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OPS

register

Counselor behind college planning: Meyer offers advice to graduating class

BY JORDAN YOUNG
co web editor

In the basement, under the “C,” is a space that resembles a sanctuary and saving grace for 12th grade students navigating through their final year in high school. The area is for those whose eyes are set on the prize of life after high school—college.

College posters cover the walls from schools in Kansas, Missouri or Colorado and as far as the east and west coasts. A drawer of scholarships sits beside a table and pockets on the wall are filled with pamphlets regarding the ACT, SAT and college searching guides.

But the most important aspect of this room is the space where Angie Meyer sits quietly working on her laptop, at her desk with the door wide open, beckoning kids to walk in.

And when they do, she’s ready.

Need transcripts? She has them. Scholarship information? She has that too. Confused about the process? Meyer knows it inside and out, upside down and backwards. As Central’s only college counselor, she serves the community as the college guru and has been for eight years.

However, Meyer began that career not as a counselor, but as an educator.

“I loved teaching math,” she said.

Meyer taught 7th grade math for nine years at Louis and Clark Middle School, then brought her math teaching skills to Central for three years, became an academic counselor then finally transitioned into the job she currently has.

“[I was] just looking for change and I still like to teach,” said Meyer.

The way in which she became Central’s college counselor was by chance. “[It was] just how the counselors divided up,” she said. The counselors divvy up the different roles, whether academic, personal or in Meyer’s case, college.

Since then, Meyer has worked hard at what she does to help students with their college aspirations.

She visits classrooms with information about colleges to help students determine their priorities and how to reach their goals. Meyer even sends out a newsletter every two weeks to senior English classes called the “Eagle Eye,” which has information about upcoming scholarships.

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YES TO OPS

OPS SEEKS VOTES TO APPROVE A BOND ENABLING RENOVATIONS TO BE MADE IN SCHOOLS



ANN MILROY | The Register

A “Vote yes for OPS” sign protrudes from a neighborhood lawn advertising the first OPS bond issue in 15 years.

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ
staff writer

For the first time in 15 years, the Omaha Public Schools board is asking voters to approve a bond issue to renew and renovate schools and their equipment. This November, OPS is hoping voters will vote ‘Yes for OPS’.

Advocates of the bond plan to build new Omaha schools as well as restore current ones. It was publically announced on Monday, Oct. 6 that a campaign will begin to support a \$421 million bond issue. The board president, Justin Wayne, says it’s time to invest in improvements. Several schools still have individual, outdated air conditioning units.

Low-grade technology, such as poor air conditioning, prevents students from learning in a comfortable environment. Upgrades on systems such as those are exactly the kind of changes the school board plans to make with the bond.

The bond includes \$131 million for safety and security upgrades in Omaha schools, as well as new technology such as cameras. Capital improvements and renovations have been allocated \$259 million. Areas of high growth will receive \$30 million.

“We can’t get away from those safety concerns. And we can’t move

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Omaha 360 inspires senior class officer

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web editor

Elaxis Martinez, a senior and President of the class of 2015, attended a meeting at North High School for the organization Omaha 360. The non-profit program is designed to promote peace in the Omaha metropolitan area.

“I found out about it [Omaha 360, when] I went to a meeting that was an Omaha 360 for peace,” Martinez said.

Martinez’s dad received an email from the organization first. The email was sent out looking for all students, advisors and Omaha citizens that would be interested in learning more about this project. “I invited the rest of [the other class officers] and no one showed up but me,” said Martinez. Ron Moore, a counselor at Central, was also in attendance.

Martinez said the meeting was very informative and organized. “It gave a chance for the youth to speak out on violence in schools and in my school particularly,” said Martinez. “Important people were also in attendance, the youth themselves and even our district’s congressman, Lee Terry. It’s an important thing that everyone should go to... Omaha is off the charts with violence,” said Martinez.

In order to start up a group at Central, Martinez will have to get her peers to sign a pledge that essentially states “I will not participate in any act of violence.” She said she is going to try to implement a plan to get others involved and to sign the pledge to end the violence. “I think it’s important to have here,” said Martinez.

CONTINUE TO ‘MARTINEZ’
ON PAGE 4

Math team’s skills proved exceptional at Doane Trimathlon

BY MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

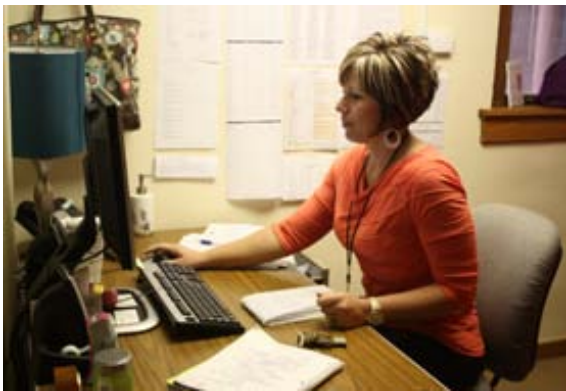
When Central’s math team traveled to Doane College and competed in the trimathlon competition on Sept. 25, the team made an impression on over a dozen math teams from the midwest. The team finished first overall, and junior Michael Svolos and sophomore Nick Lacroix both placed individually. A total of 18 teams from Nebraska and Iowa attended, representing OPS and other districts from Lincoln and Council Bluffs. The schools that participated were divided into the nine largest and smallest schools, and competed against one another in three different events.

The events that were included in the trimathlon were a written exam, the extreme team challenge and a quiz bowl. “It’s fun to see a variety of events. Often it’s a lot of just sitting and writing and some buzzer, but the fact that they have three really distinct things keeps us moving and engaged all day, and that’s really nice,” said the math team’s sponsor, Gregory Sand.

In order to prepare for competitions such as the trimathlon, Sand sponsors a math club at Central. This year around 150 people are participating in the club, but the amount of team members for the actual competitions depend upon the event. “It’s a very fun club. We do lots of math games. We compose math problems for the middle school math competition that Central hosts each year,” said sophomore Nick Lacroix. Sand said that this club is really a way for math lovers to come together. For Lacroix it is an opportunity to meet new people and have fun in a competitive manner. While for others, it is simply the chance to be unabashedly nerdy with other math lovers. Whatever the case is, for many, this club is a place where they can go and do what they love in a comfortable setting.

“Often times when people think about math club they have a stereotype in mind...,” said Sand. “But they are kids who do everything, and the fact that they do math as well is awesome.”

Social worker connects students, community resources



ANN MILROY | The Register

School social worker Dawnna Hill works attentively in her office.

BY NATALIE NEPPER
executive editor

There isn’t enough space in the office of 246 to contain the wild passion that Dawnna Hill, school social worker, has for her job. On the outside, her profession appears simple. Meet with students, take notes, smile and make sure everybody’s happy. Although her job description is “to help students and their families with whatever it takes to be successful in school,” Hill says that her tasks mean “a lot of different things to a lot of different people.”

Hill spends five days a week connecting students and their loved ones to community resources, assessing and taking care of student’s mental health needs, supporting the pregnant and parenting teens of Central, addressing attendance issues,

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VIOLENCE IN THE METRO ►

page 2 & 3

The Register reports shocking statistics and testimonies in relation to teen violence in Omaha.



ZUMBA CLUB ►

page 5

Zumba Club dances into Central for the first time in Central history.



MOORE ►

page 6

Guidance counselor Ron Moore teaches GSA members an important lesson.

THE GUNS OF THE CITY OF LINCOLN

CONTINUING THE DOMESTIC

BY NATALIE NEPPER
executive editor

Jacob* grew up fearing Arizona. It wasn't Arizona that was scary. It was the person that lived there. His father. Yet every month, despite any amount of begging or pleading, the law required him to step on a flight and head to see the man his mother had run away from just a few years after he was born.

The visits, lasting around a week or two, were monthly. He also spent entire summers there.

And after the visits were over, Jacob headed back home to Omaha, his body covered in fist-sized bruises. Dried blood would be seeping through the edges of cuts and scratches on his skin. But his face was always left untouched.

"He said no one would believe me," Jacob said. "So I just never told anybody."

The beatings, with switches or belts or anything else his father could get a hold of, were random and intense. Sometimes, they would occur because Jacob did something wrong. Other times, it was simply out of spite.

"I was the child he never wanted," he said.

It seemed like nothing he could have done would have stopped the trips to his abusive, manipulative father. The law had awarded him joint-custody, and that was that.

Although Jacob had his step-mother and brothers as company, visits were always awkward and tense for the whole family. "I felt isolated when I was there," Jacob explained. "I was pretty [much] by myself."

Jacob was thirteen when he decided that he had enough. After almost ten years of enduring abuse,

he knew that this particular visit would be his last.

Jacob entered his father's house walking on eggshells, but it wasn't too different than the previous visits. The atmosphere had been edgy since his half-brothers had been taken by Child Protective Services a few years back. They were younger than Jacob was, so he always tried to protect them from his father whenever he could. On a prior visit to their foster home, he had tried to stop his father from hurting the two and was beaten unconscious as punishment.

This time especially, would be tense. He hadn't rehearsed anything to say specifically, but he knew that it was time to say something. It didn't matter how he worded it; his father would be furious regardless.

Two feet firmly on the ground, eyes locked into his father's, Jacob opened his mouth. "I told him that I didn't want to live with him anymore. I was done taking his beatings," he said. "He didn't like that very much."

Two massive hands with swollen purple knuckles reached out and squeezed Jacob by the neck. And then, he was dangling. Unable to breathe, unable to speak, Jacob was held in the air, eyes still locked into his father's.

"Right before I was going to lose consciousness, I decided that I was going to fight him back," Jacob said. Aware of the recent leg injury his father had, the thirteen year old kicked out his knee cap, using his father's instance of shock to free himself from strangulation. His step-mother called the police.

For a brief moment, Jacob started to feel relief.

GANGS

school intervention

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

Thousands of students spread throughout dozens of schools is a daunting prospect, especially when safety is concerned. Like all public education systems, Omaha Public Schools (OPS) is obligated to protect the students under their charge and ensure that the environment is conducive to learning. With this in mind, OPS implements district-wide security protocols and staffs its facilities with trained security professionals.

Much of the responsibility for security procedures falls to district safety administrator Roddie Miller, who specializes in crisis response and planning. As well as worst case scenario preparation, she also deals with the safety training of security personnel and the day to day safety occurrences. In order to provide the best security possible for its staff and students, OPS also works closely with the Omaha Police Department (OPD). Central High Schools' OPD resource officer Mark Gillaspie explains the relationship, "The police work to accommodate what the school administration wants. Ultimately, keeping the students safe depends on us. They're experts on education, we're experts in safety."

Along with local law enforcement agencies, OPS also works with federal organizations such

as the Federal Investigative Bureau, Homeland Security and even the President's personal protection agency. "The Secret Service brought in an agent to help deal with bullying," says Miller. The stated goal of the mission is "to empower those who are being bullied and help them deal with the experience."

