is more than ensuring they pass all of their classes and earn an acceptable GPA.

Achievement is also marked by test scores and preparedness for secondary education, which is raised through participation in extracurricular activities and effectiveness in study, organizational and time-management skills.

The Board of Education has stressed the importance of these skills by providing a mandate within the new Academic Coaching program. Besides tutoring for school classes each week, academic coaches

are expected to aid students in other ways.

They are to offer better methods for test-taking and studying, and to assist student's knowledge of college requirements and the application process.

The presence of an academic coach also is expected to help student-athletes transition from middle to high school. Another fringe benefit of the new system is the increased communication between counselors, athletic directors, coaches, teachers and students that is ultimately necessary for the eligibility and academic coaching programs to occur.

Increased communication between all these parties means more awareness of a student's wellbeing and any concerns they may have, which will help students succeed more in school and outside.

Sophomore quarterback quickly shows leadership, improvement



RYLEE BOTTORFF | The O-Book

CONTINUED FROM "FLOWERS" FROM PAGE 19

freshman year into this season. "His mechanics and technique continue to improve and his knowledge of our offense has also gotten much better," Ball said. "The biggest difference [in the team this year versus last year] is the role I play this year. This is my chance to move on in my career," Flowers said.

Even further back than his coaches, Flowers' father was one of the first to inspire Flowers to become interested in football.

"Seeing what my dad did and how much he accomplished here in Omaha really inspired me to play football and not only to be as good as him, but better than him. I just developed a love for the game, I just want to be the best player I can be and see where that leads me," Flowers said.



ALLIE VORTHMANN | The Register

Left: Flowers gets his shoulder wrapped with ice to soothe a slight injury. Right: Flowers catches a ball at practice.

Committee pledges to keep Omaha bike and pedestrian friendly

CONTINUE FROM "BIKE" FROM PAGE 19



PAIGE COLBURN | The Register

The Riverfront Trail in eastern Omaha is one of the most popular sites for bike riders, because of the view of the Missouri River.

Ben Turner, part of Omaha's B-cycle bike sharing program, was originally skeptical of the new pedestrian and bike arrangements.

"From a personal perspective as an active cyclist I am worried about Omaha falling further behind in the implementation of bicycle and pedestrian facilities," he said. "However, I have faith in Mayor Stothert when she says she can do a better job than has been done in the past and I look forward to her working to implement that vision."

Turner is not alone in his skepticism, as many were worried about the transportation issues Omaha would face if people could not get around in cars. According to Harris, the current and future generations have been delaying getting their driver's licenses, meaning that much more are riding bikes and walking and require adequate trails and sidewalks to do so.

"Your generation is driving at historically low levels and would rather spend their money on smartphones, transit passes and bicycles instead of gasoline and cars," Harris said. "We need to make sure that our city is planned in a way that accommodates this next generation."

Harris' personal goal as committee chairwoman is to establish clear communication between the citizens in Omaha, the city council and the mayor.

"I'll be sort of the spokesperson with communicating with the mayor's staff or the city staff or whomever beyond that," Harris said. "I will be running the meetings and helping to put the committee together in the first place."

She says she also wants to "be a service to them so they can turn around and come to us" and once that is set in stone, "we'll be in good shape."

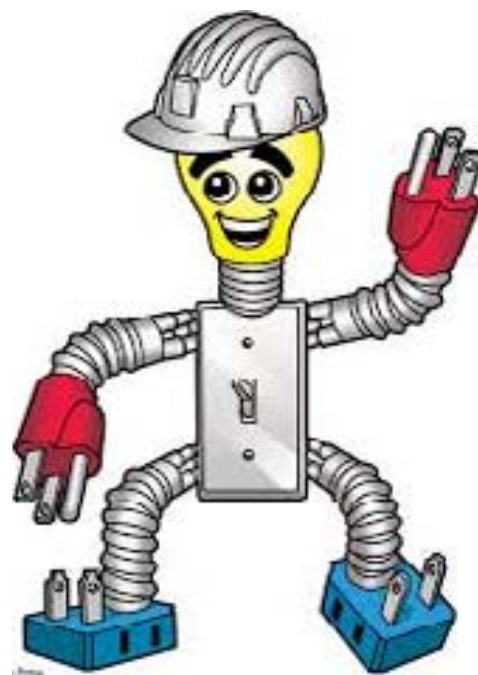
Harris explained that the establishment of this committee is extremely important to the city of Omaha and that "this isn't just an issue that affects people that have a hobby to ride bikes, it's a real transportation issue."

The 2015 budget was officially passed on August 26 and included \$60,000 for a new bicycle coordinator position, which would hold a much different job description than the previous.

As of now, the Active Living Advisory Committee still plans to commence.

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GAME CHANGERS

ATHLETES IN EACH GRADE
LOOK TO SHOWCASE UNIQUE
SKILLS ON THEIR TEAMS

NICK ROCK

BY TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

Friday night lights, the roar of the crowd, the adrenaline and team work gets Nick Rock, senior and football kicker, worked up. Since sixth flag football, Rock has been following in his fathers footsteps both academically and athletically. "My dad attended and graduated from Central and throughout his four years he played football," said Rock.

After flag football, Rock continued on to play football in the seventh grade with his church team. "I've loved football since middle school, I have grown up being a fan of football and playing it. It's kind of taken over a good portion of my school year. I look forward to a great season with my team mates," said Rock.

"Nick is very dedicated to his craft, he works as hard as any player I've ever had," said Ball. His first year of school football his freshman year being kicker for Central. The kicker does two things, the first thing is kicking the ball through the uprights and scoring three points; second is kicking the ball to the opposing team, this is called a touch back. "Nick is our field goal and extra point kicker," said Jay Ball, head coach of the football team.

"It's a great feeling, each kick I have brings me back to the summer when I spent countless hours practicing and each kick shows that the practice pays off," said Rock.

Since his dad played football at Central and won state against Prep (one of Central's rivals) one of Rock's favorite memories includes beating Prep 27-0 last year. "Since Prep was ranked third in state while we were only ranked ninth or tenth, people expected us to lose, but we pulled a big upset and won the game," said Rock.

After high school, Rock plans to continue football in college where his talents are put to use, while majoring in Biology and minoring in Theology. Just recently he was offered a scholarship by Briar Cliff, this scholarship basically gives him a full ride to the college where his talents will be put to use.



11

CHRISTIAN HARMON

BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

Christian Harmon is a standout junior guard on Central's basketball team. This year will be his third year on varsity. After playing for most of his life, Harmon became a member of the basketball team his freshmen year and has been visible as a major component of Central's basketball program since then. Harmon has been playing basketball since he was very young, and said that his father played a huge role in getting him into basketball. Harmon said, "My dad has probably been most influential; he always tries to help me get better and takes me to anything that is basketball related like practices and games."

Harmon is notorious for his excellent work on the defensive side of the ball as well as being able to distribute the ball to his teammates. However, Harmon says that he needs to improve most on his shooting and trying to take better care of the ball on offense when he has possession. Harmon likens his playing style to San Antonio Spurs point guard Tony Parker and says he aspires to be like him because of his ability to distribute the ball well and get to the rim and score. Harmon also likes Dr. J (Julius Erving) and Kobe Bryant.

Harmon is excited about the upcoming season and said "Central's chances are as good anyone's." Harmon wants to return to State and says that he feels Central is being over-

looked because they lost so many players that were vital to the team last year. However, Harmon believes that Central will follow tradition and return stronger than last year and said "Central always loses a lot of players and always comes back as good as or better than the previous year."

Although Harmon still has two years left of high school play, he has already thought ahead beyond his high school career. Ideally Harmon would like to play Division 1 College basketball but says that he would be okay with playing at a Division 2 school if offered a spot. Harmon says that playing basketball at the next level is really important to him. "That's actually my number one goal right now is to try to go somewhere to play basketball," Harmon said.



MADISON CRAIG

BY MADDIE HAYKO
staff writer

Most people know Madison Craig as the sports girl; she is very athletic and competitive. Craig is already starting off the year with cross country practice every day after school. She also participates in Soccer at the end of the school year, but in between both of those sports she is on Central's swim team. Madison started swimming when she was about seven or eight years old. When she was this young she did not start swimming competitively it was just recreational. But in middle school she saw the other side of swimming.

"I do take pride in swimming competitively. It really got competitive in middle school up till then it was just recreational except for swimming at the YMCA. I thought of that as a club," said Craig.

Last year Craig made varsity on the Central swim team as a freshman. "It was nice and it felt good I learned a lot from the upper classmen not just about swimming but about teachers and the school, it was a great experience," she said.