As the times change, OPS also seeks to evolve with any new threats and stay modern in terms of the tools it has at its disposal. Miller explains, "We have safety audits every year as mandated by the state." The district has also nearly completed installing buzzer entry systems and video monitoring systems throughout its schools. Further signs of progress include improvements in surveillance. "We have gotten exterior cameras put on all the schools. Five years ago I couldn't say that," Miller says.

Protecting students and staff requires not only a secure exterior, but also a secure interior. Along with an OPD resource officer, schools are also stocked with civilian security guards. The roles of the two, although similar, also have their differences.

The resource officer's duty is mainly to protect students and staff from armed intruders, as Gil-

laspie says, "If someone comes in with a weapon, we are here to stop that threat." The civilian security guards however, are utilized mainly in the disciplinary role for students who misbehave or step out of line.

Both types of security personnel are trained accordingly for their respective tasks. Gillaspie explains that although it is less aggressive than being on the street, one certainly cannot be less vigilant. He also adds that the biggest part of his job is understanding how the city's and state's laws apply to students in the high school setting. The civilian security guards are also trained accordingly. They are given CPR and defibrillator training as well as briefing on the national situation in terms of suspicious behaviors to look for and illegal trends. Security Guard Jeff Anderson says, "I enjoy every day. It keeps us young."

Moving into the future, OPS seeks to continue to modernize its security features and work to expand its mutual relationship with the Omaha Police Department. Miller says that they are in constant communication, and that the relationship is invaluable. "We continue to monitor and adjust, to keep [our] schools safe, secure and welcoming."

SAME CASE

different consequences

BY TIA SPEARS
editor in chief

In Council Bluffs on Sept. 25, two students were involved in a fight that resulted in the death of Abraham Lincoln High School student, Dakota Escritt.

According to Matt Wilber, Pottawattamie County Attorney, Escritt decided to confront Gregory Teer, the other student involved in the fight. "Dakota [was] just walking by as he [Teer] insulted his friend," Wilber said.

Ultimately, Escritt decided to confront Teer. This resulted in the fight between the two students. "In the video, Dakota [Escritt] is seen making a beeline towards [Teer]," said Wilber. Escritt and Teer ended up in a physical altercation where Dakota threw a punch and missed, according to Wilber, then Teer threw a punch that sent Escritt to the ground.

Escritt suffered a skull fracture causing swelling to the brain. Subsequently, his injuries resulted in his death.

The consequences for Teer were none in the legal regard, however. Because Teer is a juvenile, he was never taken into custody. Instead, he was issued a court order. In addition, no charges were filed against him. "In Iowa, you are entitled to use reasonable force to defend yourself," Wilber said. "This is not a case of deadly force being used."

The difference in the result of Escritt and Teer's case was what actually killed him. Wilber stated that he could not find a case where someone was convicted of any degree of murder when a hit resulted in a skull fracture after a fall to the ground. "Yes, Dakota missed, [Gregory] didn't," said Wilber. "Force that results in death is not deadly force," he said.

Wilber also expressed the difference between intending to cause

death and deadly force being used. "What killed him is that he fell back," Wilber said.

Rewind to May 9, where two Central students Markell Vaughn and Tre'vaun Ammons were involved in a physical altercation resulting in the death of then sophomore, Aquilee Muse.

According to Nebraska State legislature, the use of self-defense is lawful when it is believed that someone is protecting themselves against unlawful force by another person. According to court documents, Ammons and Muse were fighting. Muse lost balance, Vaughn swung, causing Muse to fall and hit his head.

Muse was pronounced brain dead and was taken off the ventilator days later.

Ammons and Vaughn were initially charged as adults and, as the case progressed, it was decided to charge them as juveniles. This is why Nicole Brundo was eventually assigned to the case.

Juvenile County Attorney, Nicole Brundo and Douglas County Attorney, Jim Masteller chose not to speak with The Register. It is unclear why Ammons and Vaughn were initially tried as adults. Ultimately, they were convicted of first degree assault. As a part of their probation, they each are required to do community service.

The sole, noticeable difference between the two cases is simply state lines. It is arguable that Teer should serve the same consequences as Ammons and Vaughn. It is also arguable that the jury of the Muse, Vaughn and Ammons cases should have reached an innocent verdict, due to its similarity with the Teer vs. Escritt case. Unfortunately, The Register does not have a clear answer as to why the cases differed in outcome due to no comment from Nicole Brundo and Jim Masteller.

FIGHT

TAKING ACTION combating abuse

horror at home

BY KELSEY THOMAS
executive editor

He was alive, and not only that, he wouldn't have to visit his abusive father any longer.

However, the freedom was short-lived. His father managed to convince the officer on the scene that this was a classic case of assault—but that the attacker was Jacob. Jacob would now spend six months in juvenile prison for charges that were simply an act of self-defense.

And so, Jacob was thrown into the Red Rock Correctional Center in Eloy, Arizona, among drug users, murderers, and just about everything in-between.

Red Rock doubled as a state penitentiary and juvenile detention center. The atmosphere, Jacob described, was cold and dank.

"I remember the rooms. They were just gray, at least, mine was. All the cells were. But mine, it was gray concrete," Jacob explained. "There was a concrete slab for a bed with two sheets and a pillow on it."

Despite the criminals surrounding him, nothing ever got too intense. "I mean, some kids were in there for assault, drugs, all sorts of messed up stuff, [but] none of them really scared me," he said. "They were more interesting to me than scary."

When the six months were up, a plane ride led him back to Omaha. A court trial awarded his mother full custody, and Jacob's father would hold no position in his life anymore.

It has been four years since Jacob has seen his father.

Jacob's father had spent five years in prison before, and sometimes the parallels between the two are almost scary. "I'm still his son either way. I can see parts of me in him. Or tendencies he has that I have just because he's my dad. It's ge-

netics. I worry about it sometimes—that I could be what he is," Jacob explained.

Just a few months ago, his father reached out to him in an effort to reconcile what was left of their relationship. While on the phone, Jacob told him that he needed to think about it.

"I would, if anything, have a relationship with him so I can know my brothers," Jacob said. "I haven't seen them in almost eight years, so I would like to see them again."

The experience, although often times life-threatening and terrifying, left Jacob as a more alert person. Now, he prides himself on always being aware of his surroundings "because down there you always had to be on your guard."

And even though it's been years, his father's words and actions still linger. "He would say a lot of the time that it was my fault. He blamed me for a lot of the things because I was the kid he didn't want," Jacob said. "Sometimes I would think and wonder if it was my fault. It's not. I know that. But it still makes you think after all that stuff happens."

Now, Jacob is sailing through his junior year, with plans to enter the marines after high school. But he will always be wary of trusting people.

"I would urge anyone who's going through anything like that to reach out to other family members, the police, etcetera," Jacob said. "You can't rely on the people that abuse you. You can't trust them. Family or not, you only have yourself."

*the names in this story have been changed to protect the identities of those involved

After an explosion of domestic violence cases within the NFL and other professional sports leagues, Central's counseling department and student-athletes are teaming up to combat abuse.

October is the designated month for domestic violence awareness. Purple is also the color used for domestic violence awareness. Considering the time of year and Central's colors, the project came about at a serendipitous time.

Several student-athletes will sit in the cafeteria and the courtyard during lunch hours during the last weeks of October. For one dollar each, people can buy bead necklaces, a woven bracelet, or a rubber band that states "STOP Domestic Violence." Each item is purple.

Karen Cirulis is the counselor in charge of the program. She is a proud advocate against domestic abuse. These two factors prompted her to begin the program.

Cirulis views domestic violence as one of the most pertinent issues with young adults today.

"It's a significant issue in families, but I think we can do more to raise awareness about acceptable behavior in teen dating," she said.

Cirulis notes that violence can occur because of many underlying causes. But esteem is one of the biggest issues, and "that's difficult for people to admit, both boys and girls," she said.

Athletes were recommended by their teachers or coaches to participate in the program. The student body responded very positively to the program, and many athletes were willing to help.

All of the proceeds will be given to the Omaha Catholic Charities organization, who will then give it to victims of domestic abuse. Cirulis hopes to continue the program in the future, and encourages people to "remember the Golden Rule: treat others how you want to be treated."

NEED HELP? WHO TO CALL:

Nebraska Adult & Child Abuse & Neglect Hotline

1-800-652-1999

Douglas County Women Against Violence

402-345-7273

Omaha Domestic Violence Council

402-210-2195

"VIDEOGRAPHY" detrimental effect

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

In recent years, violence in U.S. schools has increased. To what extent does that have to do with the recording of physicality for 'entertainment purposes'?

In the case of violence in schools and public areas carried out between teenagers, videography is having more of a detrimental effect on the wellbeing of young adults.

Physical fighting has long been used as a method to "resolve" contention between teenagers. According to recent data collected by Keepschoolsafe.org, 44 percent of male high school students and 27 percent of female high school students admitted to participating in a fight in the past year. The same website attributed the escalation of physicality to that of people standing and watching, in some cases recording the brutality for others to see at a later time.

A prime example of videography adding to teenagers receiving 'entertainment value' from violence is the "Sharkeisha" video that spread through social media outlets. The fight video was made humorous by millions of teenagers who shared the action caught on camera. Yet, the altercation caught on camera was serious, despite its portrayal through the media.

The video captures two girls whose verbal fight over a boy turned physical when Sharkeisha aggressively punched the face of

the other girl, Shay. She continued to beat and violently kick Shay in the head, who appeared to be crouching on the ground.

Friends quickly broke up the fight, pulling Sharkeisha away. One girl screamed the words "Sharkeisha, no" which became the most recognizable and made-fun-of part of the video.

If people would approach "Sharkeisha" in a serious light, they would see how the practice of videography has intensified fights between young adults. Numerous studies have shown that many fights might have ended sooner if not for the crowds and bystanders recording the action.

This correlates with the temporary closing of a Hawaii high school in 2012, when eight students were arrested in a mass fight that was accelerated by various students recording and taking enjoyment in the brawl.

The Hawaii Department of Education spokeswoman, Donalyn Dela Cruz, noted a trend in videography and the entertainment students claim to receive from viewing violence on the scene as well as through social media.

"People gather to watch and that needs to stop," Dela Cruz told The Huffington Post.

Another example of the problems of videography in terms of teenage fights is that of a Maryland middle school feud between

two boys that was filmed by students and reported on by The Washington Post.

The Post referred to the effects of the video on "the boy taking the most punches" as "32 seconds of personal humiliation." The story goes on to describe the boy as having "often been bullied... and now is shown being hit in the head and side and being placed in a headlock."

According to The Post, the video was uploaded on Youtube and titled "Weak People Fighting." Many rude comments regarding the boys were made by viewers, and the video received more than 425 views before The Post lobbied for its removal.

It is clear that the effects of videography and the endorsing of brutality over the web have harsh consequences on teenagers across America. As "Sharkeisha" and the efforts of Dela Cruz and The Washington Post show, the rise of videography in modern culture means that teens ought to be taught the wrongs of clicking 'share'.