Craig explained that varsity can be a very demanding position to be in as a freshman because you might not have all your friends with you and you will be surrounded by upper classmen, which can be nerve racking. "The hardest part of being a freshman on varsity was getting used to the change and swimming till seven thirty," said Craig.

Craig is confident about making varsity again but she knows she has work to do. "I wouldn't say I expect to make it onto the varsity team, I will definitely work for it but there are already lots of good freshman and upper classmen," said Craig.

Craig prepares for swimming by participating in cross country at the beginning of the school year. It is like her conditioning for the upcoming swim season and in return the swim season prepares her for the soccer season at the end of the year.

It is also hard for Craig to manage homework and sports.

"It depends on the sport. Cross country I have enough time to finish everything and for swim team I do most of my homework before practice and for soccer there is always time after practice," said Craig.

Over the summer Craig participated in the Elmwood recreational swim team and she really enjoyed swimming the fifty freestyle during the summer. Craig is ready to start the new swim season.



10

09

EMMA HOIBERG

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ
staff writer

Emma Hoiberg is the only freshmen who made varsity volleyball. Hoiberg credits her success to her unique perspective about the sport.

"When I talked to the coaches they said it was really because of my volleyball attitude. Like how up I am all the time, how loud- because I'm the loudest on the team.

They feel it was a good decision. I'm going to be a setter the team which again is based on my attitude," Hoiberg said.

Even as a freshmen, Hoiberg is able to keep up and hold her own during practices. "During the week we scrimmage a lot with each other, it's about working with our team mates. Practice is usually about three hours long. Then on Saturday I work personally with my coaches on skill work for settings: Where to set it, high or how low," Hoiberg said.

She is glad to have reached such a high level of volleyball.

"I'm happy I'm on varsity. I'm going to miss a lot of my friends, but I feel this is better for me. I like to challenge myself so I'm happy I made varsity. I was really surprised too. Being a freshman, I thought I would make JV but when I got the letter I was like, 'Oh my god, I made varsity,'" Hoiberg said.

Hoiberg also feels the pressure from her fellow teammates being the only freshman. "They are upperclassmen so I feel like it's difficult to get along with them being the only freshman. So it is a little hard getting to know them and working with them because we don't really have anything in common. I feel like I have a lot of pressure on me because many other girls thought that they should be on the team since they're juniors. They are sort of upset and don't think I deserve it," Hoiberg said.

Hoiberg has experienced this process before.

"I was in the fifth grade and it was my first year. My sister... was really encouraging me to try out, saying that I might be able to make [her] 12's team even if I was only ten. I did try out... I actually made their 13's team. So I played with thirteen year olds and I was ten, so I was the baby of the team," Hoiberg said.

Hoiberg expects her experience to positively impact her skills.

"I really feel like it's going to help me improve especially during club season... I feel like playing upper level at Central will help my chances of making it on their traveling team," Hoiberg said.

New tennis and cross country coaches look to boost programs

BY CHO KAMMEL & KIRA HAWKINS
staff writer / staff writer

MATTHEW RANDALL

Game-set-match. Hearing these words is not a new occurrence for boys tennis coach Matthew Randall. As well as teaching Latin, he also delivers years of tennis experience to the boy's team. Stretching all the way back to high school, Randall's tennis repertoire includes state champion at Cheyenne Mountain High School, working as a pro at country clubs while in college at the University of Arkansas, and qualifying for the finals on a United States Tennis Association (USTA) club team.

Although it may seem that Randall has dedicated a large part of his life to tennis, it came only after experimentation with other sports, that he concluded tennis was the sport for him.

Born in California, Randall attended Cheyenne Mountain High School where he was the quarterback of the football team, tennis player and record setting shot putter on the track team- A record which still has not been beaten. After evaluating each of these sports, Randall found that tennis was the most challenging and would be the sport he would pursue throughout his life. "For me, I felt like tennis was the most difficult," said Randall, "because there is so much more skill acquisition."

Upon graduation, Randall attended Mid-American Nazarene and the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs for a year, before settling at the University of Arkansas.

While there, he worked as a tennis pro and competed on the USTA tournament circuit. In the classroom he focused on earning a double major, and graduated with degrees in history and classical studies.

Following college, Randall coached tennis and taught Latin at high schools in three different states: four years in Missouri, one in Oklahoma and two in Virginia. His Virginia teams won district and

regional doubles in 2013, only to fall short in the state finals. In his spare time, Randall is also the head coach for men's and women's tennis teams at Midland University.

One of Randall's driving factors in seeking excellence in tennis is due to how under appreciated the sport is.

"There are so many different aspects, hand eye coordination, speed, and athleticism," he said. Randall also points out that there are very few other sports one can pursue throughout his or her life, but that tennis is one of the select few, due to its non detrimental effects on the body.

Randall aspires to bring out the best in every one of his players. He also says that his main focus is going to be teaching sound fundamentals and also reaching out to junior high and middle school about tennis. To younger, aspiring players, he says, "We want you to come to Central because we have the best Omaha Public Schools tennis team.

Both coach Wheeler and I are committed to bringing the highest standard of excellence to Central's tennis teams."

In his years of high school teaching and coaching, Randall has lived in several different states. Now, finding himself in Nebraska, he believes that he will be staying for a while.

On speaking of Central High School, he said, "This school is awesome. No other school is so diverse.

Every kid has to have appreciation for what this is." Lastly, he encourages any recreational tennis players out there to join the team, "If you're an athlete or looking for a way to college, come play tennis. There are scholarships out there."

AMY PHILLIPS

Amy Phillips attended St. Cecilia's high school in Hastings. She ran both cross country and track. During college, she did not formally play sports, but trained and ran half marathons. She attended University of Nebraska in Lincoln, where she majored in Spanish and minored in both Business and Art History. She also attended University of Nebraska in Omaha where she obtained her teaching

certification and is currently working towards a Masters degree in education. She has never coached before, but was willing to give it a try. "I wanted to get involved with students outside of the classroom. The opportunity to assist with girls cross country arose, so I took it." She also has high hopes for this year's team.

"(We're) looking good. We have approximately 35 girls on the team this year."

Phillips' relationship with the runners is a mix between easygoing and tough, but despite her pushing, the runners on the team still feel attached to their new assistant coach. "She's a very positive coach. Ms. Phillips has a way of making us feel supported," said former runner, sophomore Maddie Badura.

"As a coach, you have to balance encouragement and building your athletes up with toughness. I want the girls to perform at their best and work hard every day. Sometimes that means pushing them more than they would push themselves or telling them things they don't necessarily want to hear."

Cross country is a sport where both teams and individuals race on open-air courses over natural terrain. The course is usually two-and-a-half to seven-and-a-half miles long.

The race may go over grass and earth, go through woodlands and open country and hills, flat ground and sometimes gravel road. Runners are judged on individual times and teams by a points-scoring method. Coaching is a training process in which an individual or team is supported while gaining a personal goal.

Coaches are usually teachers, and divide their time between school and sports. But they are also seen as mentors and big parts of students' lives.

Sports are a big part of many students' high school careers, so it's important to have a good supporter to help along the way. "She adds positivity and encouragement to the cross country team," said team manager Abby Petrick.

Phillips loves coaching, and plans to continue coaching in the future. For now, she is happy as an assistant coach.

BY ALEC ROME
staff writer

A piece of legislation in the National College Athletics Association (NCAA) was passed several weeks ago that could greatly impact the nature of college sports. The NCAA board voted in a 16-2 decision to allow schools in the five most powerful conferences in America to write the majority of their own rules and legislation.

Creighton University athletic director Bruce Rasmussen said, "I agree that the Power Five conferences should have more autonomy in certain areas—selected areas of health and wellness, meals and nutrition, financial aid and expenses and benefits. However, there are areas where all Division One schools should have the same maximum limits—scholarship numbers, coaching limits and recruiting rules—to name a few."

The conferences affected by this legislation has demanded these changes for years. The organizations

wanted to have the ability to decide things such as cost-of-attendance stipends and insurance benefits for athletes, and the minimum amount of time spent on some sports, which they now can. Rasmussen stated on the topic of stipends, "I don't have a problem with student-athletes receiving a stipend for cost of attendance, however, I don't think we have done a great job of communicating what current student-athletes are receiving—for a school like Creighton or Nebraska, the average cost per men's basketball or football player per school is well in excess of \$100,000 per athlete."