If efforts are not made to stop this awful trend, then the amount of fights participated in and recorded by young adults will only increase in the months and years to come.

DCYC correcting the youth

JORDAN YOUNG
staff writer

The Douglas County Youth Center is a detention facility for kids who have run into trouble with the law. Besides being a correctional facility, DCYC is a place where young adults who have run into trouble with the law can seek possible help and in turn receive it.

One program is therapy. Jutta Fournier is the only therapist at DCYC, but she does receive assistance from her partner who is also a caseworker.

"It gets really busy," she said. The therapy program at DCYC began only four years ago when Fournier took the job.

"At first it was a little uncoordinated," she said. "[But when] everything falls into place, I think, the youth benefit."

Before becoming a therapist at DCYC, Fournier had been a probation officer at the Juvenile Court in Douglas County. While she worked as an officer, she went back to school to earn a Masters in counseling and then the "job opened up" at the center in 2011.

Because Fournier worked as a probation officer she essentially dealt with the "same population" of kids and now she even works with some of those same kids as a therapist.

Regardless, Fournier works with every kid who enters the center, but her job is a little different than what a blue collar therapist job.

"We don't do regular in depth, quiet, Band-Aid [type therapy]," she said. "[We] make sure they don't have crises," and that also requires her to work with the attorneys of the kids.

Fournier further explained that not every youth requires the same level of therapy. Initially they are tested and if a youth is described as more "unstable," Fournier would see them more. However, because kids come and go frequently (sometimes sporadically) she doesn't get to know them all too well.

"Once they leave, unfortunately, I don't see them anymore," said Fournier. The other unfortunate encounter would be seeing them on "the evening news or [if] they come back."

But for her, what she does is absolutely worth some of the difficult aspects of her job. "The interaction with the kids, absolutely," she said. "Especially when you have a breakthrough...you really don't know—you never know what sticks..."

If nothing sticks for youth when attending therapy, other programs provided at DCYC refuse to let them go without a fight.

"[We] try to be a good partner," said manager of admission services Mark LeFlore. "Youth doesn't have to throw their life away."

And they definitely make sure that doesn't happen. In addition to therapy, there outside program Release Ministries work with kids through activities like Bible studies. In addition, LeFlore described a

multitude of programs that cater to youth's needs.

This includes the Read-Write program (which is also based in some OPS schools), Career education and agencies, domestic violence education for young women, leadership programs and academic opportunities with Metro Community College.

In fact, LeFlore mentioned that DCYC is the only detention facility in the United States that hosts career conventions.

On a more personal level, they make sure that pediatricians, nursing staffs, dental care and other medical care are available to students. In February of next year they are hopeful in adding a psychiatrist to be their staff.

And besides reaching youth, they also make sure to reach their parents. Every quarter there are parent teacher meetings and there are even provide parenting classes. These classes are set up so that more parents will visit kids at the facility.

What matters most about all the programs provided is that they do indeed do their job in helping the kids.

"Over the past three years, [there] was a 73.4% decrease," said LeFlore about those who return to the facility. "50% all of 2014 [and] now 42%."

OPS requesting expansion in budget; necessary for renovations, technology

CONTINUE FROM "OPS" FROM PAGE 1

OPS is innovating new improvements daily.

The plan involves a new infrastructure system that grants more liability for supervision of principals; there are 30 more people being hired that will travel to classrooms and out of the TAC building.

There are also new GPA requirements for student-athletes and others who participate in extracurricular activities. Supporters anticipate that steps like these are proof that the district is ready to take on what this bond is able to offer.

According to papers that were filed before October, between the days of Sept. 16 and Sept. 29, the "Vote Yes for OPS Kids" campaign received \$155,000 in donations.

The bulkiest donations included \$50,000 from Michael Lebens, the committee treasurer.

\$50,000 from the Greater Omaha Chamber. \$30,000 from the First National Bank of Nebraska. As of Sept. 29 the committee had \$124,900 in cash on hand for the remainder of the campaign.

Several faces were featured in the districts ad campaign that premiered on TV.

One of the advocates, Luisa Palomo, explains the ways that voting yes will benefit students' education.

"I think the vote yes for ops campaign is an excellent opportunity for our community to support our schools do that we can provide equitable learning environments for all children.

Voting yes for OPS will allow many buildings to receive upgrades to their physical space as well as improve access to technology," Palomo says.

OPS plans to send voters back to the polls in May of 2017 to approve a second bond for \$377 million. That totals for nearly \$800

million worth of construction and improvements in the district. The first bond will raise taxes per home by about \$90. The second bond will likely carry on the tax increase.

The plea for the bond is the first in 15 years. The last projects that were funded by the 1999 bond issue finished in about 2007. The district renovated and added air conditioning to three elementary schools.

That bond issue was worth \$254 million and it focused on updating Omaha's oldest public schools.

November's bond issue would fund repairs on schools that were overlooked in the last bond program, including some that were built in the 1960's or 70's.

Schools need updating to keep up with growing class sizes, advances in technology, modern safety and security as well as new security cameras and card-swipe access doors.

Districts like OPS tend to struggle to keep up with building new requirements such as storm shelters in schools or new technology and better security. Schools take many different routes when it comes to fundraising for the district.

The issue will come through in early November, but until then mixed opinions will be spoken and different views will be shared. Many views include claims stating that Omaha Public School doesn't need the millions that they are asking for.

Others feel it's vital for Omaha's students.

The results will prove themselves shortly on whether OPS will be granted the hundreds upon millions they have asked for.

College planning counselor assists needs of senior class

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Meyer isn't the only counselor who deals with college matter. Assigned counselors specifically follow up on students or provide recommendation letters for them. There are also other counselors who deal with the management pieces or financial issues.

But Meyer is the only one whose job is centered on college around the clock, 24/7, 7 days a week.

It's all "just driven around deadlines" for Meyer so she has to stay organized, especially considering the accommodation it takes to work with a large senior class. "Luckily I'm an organized person in general," she said with a smile. "It depends on the day—busy, not stressful."

Things do get busy when students procrastinate, when communication becomes weak with students or there are multiple duties to be completed.

Nonetheless, Meyers loves her job. "Help[ing] students navigate school and college," she said about her favorite thing about working as the college counselor. "[And] when students figure out how to take ownership—be independent."

Although Meyer visits senior English classes to inform students on what they need to be working on, while giving them valuable tools and other information, she wishes that she could see every student in the senior class on a more private level.

"I would like to have individual conversations," she said.

Whether Meyer does or doesn't get to have more personal contact with students, her door is always open.

School social worker feels "blessed" despite difficulties in profession

CONTINUE FROM "DAWNA" FROM PAGE 1

forming support groups and helping those who receive special education.

When Hill graduated from high school in Sioux Falls, South Dakota during the 90's, she knew right away she wanted to work with young people. Her ambition brought her to the University of Nebraska Omaha, where she earned her Master's in public administration. From there, she began work as a youth counselor at a psychiatric hospital.

Shortly after, Hill wanted to advance in her career. "When I was ready for a little bit more, I knew that if I wanted to clinically work with young people I'd have to go on and get my Master's [in social work]," she said. While deciding between social work and counseling, Hill realized that being a social worker would give her more opportunities and a diverse training background.

Following her graduation in 2003, she began doing in-home counseling and intense family preservation work. This led her to the Nebraska Correctional Youth Facility, which houses adolescent

inmates convicted of crimes as adults. "Instead of serving clients directly like I had been before, I was writing budgets and grants, supervising staff and trying to do more policy and environmental work," Hill said. Although the job gave her plenty of experience, Hill explained that it just wasn't the right fit. "Through that work I really was able to do my own assessment and saw that I really missed working with young people," she said.

That's when a position opened up at Central. "I jumped at it and applied and was very fortunate," she said. Since beginning work during the 2010/11 school year, she notes that Central is "the total package."

"There's so many times in the mornings where I walk in and I just look at the awe of the building," Hill said. "I feel very blessed that this is what I get called to do."

But it isn't always the easiest. Hill explained that sometimes it's difficult to connect students to outside resources, especially when there's a lack of funding. "I wish there were more resources out there at times to really be able to help out students and families the way that they deserve," she said.

Regardless, nothing stops Hill from doing her job. She constantly receives referrals from counselors, administrators, parents and teachers that ask her to assist students. "I'm pretty notorious, if I see anyone walking down the hallway that looks distressed to me, just grabbing them and asking them if they need anything or if they're okay," Hill said. "I really think it's important for us, any time, to just be aware of other people and to be willing to intercede with them if something's going on." She noted that one of the most rewarding parts of the job is making a difference in others. "One of the most valuable things...is when I work with a student and then, down the road, they bring in a friend and they say, 'You know what? I know you probably don't know this person, but she helped me and maybe she can help you.'"

Hill's door is always open to new people, regardless of circumstance. "I might not have the immediate answers, but if anybody at any time needs help and they don't know where to go, they can ask to speak with me," Hill said. "[You] don't even have to remember my name, I'm the only school social worker here."

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Martinez indulges in Omaha 360 program

CONTINUE FROM "MARTINEZ" FROM PAGE 1

Martinez believes that the mission of Omaha 360 is to promote peace within the streets of Omaha, Nebraska. "It's also to inform parents—primarily and inform the students," said Martinez. To get to the root of the problem Martinez said that it starts at a young age. It really starts out when one is a kid and at home. "It starts young with the mentality. Once you get your hands on whatever you can get your hands on, it's implemented in high school," said Martinez.

The Omaha 360 meetings are held on the second Saturday of every month, and in the meetings they reach out to the community focusing on young people. Their hope as Martinez puts it is to get the word out about this particular pledge for peace and start implementing it within the community.

Making announcements over the intercom, placing signs up around the cafeteria and courtyard where students can freely sign the pledge for peace are just some of the ways Martinez hopes to bring about Omaha 360's message. She also would like to reward students who participate so that they will be more likely in the future to participate and even tell their friends about it. Martinez also wants to inform them that, "Your future is going to depend on the choices that you make in high school. If you want to be around the fight and hang out with those people then that is your choice," said Martinez. She also may want to give some sort of speech to the students to bring about the idea of avoiding violence.

"I'm totally tagging along with Omaha 360 and I'm totally trying to get this into our school," said Martinez. She said she wants to gain awareness of different ways to promote peace. "As I go to the meetings I want to know what can I do for my school to promote peace?," said Martinez. It starts with one person and Martinez would like to be that one person, at least at Central. She said her ultimate goal is to stop the violence all around Omaha, something that will have to start small, like here at Central first.

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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.

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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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Zumba club promotes Latin music, physical activity for students



PAIGE COLBORN | The Register

Left: Zumba members focus on synchronization to stay with the beat of the music. Typical music genres include salsa and hip-hop. Right: Students combine aerobic movements and dance in the Zumba club.

CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

The fitness world is always evolving. Trends come and go, paving the way for the newest exercise or diet combination. One of the most recent fads to take the spotlight has been Zumba. Now, thanks to the efforts of junior Glenn'Asha Walker, any student who is interested or has past experience can take part in the rigor of Latin dance, as part of Central High School's very own Zumba Club.

Zumba originated in Columbia in the mid 1990s. Aerobics instructor Beto Perez stumbled upon the sounds of salsa and meringue music while searching for his workout tapes to teach a class. He then teamed with several childhood friends, combining aerobic and hip hop dance movements with the music in order to create a rigorous yet up-at exercise routine.

Although initially only popular in South America, Zumba has grown to over 140,000 locations in 185 different countries. Classes usually last an hour long, and are taught by licensed instructors from

Zumba Academy. The classes are designed for people of all skill and experience levels, and also have various age groups in order to better service youth, elderly and in between. Latin dance styles such as cumbia, salsa, meringue, samba and hip hop music are the basis for the majority of movements. Zumba also has several product lines ranging from clothing to video games.

This worldwide phenomenon has now reached Central High School. Sponsored by counselors Anjel Garcia and Lisa Donahoe, the club plans to meet every other Tuesday from 3 to 3:45 after school. The first meeting, was attended by over a dozen girls of all grades, as well as several staff members. Garcia, who has participated in Zumba at the YMCA, describes it as a "good cardio workout while you're dancing and having fun."

Garcia also goes on to say how a student interested in Zumba can get involved. Simply show up, stretch a little and start to Zumba. She adds, "I recommend bringing workout clothes and maybe even a water bottle."

The first meeting was just the beginning. The movements and

exercises gradually get more advanced as time goes on and the club will be alternating between a guest instructor and a demonstrational DVD. Both will lead the group through the workouts, starting with the easiest and up through the toughest as the year goes on.

The student who brought up the idea for a Zumba club, Walker, was introduced to Zumba through Girls Rock, and proposed it to Donahoe, who has tried it in the past says "I'm always willing to give [something] another try." She also explains that one's dancing skills having nothing to do with enjoying the exercise saying, "I'm sure I look silly, but I don't care, it's fun."

The Zumba craze continues to sweep across America, and now students can try it for themselves. Through the guidance of both a certified instructor and a directional video, they can come and enjoy excellent physical activity as well as meet new friends and practice new dance moves. Garcia says to any and all interested, "Zumba is open to everyone and it's a lot of fun. The more people hear about it, the bigger its gonna get."

NEW CLUB SPROUTS

FRESHMAN STARTS GARDENING CLUB WITH HOPES TO CREATE A COMMUNITY GARDEN



JULIA HALONEN
contributing writer

Central High School freshman created a school-wide garden club beginning this year.

Central High School's new garden club has sprouted on campus raising attention towards teenagers' lack of knowledge in plant growing and nurturing. Even though there are students at Central with knowledge of gardening, the overall mission of the garden club is to educate.

"All people are welcome to join," states gardening club's creator, Zach Hangman, freshman. "This club's goal is to teach people about gardening and to get them involved and working on their own off campus."

Because this is the first year of gardening club, it is still "at stage one" says club sponsor, Jean Whitten. Gardening Club meets

Wednesdays after school from 3 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in room 342. Having had only two meetings, members are not yet sure on what they plan to do.

"I am very interested with the growing of vegetables and fruits because of health purposes," says Hangman.

Although the club is mainly focused on gardening, Whitten suggests other projects. Hangman admits, "We are currently working on a weather balloon launch."

A weather balloon launch includes brainstorming an experiment, sending it up into near space, then analyzing the data once it comes back down to ground.

Another question that has been raised is where the gardening will take place. Central is located in an urban part of the city, making very little selection when it comes to planting locations. They plan to start a community garden.

Hangman says, "There is a chance, but the club might just help

with other community gardens in Omaha."

A club like this will require a certain amount of money and accessibility to plants and material resources. "As of right now we have no money and we are brainstorming ways to get the supplies we need," says Hangman.

At the second weekly garden club meeting there were 11 students present. This number is not pleasing to Hangman, who states, "I expect the number of participants to rise after sports and other after school activities have finished." With sports like cross country, volleyball, and football all in season currently, that statement may end up to be true.

When it comes to the creators of the gardening club, expectations for success are high. Whitten says, "We are just starting. The sky is the limit, like Jack's beanstalk."

Pinning ceremony marks diploma, candidates achievements



SAN JUANA PARAMO | The Register

International Baccalaureate graduating class of 2015 gather around the eagle in the teacher's lot after their pinning ceremony.

SAN JUANA PARAMO
staff writer

International Baccalaureate students are one step closer to gaining their IB diploma. On Oct. 8 Central's IB class celebrated their Pinning ceremony. This ceremony marks the second International Baccalaureate Pinning Ceremony at Central.

The 20 students that compose Central's IB class worked hard during the summer of their junior year working on their extended

essay. The essay, which contained a 4,000 word requirement, would determine whether or not the students would become IB candidates on their way to receiving their diploma.

The ceremony was small and intimate. Supporting parents were present as well as the teachers that supervised the students working on their essays. Cathy Andrus, IB department coordinator, Christy Flaherty-Colling, extended essay coordinator, Tom Wagner, head of the IB department and Dr. Ed Bennett, principal were present and spoke throughout the ceremony.

The real work as an IB student begins in the students' junior year, where there is a specific designated IB course work. The students become IB candidates for their diploma when they submit their extended essays. "The pinning ceremony is really meant to recognize their achievement up until this point in the IB program," Colling said. "They have done their extended essays and this is where they're officially designated as IB candidates."

Aside from submitting their extended essays, the students have to be in good standing with the IB program. If not, the students would have received notice and counseling prior to the Pinning Ceremony.

"It's not like you turn in your extended essay, but you're not doing well in all these other classes, you're not a candidate. It's not how it works," Colling said. "Mrs. Andrus keeps tab on all the kids, the big qualifier is whether or not they've turned in their essays."

The school won't know until July if a student will receive their IB diploma. "A lot of schools will accept the fact that they are a candidate," Colling said.

Not much differentiates this year's ceremony from last year's, the biggest difference being a change in venue. "Last years it was outside, on the east porch. This year it was inside in the gym lobby," Colling said. "The gym lobby location is pretty grand because it's got the view going out that glass window." There is a keynote speaker that does change, though this year there were communication problems that prevented the speaker from being present.

The students are what make each year's ceremony special. "They have really done this amazing thing, where they have worked with a supervisor in a manner that people typically don't do until they're doing a thesis," Colling said. "They have done probably the biggest academic exercise up until this point in their study and they are proud and we're there showing them how proud we are of them."

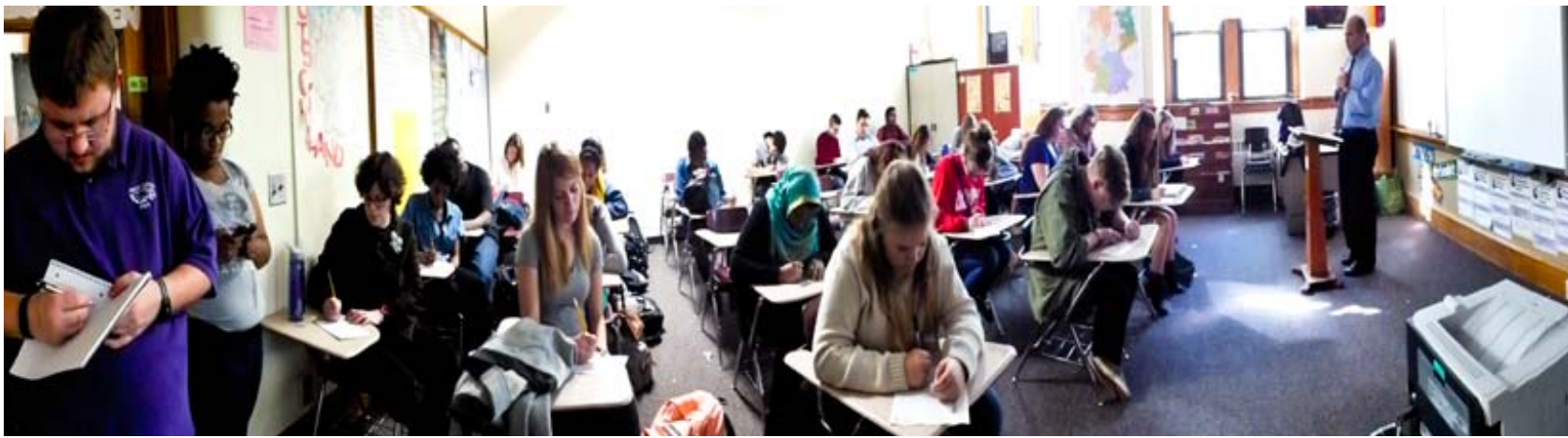
The Pinning Ceremony is the one event that goes on at Central that is specifically for the IB students. "For this one moment were all sitting in a space saying "this group of students did something well," Colling said.

After the ceremony the students will begin working on their exams that will determine whether or not they will attain their diploma.

Not only is the Pinning Ceremony a milestone for the students in their academic performance, but for the school as a whole.

"The fact that we're growing the program is a good thing, but I think the success of the students is really the focus." Colling said. "The student's success is reflective of the success of the program."

Counselor shows assumptions lead to misconceptions



PAIGE COLBURN | The Register

ance counselor Ron Moore speaks to the GSA club meeting on Oct. 15 about misconceptions. Students and faculty members, Jac Carlson and Leslie Hill, takes notes as well.

BY MADDIE HAYKO
staff writer

The Gay Straight Alliance at Central, more commonly known as GSA, is a club that doesn't often receive a lot of publicity. Every time they meet on Oct. 15 welcomed a guest speaker who always receives a lot of attention.

Counselor Ronald Moore was the speaker at the meeting. The main point discussed in his presentation was that people aren't always what they seem to be when you first look at them. Before giving this presentation he gave the same presentation to Central faculty.

"I gave a faculty presentation a few weeks ago and Mrs. Hill asked me to do a presentation for GSA," said Moore. The president of the club, junior Owen Zahm, and junior vice president Sydney Rogers-Morrell led the meeting with pride and thought that this would be a valuable experience for the club members and for newcomers as well. "Mr. Moore came to speak because he speaks a lot about those

kinds of things and having him come speak broadens our horizons... We wanted him to be the first to speak," said Rogers-Morrell.

The presentation started out with a drawing of an iceberg on the white board and the tip of the iceberg was above water line. Under the water line the iceberg was bigger than the tip.

Moore started having students tell him what they knew about him just by looking at him and those things went on the top of the iceberg which went on. Mr. Moore asked students what was more meaningful about a person, like family and culture on the bottom part of the iceberg.

"I thought this presentation was great since we just had Coming Out Day on the previous Saturday... I felt like this presentation opened a lot of eyes because lots of people don't know about what's inside a person," said Rogers-Morrell.