The schools affected by this are the five richest in the NCAA. The Big Ten, ACC, SEC, Big 12, and Pac 12 are included, as well as private university Notre Dame, are all included in this decision. The conferences can submit their new legislation by October 1st and can put it into action in January 2015. This could greatly affect the level of talent and performance on the field from these conferences in many different sports. Some of the major sports, football and basketball, could also have a positive shift in athletic talent and overall power compared to other minor conferences.

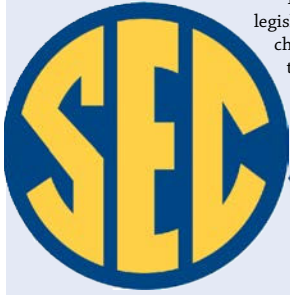
Minor conferences outside the Power Five can choose to adopt the rules. However, for most minor colleges and universities, they cannot afford stipends because they don't get as much money from revenue and other sources. Creighton is one example. Rasmussen said, "The school is not generating as much revenue per student-athlete as has been portrayed—in fact, almost all schools are spending more money per student-athlete than they are making." The financial gap could begin to create a gap competitively between schools in major and minor sports. Years from now, we could be seeing teams like Creighton or UNO start to fade away in college athletics.

Sports media has also begun to take notice of this issue. *Mike and Mike*, a popular sports radio talk show on ESPN radio, have talked about the possibility of the Power Five conferences completely breaking away from the NCAA entirely. Rasmussen doesn't think this will happen. Since this legislation has passed through the board of the NCAA, conferences could begin to crave power and soon begin to rebel. That is a fact to think about, as it may play in to not only college athletics, but high school and professional athletics as well.

The way that professional teams draft new prospects could change if college athletics changes. When asked about how it would affect college recruiting, Rasmussen stated, "Student-athletes choose to go to a school for a variety of reasons—prestige of conference being towards the top of the list if not at the top of the list for many student-athletes—that will not change. However, we attract student-athletes who are interested in playing at the Division I level in their sport, want a quality, personal education (small class sizes, more personal attention) in a great community."

The level of talent could change, because there are some players in the NFL or the NBA that came from minor conferences. For example, Doug McDermott played men's basketball at the University of Creighton. He could easily become a great player in the NBA, and could have ended up somewhere else if he went to a different college instead of Creighton University. At the time, he didn't have to take into account stipends or practice hours when he made his decision on where he wanted to play. But future student athletes may take that into their decision, which can create a gap between schools that aren't as strong financially.

As for the future of college athletics, we may have to wait and see where the issue goes before we can truly project the future of college sports.



POWER FIVE CONFERENCE



NCAA BOARD VOTES TO ALLOW TOP FIVE CONFERENCES IN AMERICA TO WRITE THEIR OWN RULES AND REGULATIONS

UNO expansion provides new hockey arena, space for other events

BY ALLIE VORTHMANN
staff writer

UNO hockey will have a new venue to play at starting in the fall of 2015. For the past several decades, their home arena has been the Civic Auditorium, which will be torn down within the next few months. The new addition to the UNO campus will be located on the south end of Aksarben Village. The facility does not have an official name yet, but it is being currently being called the "UNO Community Arena" according to the Director of Athletics at UNO Mr. Trev Alberts. Mr. Alberts says they are "actively in the market" with some of the universities' donors, who would lease the right to have their name on the building for a number of years. This type of a naming process happens with many auditoriums and arenas throughout the country.

Although not as big as the formerly used Civic Auditorium, the new arena will be able to hold up to 7,500 people for sporting events. There will also be many new additions included in the arena that UNO hockey fans did not have before, such as new seating options that will include club seating and suites. The new options are expected to cause a huge increase in ticket sales, because of more demand and a higher price. For the general admission ticket holders, however, the price change from previous years will not be significant. The cost of the new arena is estimated as a little over 80 million dollars. The university has raised about half of the cost through private donations. The other half is being paid by bonds that UNO has taken out. "What this means," said Mr. Alberts, "is that a financial institution gives you the money upfront." The revenue from the arena will go towards paying off the bonds every year.

Just like the Civic Auditorium, the arena will serve many purposes. Whenever it isn't being used for hockey, it will be used as a venue for other sports such as women's and men's volleyball and basketball. The Omaha community will also benefit from it, as the arena will be used for high school graduations, concerts or any other local events. The arena's seating capacity can range anywhere from 4,000 to 8,000. As for the hockey team, Mr. Alberts is hoping that a home ice advantage will boost their overall performance. UNO is also hoping that with this new addition to their campus they will attract more of the nation's top hockey players to Omaha. The new arena aims to strengthen the student community at UNO, and provide a more enjoyable experience for hockey fans.



Visible from Aksarben's Stinson Park is the construction of the new UNO arena. The building will be located on 67th and Center street.

New athletic director aims to raise expectations, improve sports programs



ANN MILROY | The Register

Athletic director Luke Dillon works at his desk, amidst papers, pens and photos of his family. This year is his first year at Central.

BY JORDAN YOUNG
co web editor

It had always been a dream of new athletic director Luke Dillon to obtain the position he has now. After only being Central's athletic director for one year, Tom Lee left to become the principal at Northwest High School and in return Dillon entered into the vacant spot. After reaching out to administration for the job, Dillon was referred to human resources, applied for the job then went through the application process. "After you apply if you make it through that round then you get to come in and do an interview...and that's pretty much it," he said.

Before landing his job, Dillon had worked at Beverage, McMillan, Bryan High School, Davis Middle, Burke High School and even Central as a football coach. His position shifted from teacher, coach and administrator before he became athletic director here. Dillon's knowledge of the AD position, application, then due process of interviews at the school wasn't his first time becoming acquainted with Central. "It has always been a dream of mine," he said. "When I first came here to Omaha when I was student teaching, the first thing I actually did...I went to a Central basketball game."

"I really loved the diversity here. The student atmosphere, the look of the building, the culture and the tradition...I felt welcomed as a visitor. I always knew I wanted to be a part of Central," said Dillon. Since the Indiana native's official "welcome," Dillon has already begun working hard to revamp the athletic program. "You never want to stop improving," he said. To raise the bar for Central athletics, Dillon decided to focus on every single program.

"[I'm] making sure I'm going to some of everything," he said. "I think it's important that I go to all." Even though Dillon is making sure that he visits all games from junior varsity to varsity, that's only part of the process. To empower other programs, Dillon wants to engage kids before they come to Central. One example he gave was a suggested possibility to improve the softball program. He described a seminar type camp lead by a college coach for kids going to high school. "Once you get people inside, people fall in love with the school," he said. The idea may only be a rough draft, but it illustrates Dillon's aspirations for Central sports.

"One of my goals is to win an all sports title," he said. "I have to find a way to provide financial support [and] focus on building partnerships for kids early." Besides the importance of his hands on involvement with each sport team, Dillon also acknowledged the importance of academics and the recently enforced academic policy.

The new academic policy being enforced this year "changes the focus and emphasis on grades" and Dillon explained the need to not only establish that new policy through teachers and coaches alike, but make the academic atmosphere a lively one. In room 139, through the door to the left, one might find Dillon working hard on ideas and actions to better the legacy of Central sports for the future.

HOLLING & GUNN

run the floor

BEN HOLLING AND BRITTANY GUNN DISCUSS THEIR BASKETBALL JOURNEY & LOVE FOR COACHING

BOYS

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO
staff writer

The boys basketball team will welcome Ben Holling as the new head coach. It is his first time in this position, but he has had coaching roles at Central before. Holling was an assistant coach for boys' basketball for several years at Central before he became head coach for Burke.

After hearing the spot was open, he decided he would like to return. "It's where I started at. Central has the best tradition in Omaha and I feel it's the best high school in the state both academically and athletically," Holling said.

Central's former coach Eric Behrens approached Holling with an offer. "I'm very happy with it, it was a tough decision," Holling said. "I enjoyed my time at Burke, it was hard to leave but in the end I knew it was the right move."

Holling is looking forward to being in the new position. "It feels very good, it feels very fulfilling. It's a long standing tradition, it's humbling to be the head coach of a program this big," Holling said.

Holling will use his knowledge and past experience in his new role. "I'll definitely take something that he (Behrens) taught me, but overall I'll put my imprint on it," Holling said. Holling does recognize that he has "the biggest" shoes to fill. Under Behrens, the boys' basketball team won seven championships, four of which were consecutive. "He's won about everything you could possibly win," Holling said.

The team has been receptive of Holling and have been getting along well. As basketball season comes around the corner, it's time to look for new strategies.

"Strategically we like to get up into everybody that we play, we want to make the

game go up and down as fast as possible," Holling said. "Most times we'll have more athletes on the floor than the other team, so we have to use that to our advantage."