During the second part of the presentation, Moore handed out sheets of paper and had everyone number them 1 to 23. Moore would then say a word and then participants would have to write down the first word that came into their mind when that word was said. The

responses varied greatly.

This presentation had an impact on people who normally don't get in touch with other cultures or diverse people. "Since the presentation was interactive, it allowed the students to give their own individual ideas on the topic of one's cultural perspectives," said Moore.

"For relationships you need to look past what's on the outside so you can see what's on the inside," said Rogers-Morrell. I think the students enjoyed what Mr. Moore had to say because normally people are on their phones but this time they were actually listening and participating."

Moore has also been asked to come back and give another presentation in the future for GSA. "I've already been asked to do another type of presentation to the club. I'm just not sure as to when that may happen," said Moore. GSA has had other speakers in the past that included a heartland pride representative, a Downton Abbey representative and a few others. The club wishes to invite and host more guest speakers in the near future.



CHS HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

Eight Central Alumni and one distinguished educator were inducted into the CHS Hall of Fame on Thursday, Oct. 3rd.

BY TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

KIRSTEN RAMIREZ | The O-Book

Sam Beber (1919)

Beber is an immigrant who was born in Russia. After graduating from Central in 1919 Beber continued his education on to Creighton University to later graduate and become a legal counsel. In 1924 he created a program for Jewish men to socialize and carry on Jewish traditions. The program was named with the Hebrew letters Shin, Mem, and Lamed, referred to as AZA, building blocks of benevolence and harmony. AZA became the largest Jewish youth organization in the world. He was also a founder of Beth El Synagogue. He helped Jews escape the torment in Nazi Germany. Beber was unable to attend the event because he is deceased.

Alan Marer (1951)

Proceeding his graduation from Central in 1951 Marer graduated from Stanford University. After attending Stanford he served in the U.S army, from there he graduated from Columbia University with a degree in law. Marer was a lawyer with a focus on civil rights issues. He helped develop the Public Accommodations Act, the Voting Rights Act and the Housing Act. Marer was unable to attend the event because he is deceased.

Jerome Turner (1953)

Turner graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in business and became an innovative leader in the athletic shoe industry. He invented ethylene vinyl acetate (EVA). He went on to work for an NBA degree. He created Brooks Company which has created some of the best running shoes in the country. He was hired by Phil Knight to design shoes. Turner created some of the first shoes for Nike. He became one of the first foreign owned Chinese manufacturing companies that produce Avia, Turntec, Nevados and

Ryka (all of these are types of shoes).

Roy Katskee (1960)

Katskee graduated from Central in 1960 and went on to Northwest High School to become a boys and girls gymnastic coach, also the boys track and softball coach. He achieved the highest recognition for his outstanding coaching accomplishments in these sports. Katskee was inducted into four Halls of Fames for his coaching abilities. Not only is he an outstanding coach but he is also active in the community by serving as a board member and president of the Alumni Association and as Hall of Fame chairman. Ending his speech at the Hall of Fame Program Katskee said, "I wasn't forced to attend Central, I wanted to attend the best high school around."

Ramona Thompson Bartee (1963)

Bartee worked with OPS as an educator for 30 years. During these 30 years she worked at many elementary schools, including as a teacher at Franklin and Martin Luther King, as administrative intern at Irvington and as principal at Highland, Laura Dodge and Lothrop. She was also an adjunct professor at UNO, the College of St. Mary and Creighton University. At Creighton she was the director of teacher certification and placement.

Cory Richards (1966)

After leaving Central Richards went to Yale and worked on Capitol Hill where he became involved with public health issues. He joined the Guttmacher Institute as policy analyst where he focused on issues related to sexual and reproductive health. He then was promoted to Vice president. He founded the Guttmacher Policy Review which is a journal that analyzes sexual and reproductive health and rights issues. He has supported Central through the Central High

foundation.

David Jacobson (1966)

Jacobson graduated from the University Of Nebraska College Of Law at Omaha, he was a legal Aid attorney until he joined the Kutak Rock law firm in 1977. He is currently the chairman of Kutak Rock LLP. He has a 20 year board membership with Partnership 4 Kids (P4K), chairman of the board of Film streams and co-founders of the Omaha Black/Jewish Dialogue. He has helped Central but raising funds to improve facilities for athletics and establishing the Central High School Foundation.

Peter Buffett (1976)

During Buffett's high school career he was editor of the year book and performed in the annual Road Show. He began his career as a musical composer in San Francisco. He created the Seventh Fire - which presented on the National Mall in support of the opening of the National Museum of the American Indian. His is a part of the NoVo Foundation which is an organization that supports girls and women throughout the world. Buffett ended his speech saying, "I believe every student should be in the hall of fame because we all have our stories and they all have meaning."

Rita Ryan (Distinguished Educator)

Ryan started teaching at Central in 1971 and she retired in 2014. She had a 42 year teaching career at Central, teaching Latin. She has been rewarded the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award, Central Teacher of the Year and the STARR Award, a state world language teacher award. During her career at Central she monitored the score boards, sponsored the Junior Classical League and attended eight National JCL Conventions.

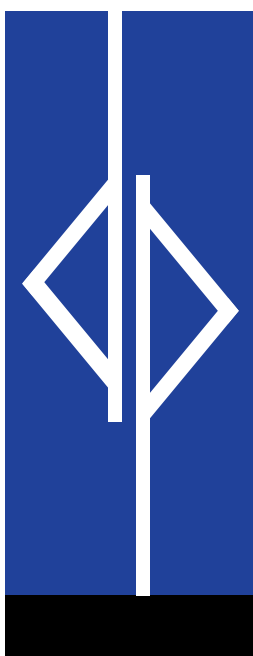
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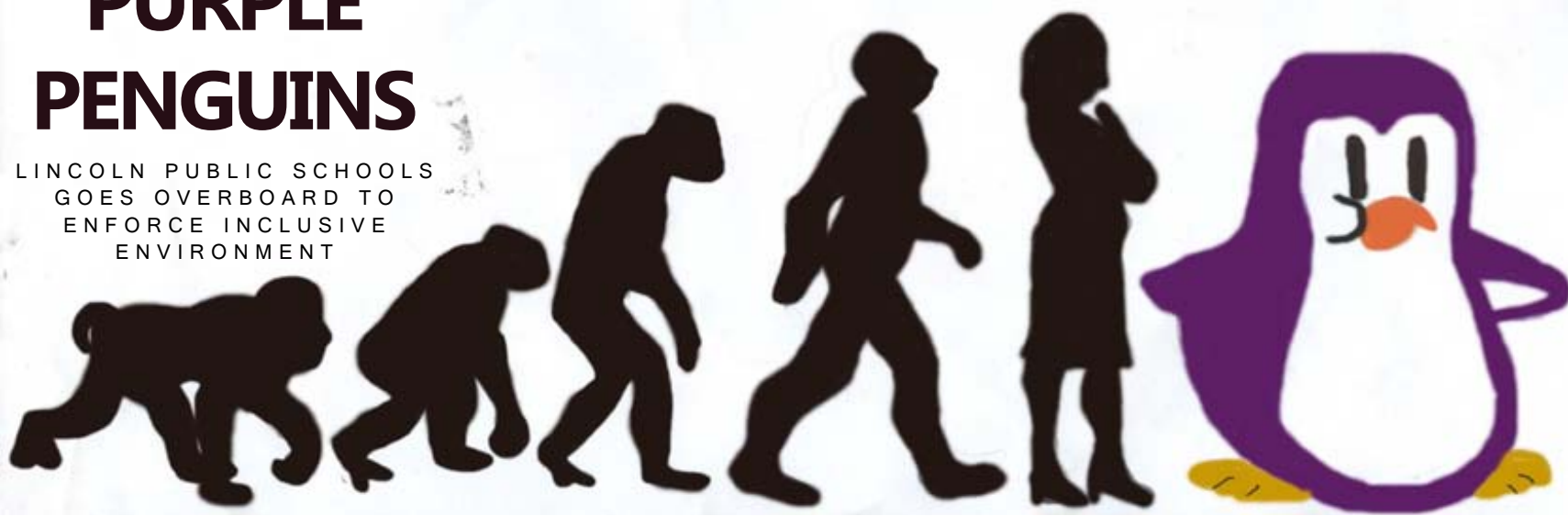
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perspective & commentary

PURPLE PENGUINS

LINCOLN PUBLIC SCHOOLS GOES OVERBOARD TO ENFORCE INCLUSIVE ENVIRONMENT



BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

Nebraska does not garner national attention very often. When it does however, it is usually for sports or agriculture. Now, it is for the phrase “purple penguins” and a pamphlet distributed by Lincoln Public Schools. The training document was given to middle school teachers throughout the district, and advised staff to refrain from using “gendered expressions” such as boys and girls, and instead use “gender inclusive” terms like “purple penguins.” This is ridiculous, in a time where there are nation shaking issues to address, a public school system is spending time and resources to ferret out commonly used classroom vocabulary for the sake of being politically correct.

The document, which does not make the phrase “purple penguins” mandatory, still presents a quite laughable attempt to make public education ever more politically correct. Rather than telling

students to show compassion and love to those who truly do have emotional struggles, it recommends making gender a relative, non-existent phenomenon. Kids will understand love, not “purple penguins” or other comedic attempts at “gender inclusive” phrases.

The author of the training pamphlet was an organization called Gender Spectrum, who “provides education, training and support to create a gender sensitive and inclusive environment for children of all ages.” The reasoning behind the pamphlet was to prevent alienating those with emotional struggles dealing with personal identification in the classroom setting. However, what the terminology of the document actually does, is alienate them. The students they are trying to protect would now have the stigma for why everyone is now a “purple penguin” on their shoulders.

Lincoln Public Schools, even in the midst of campaigning for a bond issue to help balance a broken budget, still has the time and resources to work on ferreting out words such as boys and girls from

the classroom. This is an interesting relationship, and makes it fairly obvious why they are campaigning for higher taxes in the first place.

The school district, as well as Gender Spectrum, makes the assumption that those with identification struggles are offended by the use of the words “boys” and “girls.” Although opinions vary across the spectrum, this assumption is not factually based, and students do not say the words with hatred in mind. That is why it must be reiterated once more, that love and compassion are the only ways to make a friendly learning environment, not more rules on what students should and should not say.

The school district doesn’t want to offend those with identification struggles, so they release a training manual on what teachers should say, and what they should say to students who step out of line and use “gender specific” words like boys, girls, ladies or gentle-

CONTINUE TO ‘LINCOLN’ ON PAGE 8

Spanking not abuse; parents should not injure child, instead discipline reasonably

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS
staff writer

The whole argument debating whether or not spanking a child is considered discipline or abuse was resurfaced because of the Adrian Peterson case.

For students who do not know, Peterson is a NFL player who whipped his four-year-old son with a stick, leaving wounds that brought the boy into the emergency room.