Holling also recognizes that there are areas where the team needs to improve.

"We need to get better at shooting the basketball. We have some people that struggle from outside shooting," Holling said. Though he also recognizes that the team is composed of a "great group of kids" that work well together.

"They need to get better, but they're willing to work so I've been very impressed thus far," Holling said.

Winning a championship is on the mind of the players, and it's no different for the new coach. Winning as state championship is what Holling is not only looking forward to, but expecting.

As far as championships go, "We will be right in the mix of the teams that have a shot at winning," Holling said. Holling doesn't necessarily feel pressured to keep Centrals' championship wins going. "I'm not sure pressure is the right word but there are definitely high expectations," Holling said.

But he identifies that there may be some players who do feel pressured to keep the streak going. "I think that they just feel motivated to do so," Holling said. He continued that the team needs to "play hard every day."



Gunn said that one of the most difficult aspects of coaching is "helping them believe through the season. Basketball is [has]

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web editor

Brittany Gunn has taken the position of head coach for girls varsity basketball this season.

This is Gunn's first year as a head coach. She said she is excited to build up the team and to teach the girls on and off of the court.

Gunn played basketball in high school at Burke. She then went on to play at Morningside College as a point guard and a shooting guard. Gunn took a two-year break from basketball after graduating college, after which she went on to coach at Burke.

"My favorite thing about basketball probably [is] just being a part of a sisterhood. Plying with a group of girls, working together to accomplish our goals. [Just] connecting together in a different way on and off the court," said Gunn.

From a coaching standpoint Gunn said her favorite thing is watching a group of young women work hard towards something that they really desire.

"Seeing their passion for the game and trying to help them accomplish those goals, really just working with them," said Gunn.

Gunn said that one of the most difficult aspects of coaching is "helping them believe through the season. Basketball is [has]

GIRLS

a very long season, so helping them to stay focused and believing is what is most difficult," said Gunn.

Gunn is looking forward to the season and also has some ties to Central. "I am beyond excited," said Gunn. She's ready to be here doing what she loves. "Central is just a lot different from other schools. The atmosphere is amazing, the support system is amazing. My brother graduated from Central. I was always an eagle at heart. You can genuinely feel the family atmosphere, so I think I'm most excited for that, and to work with these group of girls. They're a great group of girls," said Gunn.

"My number one goal is to impact them," said Gunn. To "influence them to accomplish what they want to. They- of course their goal is to be state champs," said Gunn.

She wants to not only coach them, but to teach them life lessons through basketball. "Great coaches have done that for me. Still to this day I have coaches that have impacted my life [through that]," said Gunn.

When it was time to apply Gunn took action. "In April it was posted (the head coaching position), so I applied for it. Prior to that, Coach Lee, who was my coach at Burke, I reached out to him to be a reference, and also just to kind of get his opinion on the position and I applied. The interview was probably the best interview I've ever had. So then they offered it to me which was awesome," said Gunn.

She is eager to begin work with the girls. "We have open gym starting next week (week of Sept. 8), then in Oct. we will start weight training and conditioning," said Gunn.

It's not all about winning for Gunn, it's about touching their lives. She wants to impact and influence these girls like her coaches did for her, make a lasting impression and one that will help them in the future.

Powderpuff cancellation upsets students, but considered a necessity by new athletic director

BY TIA SPEARS
editor-in-chief

For the 2014 school year, there will be no Powderpuff football game for junior and senior girls.

The new athletic director, Luke Dillon, was one of the key figures in making the executive decision. "I don't really see any structure," Dillon said. "It's something that I want to make sure that if I'm doing it...it's done right."

Last year, 2014 graduate Cassidy Simpson's injured her knee during the game. As a result of Simpson's injury, she was unable to attend a number of days at school. Her injury was amongst other injuries that fueled controversy with the participants in last year's game as well as those affiliated with Central.

Despite the unanimous belief between some, the decision was not made solely because of injuries.

"I think some people maybe had that as a perception of why," Dillon said. "You got proper supervision, you got proper practice times to avoid situations where you get injuries... I want to make sure that those things are tied into more of a sports sense for liability purposes."

Central is not the only high school that has a Powderpuff game. According to Dillon, North has had games in the past, but he is unsure whether or not another will take place this year. However, the

organization of last year's game was one of the main reasons Dillon decided to not have another game this year.