Many people have misinterpreted this case, in which Peterson did physically abuse his son, and have compared this to when parents spank their children and consider that abuse also.

Spanking a child is not considered abuse, as long as it follows certain boundaries. As long as the child is not injured and devices such as sticks are not used, it is not abuse.

It is necessary for a child to be redirected in their youth and to understand the difference between right and wrong. If the child does not learn this difference, they will grow up with the wrong mind-set—believing they have power over almost everything. This, of course, will not suit them well when they enter the “real-world.”

Nowadays, more and more parents are focused on being their children’s friend and doing everything to try and please their children. Letting their children do what they want without being redirected in this manner will not benefit the child. The child will instead grow up thinking they have control over their parents, which will also result in a false mind-set accompanying them into the world outside of their false kingdom.

Simply saying “No” and “Do not do that” is often not enough. Children do sometimes need that extra reminder that if you do something there will be consequences.

According to those at CNN who argue that spanking children is not abuse, “Fear is the essential to respect. Children will not do what parents tell them to do unless, at some level, they fear the consequences that will come from not doing it.”

Without the consequence of being spanked, children will have nothing to fear.

Others will argue that: “...spanking causes long-term damaging impact to their psychology and makes kids more aggressive,” according to those at CNN’s who face the argument.

This is false. If students ask their peers if they were spanked as a child, many will find that the majority of them were. If they had not asked them, they probably would have never realized it because the students do not show signs of psychological damage or signs of being overly aggressive due to the fact that they were spanked as a child.

CNN’s facing argument addresses this by stating that the au-

CONTINUE TO ‘SPANKING’ ON PAGE 8

starving ARTISTS



MUSIC ARTISTS CHEATED OUT OF REVENUE BY DOWNLOADING SOURCES SUCH AS SPOTIFY

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web editor

Music is an element of culture. It started with the invention of the phonograph, then the record player, then the cassette player, then the CD player and finally, what is the most modern of all these things, the mp3 player and then there was the phenomenon of getting music onto our phones. The live show is something of the past, something that many don’t appreciate anymore. We don’t hear people say, “Wow the new album came out today, better go out and get it!” Instead we are accustomed to the easier, more convenient ways of obtaining music. By way of the internet and legally downloading it as well as the illegal download-

ing of music.

With all of the changing technology, it’s no wonder that the money that once went almost directly to the artists themselves, is now being distributed like wildfire to different companies eager to make a couple bucks. iTunes was one of the first to do this, with many other sites quickly following suit to stay with the times.

The music player “Spotify” was founded in 2006 in Stockholm Sweden. It initially was launched in 2008 and had about 10 million users by 2010. Spotify is a fast and easy way to listen to all the music you love, free of cost, free of hassle and almost free for the musicians. I once saw a band tweet “Gonna go listen to our album

CONTINUE TO ‘ILLEGAL’ ON PAGE 8

Duggars extreme abortion views compared to Holocaust



SAN JUANA PARAMO
HAKUNA MATATA

When will celebrities learn? Do they know that anything and everything they say will be heard by thousands of people? Reality TV stars occasionally open their mouths to say something and occasionally what they say ends up being offensive. Then most wonder why they are being attacked. Take for example Jessa Duggar of TLC’s 19 Kids and Count-

ing. Duggar recently made headlines because of an offensive photo on her Instagram account. The photo depicts children in a concentration camp, she pushed the envelope further by captioning the photo and comparing abortion to the Holocaust.

The Duggar family has never been shy about expressing their strict religious views, but Duggar crossed the line. There is nothing wrong with her expressing her opinion on an issue that she’s against, but the format in which she did was out of line and unnecessary.

No person in their sane mind would ever compare the horrible atrocities of the Holocaust to abortion. Not because one is worse than the other, or much less because they are equal but because it’s morally wrong.

The Holocaust to thousands of people is something they would rather not remember. But it’s important to do so; there are no

CONTINUE TO ‘DUGGAR’ ON PAGE 8



WATSON ► page 10

Emma Watson’s moving speech about gender equality supports the HeForShe campaign.



WHITE HOUSE ► page 11

After several reported break-ins at the White House, is there a fault in U.S. security?



EBOLA ► page 9

Should the government allow Americans back into the U.S. for treatment after they’ve been infected with Ebola?

Lincoln Public Schools recommend using gender neutral verbiage

CONTINUE FROM "LINCOLN" FROM PAGE 7

men. The document states, "Point out and inquire when you hear others referencing gender in a binary manner. Ask things like... what makes you say that? I think of it a little differently. Provide counter-narratives that challenge students to think more expansively about their notions of gender." However, one won't see the school district release a training document on how to reprimand students for swearing with the name Jesus Christ so as to not offend Christian students.

This whole scenario appears to be more about affirmation rather than tolerance. Tolerance is defined by Webster as "willingness to accept feelings, habits or beliefs that are different from your own." This means that one can be tolerant of another, without agreeing with them. The proper way to insure that students are not hateful towards classmates, who are struggling with emotions, is to teach them love

and respect, not tell them that words like boy and girl are offensive, unless the district is willing to go to the same lengths to root out words that offend people of all beliefs.

That is where the problem lies. Public schools are supposed to be places of safety and objective learning for students of all backgrounds, beliefs and personal struggles. Funding the expansion of one agenda over many others violates that. Rather than attempting to remove what could be offensive to people of one group, simply teach kids to treat each other like human beings.

That approach is the only way to solve the problem of hatred in society.

Teachers calling students purple penguins, just another domino to fall in the long line of what is politically correct. Rather than addressing the core of the problem and that is that kids are not being taught to treat others with love and respect, Lincoln Public Schools

has decided to push an agenda that actually runs contrary to the mission statement of a public school, which is to be inclusive of all, but affirming of none.

If the protection of students with identification struggles was truly the motivation for these training guides and recommendations to work to remove certain words, then they would not have been distributed in the first place. It is an effort to further an agenda, and instill political correctness in students at an early age. Kids do not really care about gender. They just want to have friends.

It's based on having things in common and enjoying each other's company. Kids have the ability to look past disagreements on many things such as religion, politics and yes even identification struggles.

Adults of the world would do well to learn from the innocence of youth on this.

Free music apps create challenges for starving artists; Spotify "cheats" musicians out of money

CONTINUE FROM "ILLEGAL" FROM PAGE 7

on Spotify on repeat for the next 10 days in order to make 10 bucks, yay." They pay the musicians whom they license their music from very poorly, thus too cheating them out of income.

Starting with Napster in the late 90s and early 2000s, the past two generations of Americans have been accustomed to obtaining free music.

Gone were the days of the EPs, cassettes and CDs, those have been traded in for computers and different websites designed to illegal download music.

Napster was the first site to allow free music for all who entered, which is something that ended up resulting in scandal. Since, there have been various websites and programs designed for the consumer, or in this case anti-consumer to get their hands on free music.

When Spotify is used or when music is illegally downloaded the musician is cheated. Big musicians don't really matter when discussing this, but the small independent artists do.

People should support their local musicians and buy their records.

Someone who works for a major record label doesn't have to deal with the struggle of making their own profits for the music they make, because a lot of the time they aren't even making the music themselves.

They each have producers and composers that create this stuff for them. Artists who record themselves and make their own music are doing it all on their own.

They should be the ones getting the profit, not Spotify or iTunes, and people shouldn't illegally download their music.

Spotify inherently stops the sales of albums, which thus in turn stops the flow of income.

With the low royalty rates that Spotify gives to the musicians they get little to no money in return, definitely not what the album would be worth, and definitely not enough money to make a living off of.

Spotify and illegally downloading music hurts these artists in more ways than one.

So the next time you decide to get that new song you really want, think about buying it from the artist directly and remember to always support your local artists.

If you really love music, you will pay for it in some capacity and then this whole Spotify and illegally downloading music thing won't be as much of an issue anymore.

Increase in 'trendsetters' on social media blur true image of fashion prestige

Apps by the hundred, likes in the thousands, originality in the negative... With the influx of "trendsetters" on social media, the fashion world has become even more exclusive and rightfully so.

As a Midwestern girl with a big city mentality, my thoughts are expressed through my apparel. I'm extremely versatile, attentive to silhouettes and colors that flatter my lady curves (or maybe lack thereof), but most importantly I am dismissive towards outside forces telling me "wear this to get followers, likes and popularity."



TIA SPEARS
3:16

That's the difference between a trendsetter and a "trend setter." Crop tops, spandex co-ordinates, high waisted jeans, flannels, Doc Martens... Those have been around since the explosion of Tumblr. Sorry to offend anyone who thought they were trendsetting, but that's actually trend following.

A concept central in understanding what it truly means to be a trendsetter is knowing why and how to put aside mainstream garments, or fads as some call it. The fashion shows during the spring and autumn that take places in Paris, Milan and New York is where all of the true trendsetting derives from. Not the posts from your favorite Instagram famous person who probably shops at H&M, or the posters plastered behind the cash registers at Forever 21.

When people do not have access to high fashion such as Versace, Chanel and Donna Karan then yes, it does affect where they look to for their fashion choices. This doesn't mean one can't simply take inspiration from what those designers are showing and incorporate that into their own wardrobe. In fact, using certain items from Forever 21 and H&M will help you achieve the look you desire for less. This is where legitimate trendsetting is born.

It's reasonable to think that because someone takes an ensemble that Hugo Boss puts down the runway as inspiration, then it's not originality. Wrong. The designers themselves do the exact same thing. Carl Lagerfeld took inspiration from the Palace Versailles and made an entire show based on the building's architecture and design. Yes, he designed the garments himself but he still was inspired, but the point is that he twisted it and made it his own... Just as true trendsetters should do when they watch fashion shows.

Evidence throughout history, fashion is repeated. In today's era, it is definitely true being that the 90's hipster vibe is what a large majority of people define as "dope." No problem for the people just trying to be cute, but to see the person wearing that and calling it original, well, by the book it's a very "Look how much of a copycat I can be," move.

Let's be clear. I'm not trying to target anyone who follows trends

as if to say they're no good for not watching Phillip Lim 3.1 runway shows. I respect individuality and some people are not into high fashion. Trendsetters, however, should. Fashion week is where all the new and improved couture, ready to wear garments are. Whatever you see going down that runway, you can guarantee it's coming back around in maybe a year or two.

For the Midwest natives, this sucks. The newer the item, technology, song or fashion, the slower you get it. But just as much as social media can be annoying with all of the "trendsetter" wannabes, it is a best friend if you follow the correct forums, watch and listen for the newest in the fashion industry.

Being a trendsetter is not primarily about who designed your dress or how much you spent on that shift dress, but rather how you incorporate what inspired you into your wardrobe that made an off-stream look. People are going to hate. People are going to judge (I'm doing so talking about the trendsetter wannabes right now), but if you stay true to what you know then you will grow.

Before you know it, you could be sitting front row at a Versace Spring/Summer 2016 show.