"Logistics and the supervision schedule for the practices and things of that nature [weren't] up to par to where I thought it should be and I don't really have the resources or the people gravitating to do that this year," said Dillon.

As a new athletic director, Dillon wishes to start the year off on a great foot and cancelling the game is one of the steps in ensuring that.

“ I don't really see any structure... It's something that I want to make sure that if I'm doing it...it's done right.

LUKE DILLON

Central athletic director

Senior, Charezetta White who played in last year's Powderpuff game was displeased at the cancellation. White thoroughly enjoyed playing the game and was eager to play in another for this year, her senior year.

"The Powderpuff game was really the only thing I was looking forward to this year besides graduating," White said.

For the girls, it was much more about team bonding last year than it was bragging rights.

Throughout coming up with cohesive uniforms, team practices and getting to know one another, the girls had a great time. "I had a blast," White said. White was in the midst of brainstorming ideas for the senior team this year, but unfortunately could not implement them into the game due to its cancellation.

"I love [playing] flag football. It was like the girls' homecoming game. It's a good way to get to know people and [I] made a lot of new friends."

All hope is not lost, despite speculation. Dillon said once regulations are handled more carefully and the game is more organized behind the scenes, there's a strong possibility a Powderpuff game will occur in the years to come.

For White, that isn't quite good enough. "If I can't play this year I don't want anybody else playing," White said.

Overall, White enjoyed playing in last year's game and that seem excited feeling very well could be attributed to future players in future games. It all depends on organization and structure.

Proper refereeing, knowledge about the game and proper practice (and supervision) are all key in making sure the next game is perfectly enjoyable.

Volleyball team accepts challenge, drenches coaches and players with intents of raising awareness, money, justice for ALS victims

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

After volleyball practice on a hot August day, the thought of getting fresh ice water poured down their backs sounded pretty appealing to Central volleyball coaches Jodi Brown and Erica Meyer.

Luckily, that was made possible by the mega-popular ALS ice bucket challenge.

"It was a Tuesday, and of course, it was hot that day. It was perfect for coaches Larson, Meyer, Cap and me to do it," Brown said.

For both coaches, the nomination could not have come at a better time.

"The Lincoln North Star volleyball staff challenged us, and we thought it would be good for team bonding, as the girls dumped the water on us," Meyer said.

Unexpectedly, preparing for the shock of the ice was the biggest part of the challenge.

"Before it happened I was having a little anxiety, because this huge Gatorade jug was getting poured on me. As it was happening, you could feel the little pellets of ice on you," Brown said.

According to Meyer, the aftermath of the challenge was just what she had expected.

"It was really cold. They made the Gatorade buckets completely full. It wasn't just a bowl with two ice cubes in it," Meyer said.

The reason for the challenge is for participants to understand the temporary paralysis from the ice water that victims of ALS suffer with every day. Other symptoms of the disease include difficulty in swallowing and speaking and a life expectancy of about three years after diagnosis.

The cruel reality of ALS was brought to national attention when Lou Gehrig, a famed baseball player, was diagnosed with it at the mere age of 36. Seventy five years later, the world has commemorated Gehrig's story and the fight of countless others against ALS with the ice bucket challenge.

Starting in late summer, ice bucket videos took over Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The coaches' version of the challenge occurred at the height of its popularity.

"I thought it was a creative way to create awareness," Brown said. "I'm impressed by how powerful social media can be to bring attention to such a cause."

For Brown, the spread of the fight against ALS had personal meaning.



RYLEE BOTTOROFF | O-Book

Players dump water on some of their teammates and coaches for the I to gather support for those who suffer from ALS.

"There is a friend of mine whose wife had it for about 30 years. She was wheelchair-bound that entire time, and couldn't communicate or talk. I also have a friend whose dad was just diagnosed with it."

Luckily, Meyer hasn't known anyone who has had to struggle with the disease, but she has appreciated the insights she's gained from the ice bucket challenge.

"Before the challenge, I didn't know a ton about ALS. I knew what it was, but not a lot about it," Meyer said. "Now I feel more

informed."

Beyond all the viral videos, creative methods, ice cubes and silly reactions, the ALS ice bucket challenge carries a bigger picture for the future, a hope for a cure. That, according to Brown and Meyer, was the main reason for participating.

"There are a lot of things I want cured," said Brown. "As for ALS, I really hope so."

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