Or you could be a follower, of a trendsetter, who claims they're a trendsetter and looks for Forever21 ads. You choose.

Spanking kids: morally correct, not abusive

CONTINUE FROM "SPANKING" FROM PAGE 7

thor of the facing argument was molested as a kid and she turned out fine, but that does not mean the author think it is acceptable to molest kids.

This is simply an inaccurate comparison. Spanking a child is nowhere near as severe as molesting children.

Spanking is not a negative aspect of disciplining a child and should not be referenced as one. Just because of one man's choice to abuse a child does not speak truth to the rest of the parents in the world and how they redirect their children.

like stated above, as long as the child is not injured in any way from being spanked, spanking is necessary in their healthy development.

The facing arguments do not supply enough valid information to be taken seriously.

Spanking children is not abuse and will always be acknowledged as discipline as long as the child does not end up in the hospital like Peterson's son.

Spanking ones child has been used as a method of discipline for hundreds of years and will continue to be a popular method for hundreds of more.

Jessa Duggar's Instagram post builds controversy

CONTINUE FROM "DUGGARS" FROM PAGE 7

hurts hundreds of people for many reasons. It is not something that should ever be joked about and talked about lightly.

Duggar may have posted the picture with the right intention, but it was received negatively. After all, what was she expecting? Not many people were going to agree with her, she couldn't honestly be taken back at such a negative reaction.

She should have known that instantly people would be up and armed about the situation.

Duggar only wanted to share her opinion on abortion but she did it in the wrong way, by being ignorant and comparing two things that should never be talked about in the same sentence.

There were many ways she could have approached this. The only reason I see behind her actions was to garner attention.

She knew that it would spark up conversation and maybe she wanted that attention to be focused on abortion, but it quickly flew out of the window and instead caused a big controversy.

Many times one could easily let situations such as these go unnoticed, but because it was two controversial topics and said by a TV personality it blew up. There are countless times that celebrities or reality TV stars open their mouths and say something stupid, more or less because they don't know any better. Because of that it's easy to see them as being senseless or ignorant. It's pathetic that the

people we look up to are also some of the people who don't know any better.

More often than not they say off handed remarks and insert their opinion on things they have little to no understanding of just because it gives them their five minutes of fame.

I completely disagree with Duggar for various reasons, of which I won't dwell on here, but as the public we have to realize that these people aren't the brightest and can't hold them accountable for their stupidity.

Celebrities need to acknowledge the effect they have on the public. They have to live up to their roles of being role models and they need to understand that they have to be careful when they speak. They are under the constant scrutiny of the media and begin to act accordingly.

The public can learn from their mistakes, they can learn not to offhandedly make remarks that can spark up controversy. From celebrities they can learn what not to do and hopefully become better people than them.

What we can learn from them is to be educated on whatever topics you happen to have an opinion about so you won't make a fool out of yourselves like many celebrities do.



EBOLA HITS HOME

AS SEVERAL AMERICANS ARE DIAGNOSED WITH EBOLA AFTER RETURNING FROM AFRICA, MANY ASK, SHOULD THE GOVERNMENT KEEP ALLOWING THEM BACK INTO THE UNITED STATES?

NO

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS
staff writer

Disease is prone to happen throughout the world, but how people handle such matters is debatable. Recently, an outbreak of a deadly disease in Africa has caused panic worldwide.

This year, Ebola became a serious issue and has brought an American missionary worker back to the United States along with a hospital aid to be treated, in addition to countless infected persons throughout Africa.

Better choices should have been made prior to the outbreak, and even during the outbreak, to limit the number of deaths and deaths yet to come.

This turmoil all begins with the disease's origin; this lethal illness could have easily been prevented and therefore spared countless people from contracting the disease.

The Ebola virus specifically originated from a remote village near the Ebola River, and Tropical Rainforest, in 1976. A boy contracted Ebola and spread the disease throughout his village. The disease begun with being transferred to a human from an animal, but from there was spread from human contact. Ebola can be spread from saliva or blood.

A negative aspect of how the Ebola disease was handled is when it was brought into the United States. As mentioned before, two American citizens were brought to Atlanta, Georgia after contracted the Ebola disease in Africa. There have also been patients brought to Omaha, Neb.

Bringing this disease to the United States was a bad decision. Even though the patients were Americans, if others got contaminated, not only would the disease be in Africa, but also the United States.

The most recent case, in which a man from Texas checked into a hospital in Dallas, and was diagnosed with having Ebola, proves this.

Moreover, if the disease had spread in Atlanta, it would have been transmitted across the world because Atlanta is home to the largest airport in the world.

Even though the disease did not spread in Atlanta, the risk was too high.

This disease was well contained, but as people of aware of now, that is now no longer guaranteed. That man from Texas was not brought in on a sealed, protected airplane, rather than a commercial flight. It is unknown how many people he could have come in contact with, so there could be people in the United States with Ebola that are unaware of their condition.

The fact that Ebola can only be spread from blood or saliva convinces some people that we should not be worried. However, this man on this flight could have sneezed, or coughed. An action such as this could have spread the disease to countless people.

All in all, efforts should be made to impede flight travel out of western Africa altogether. By stopping air traffic, this stops all possibilities of the Ebola disease being spread in more extensive numbers that they already are. If flights continue to fly in and out of America, coming from western Africa, it only takes one person, such as that man on that one commercial flight, in one heavily populated airport to spread the disease to other countries.

This all began because of the flights flying in patients from western Africa. Yes, those patients did not contaminate others, but like mentioned above, the risk is just too high.

YES

BY KELSEY THOMAS
executive editor

As thousands of people in West Africa fell victim to the Ebola virus during the summer, Americans remained unaffected for a time. The disease was thousands of miles away, in third world countries. How could it ever affect us?

Then, in early August, two Americans working in Africa were diagnosed with Ebola and taken back to the U.S. for treatment.

Nearly three months later, a handful of American citizens have contracted Ebola while in Africa or have been infected in the states after coming into contact with other patients. Two Ebola patients came to the Nebraska Medical Center for treatment.

The recent "spread" of the Ebola virus has terrified many Americans. People fear that the virus will become just as damaging here as it is in Africa, and many are angry that the government is willfully transporting those infected back to the United States for care. It's "just too risky," they say, but to suggest that infected American citizens should be deserted and left to die after becoming ill is immoral and goes against the values that this country was built on. Those who were infected with the virus were in Africa doing humanitarian work, and to abandon them after their acts of selflessness would dishearten not only the victims, but many Americans and other people worldwide.

Moreover, what was the purpose of building expensive facilities designed for situations like this if we refuse to use them? Millions of dollars were spent to build isolation units like the one at UNMC or the hospital in Georgia which housed the first two patients. Why would we fund and conduct research on infectious diseases and Ebola if we weren't going to put it to use? The U.S. spends \$119 billion a year on biomedical research, which comprises 45% of the world's total health research spending. To deny Americans the opportunity to receive care in their native country does not only deny them the comforts of home, but it also denies them of the best care in the world.

To be frightened by a deadly disease is natural, but to suggest that it may become an epidemic in a highly developed country such as our own is absurd. We live in one of the most privileged, most advanced countries in the world. We are equipped to handle "outbreaks" such as this one, while the countries suffering from Ebola epidemics, such as Liberia or Sierra Leone, are not.

On fear that the disease may become airborne, Dr. Darin Portnoy, Vice President of the international humanitarian organization Doctors Without Borders, assured in an interview with NPR that there was no way that Ebola could become airborne. The virus has no need to mutate.

This is not a horror movie or a science fiction flick. The virus isn't going to mysteriously spread and infect millions of Americans. The Center of Disease Control (CDC) has issued several statements reassuring the public that there is no high risk of Ebola spreading.

Yet, people are still frightened by it. While it is human instinct to want to protect yourself, to argue that an American citizen should not be brought into the care of the U.S. is not only an uninformed view, but is also insensitive and selfish. It is a view supported only by fear and "What if" scenarios, rather than rational thought and explanation.

Excessive use of force often used under the guise of 'security,' causes hostility

BY MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

Since the birth of peaceful protests there has been the question of how to control "rioters." People often ask what classifies as excessive force versus security. In truth, there is a very fine line between the two.

However, that does not mean that it is acceptable for authority figures to take advantage of the situation. If the protestors are not acting violently or putting others in danger there is no need for the use of excessive force.

With hopes to control the Hong Kong protests for democracy, police officers used tear gas and intimidation tactics. Contrary to their intents, these actions only caused the protestors to become more passionate about their cause. At first, before protesting, the group of protestors attempted to bring their problems to the government in a more traditional manner, but were nonchalantly dismissed.

Before reverting to protests and demonstrations they tried different methods, so there is no reason for them to be treated with hostility.

If the government truly wanted to "control" the problem, which

they claimed as their reason for using force, they would have addressed it long before it came to this.

It takes the protestors being a public nuisance for the government to rightfully step in. In this case, force wasn't used to control the protestors. It was used to show power and control by the government. In Hong Kong's situation, the show of force was done mainly for intimidation purposes, which makes it unacceptable.

Yet, this age old question is about so much more than just the use of force. It also has to do with the power struggle between authorities and the people they govern. The Hong Kong protests make this extremely evident.

Their problem started with a struggle and will most likely end in the same way. The police's efforts aren't going to change or pacify the protestors feelings, if anything their use of force caused an even larger uproar.

Instead of allowing problems to get to this point, governments and other groups in the position of authority should try to address the problem before it escalates. Even if a compromise isn't reached, both parties are much more likely to be satisfied with the progress of the negotiations.

It's all about communication, and it's pretty hard to discuss problems when there's a gun pointed in your face. People are prone

to fight fire with fire, and in the end neither party is going to benefit from the use of force.

The authoritative figure might win the battle, but that does not mean that they have won the war.

In some cases, not only does this approach of hostility cause hatred between the two parties, but it also prolongs the disagreement; which in the long run can cause more than just those directly involved to be affected. For example, the whole world, has in some way felt the effects of the Hong Kong protests.

The government initiated the use of force to control the protests, when in fact their actions only caused the predicament to spiral out of control. Facts like these are why the use of excessive force is unacceptable. It's not necessarily because it is morally wrong, but because of the undesirable things it causes.

If something is unsuccessful at completing its purpose, wouldn't one stop trying to use it to solve their problems? Excessive force is unacceptable because it is illogical and irrational.

Not only is it an overreaction to the peaceful protestors, but it is futile when it comes to solving problems such as these.

If authority figures truly wanted to control the problem of protestors they should address the problem long before the protests begin.

Few laws restrict cyber bullying; restrictions should be enforced

BY TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

In the twenty-first century, society has been faced with many problems it hasn't before. One of these problems lies within the growing usage of social media. Ever since the creation of Myspace in 2003, social media has continued to grow. The most popular social media networks are Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Seventy-four percent of people in the United States use social media regularly.

Social media sites are used to keep close social ties with peers, friends or family members. In a way, social media takes away from ones freedom to do what they really want. Having social ties with all of one's friends at once creates the buildup of peer pressure. This pressure can discourage someone from doing what they actually want to. If they go outside the "social norm" they will be slandered or made fun of by others. Social networking is also easy way for bullying occur, oftentimes unseen by the world.

Online bullying is often times not taken seriously and can go unseen by the mass public because "kids will kids." There are very few laws that restrict online bullying because the use of social media and the internet is an entire new world that is uncomprehended by most adults and in government. Restrictions are begging to be made.

Staying in contact with peers 24/7 can be intimidating because anything that is said on the network cannot be taken back; it is there for everyone to see forever. Some teen seem to forget this and do mindless harmful acts against themselves and others.

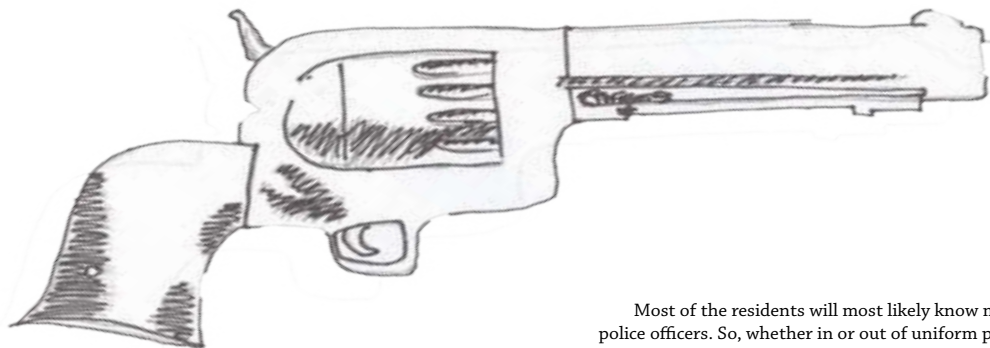
For example, a page began in early August that was based off of the film "The Purge." Instagram and Twitter pages contained naked photos of both males and females. This was a mindful act that was a form of online bullying. The page claimed that they will post any nude photographs sent to them in certain times. Something so private and intimate should not be shared with the world and those people who were posted on the page could have been seen by almost anyone with an Instagram page.

Social media can be harmful to the users that are using them, mostly because the users are unaware to what they are posting and how others respond to that certain post.

Social media not only impacts teens lives because they have the ability to contact with their peers all the time, but also because people live off of likes or favorites on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Pictures are posted and things are said simply for the amount of likes and favorites. Teens are striving for acceptance from their peers over the internet which diminishes value based off of true merit. This could even discourage someone to be themselves in the outside world. Either way, this is not ideal because it can affect the future and how everyone communicates. What if all face-to-face communication discontinued?

The usage of social media could be used for the better. For example, teens usually use twitter to stay updated and on the go with friends but Twitter could be a good way to stay up to date with the latest current events and local findings in the community.

Instead of using social media to harm another, everyone should use it to their benefit by staying updated on their surroundings. Instead of relying on likes and favorites, teens should develop relationships and friendships with face-to-face communication rather than social networking.



BY KIRA HAWKINS
staff writer

Carrying a weapon off duty has been a topic of discussion for a while. As with most problems, being armed all the time has its ups and downs. However, if we look at this topic deeply, especially, from a point of risk and reward, I think that officers should be able to carry weapons off duty. It cannot be seen as much different from others carrying weapons as well.

First, I think we recognize that that profession is a dangerous one. The chance that police will meet dangerous people during their shift is high. That chance lessens once they put away the badge and go home, but it does not disappear entirely. Depending on the city or town in which you reside, you may or may not find carrying necessary.

Most of the residents will most likely know most small town police officers. So, whether in or out of uniform people know that one is an officer. It is an advantage to be recognized as a police officer. But not everyone is fond of the police, and always being seen as an officer is not safe.

City cops can generally blend in with the rest of the crowd. Places like New York and Chicago are home to millions of people. It is simple to remain anonymous among the masses. The other side of that coin, however, is that big cities also have a higher incidence of violent crime. The probability of an off-duty cop, himself becoming a victim of crime, increases in larger towns.

Civilians are allowed to carry weapons with a permit. Police officers are trained to use their weapons for the job, making them more qualified to use a weapon. If civilians are allowed to carry, off duty cops should be allowed to as well. Just because they are cops, and work in a violent place, does not mean that they will go out, off duty, to do some work. Cops are people, and people like to protect themselves. So not allowing an officer to carry his weapon is taking

away a way that he or she can keep themselves safe.

Off duty cops have also been seen to have been a help in catching criminals, and sometimes it is not even intentional. But that one chance encounter can lead to many more lives becoming more secure. They may not go looking for trouble, but that does not mean that trouble is not out there. Cops have to be able to keep themselves safe, both on and off the beat. Carrying a weapon can help to increase those safety levels. No one can really complain when a potentially dangerous criminal is taken off the streets, even if the cop was off duty.

If civilians are allowed to carry off duty, cops should be able to as well. They do so much to help to keep us safe, it is only fair that they should be allowed to have the tools to keep themselves safe as well. While some people may not like the idea of police having weapons while at home, it seems to be a fair way of showing appreciation to those who work so hard for us.

ILLUSTRATION BY PAIGE COLBORN

Americans generally unsure about politicians, Libertarian party is the only way to vote



GRANT STUREK
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

It is no secret that the American public is growing increasingly dissatisfied with their politicians. According to a Gallup poll, 42 percent of Americans identify as independent voters, with 31 percent and 25 percent of voters identifying as Democrats and Republicans respectively. The Gallup poll, which has been conducted by telephone since 1988, had always reported the percentage of Americans identifying as independents to be lower than forty until 2011.

After working on the campaign for Congressman Lee Terry, I have found that many registered Republicans are voting for their party's candidates simply because they see no better alternative. It is an interesting psychological shift that more and more voters are voting against the other side rather than voting for a candidate that they actually want in office.

The very foundations of democracy are undermined when voters are forced by the two-party system into choosing the lesser evil. To paraphrase Ayn Rand, there are those who claim that your life belongs to God and those who claim that your life belongs to your neighbor - but no one to say that your life belongs to you. The Republicans want to write fundamentalist Christian theology into law, while the Democrats want to take from those who produce and give to those who don't.

To this end, both political parties have dramatically expanded the role of government, which has only served to diminish civil liberties and hand the reins of the economy to a privileged few.

Too many problems in the United States, such as the recession, income inequality and the surveillance state are caused by a bloated government that furthers the goals of wealthy special interests instead of protecting the rights of the governed. The vast network of regulatory agencies (the government entities that exist to enforce regulations) existing at federal, state, and local levels is detrimental to the expansion of small businesses, whereas large corporations, who can afford to hire entire legal teams to comply with and even evade the rules, are free to expand unchecked. This has resulted in fewer new businesses being created, which in turn has resulted in a more stagnant economy.

According to a May 2014 report by the Brookings Institution, the firm entry rate, which reflects the percentage of businesses in the economy that are less than a year old, has declined from roughly 15 percent to just over 8 percent since 1978. The American economy is being dominated by an increasingly small number of very large firms, and this is a result of poor economic policy by both the left and the right.

Increasingly complex and specific regulations are not the answer to America's economic woes. Whenever the government has power to intervene in the economy, special interests will exercise their influence to ensure that any such intervention is beneficial to them. After all, oil companies receive billions of dollars each year in subsidies and are given the right to pollute by paying the EPA (the Environmental Protection Agency), which auctions off pollution rights instead of holding organizations responsible for their actions.

It is only by treating all organizations equally under the law that a competitive economy can be encouraged, but the politicians in Washington are too fearful of the wrath of special interests to strive for simpler regulations that favor the interests of the nation and further individual rights.

Perhaps even more worrisome is the fact that neither side seems willing to address the violations of the Bill of Rights committed by federal agencies, most significantly the National Security Agency. Federal judges are authorizing search warrants for federal agents even when they are forbidden to know who is supposed to be searched or what is being searched for.

This is not only a major violation of The Constitution; it is also the exact practice used by British agents in the period before the revolution to confiscate colonial weapons and imprison political dissidents.

The political parties of the United States have pulled the ultimate trick by convincing us that we are either left or right, for their principles or against them entirely. Every two years, Americans go to the ballot box and choose which liberties to give away - but it doesn't have to be like this.

Most Americans are united by a desire for liberty - for gays, the liberty to marry; for business owners, the liberty to produce free of unnecessary regulation; for privacy enthusiasts, the liberty to not live under the yoke of a surveillance state.

The Libertarian Party exists under the principle that liberty is the right to do as one wishes, so long as it does not infringe on the rights of another (these rights being life, liberty, and property). By voting for Libertarian candidates such as Mark Elworth Jr., who is running for governor, voters can declare that the lesser of two evils is still evil, and that we will not stand idly by while the powerful deprive us of our rights with one hand and give us bread and circuses with the other.

Watson's speech discusses feminism's relevancy

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO
staff writer

Time and time again we see celebrities lending their faces to represent various products and causes. From makeup to political fundraisers, celebrities have done it all. The public can clearly see when a celebrity is passionate about what they are endorsing; when there is passion ignited people are able to feel it.

Emma Watson wasn't just ignited; she was burning with passion that was felt all the way from the podium of the United Nations to every single person that watched her passionate speech.

Watson took the mic to highlight the importance and urgency for the gender equality movement known as the HeForShe campaign. Her speech was focused on the societal misconceptions of the feminist movement, and instead of focusing on the word she put the spotlight on the ambition and mission behind the word.

Watson also extended an invitation to men to partake in the movement. An interesting focus on her speech was to encourage society to think of the ways that gender inequality is also a problem for males. Watson recognizing that gender inequality is not only directed towards females shook the gender scales and sparked conversation.

Gender discrimination does not only affect women, it is as much a concern for men. While women are expected to become a stay at home wife with little to no higher education, men are expected to be the sole bread winners of the family.

As much as society is accepting of the domestic female, they are not as welcoming to the domestic male. It is seen under an accusing light if a male decides to take on a nurturing role instead of the female. The rise in male mental illness is not talked about as much because in doing so, men are seen as less of a man if they appear fragile. The intense success standards between men and women are huge; women are still paid less than a man doing the same job. Just as women fall victim to the extreme body image standards, men are facing insecurities

caused by a sense that men must be successful.

In her speech Watson made it clear that feminism is not a female only issue, but a human race issue. Watson didn't bring anything new to the table; she emphasized what was already common knowledge. It's all part of a bigger conversation that is constantly growing, particularly for young people who are finding their own voice.

Watson stressed that feminism is not a divisive term but an inclusive one; it is about her for she. Men and women have to work together to erase the negativity that has now become associated with feminism. Feminism is not about man hating, it's about the equality that both genders deserve.

Equal opportunities between the sexes can't be reached unless men are invited to take part in the initiative. Typically when it comes to speaking about gender equality the invitation is only extended towards women, when in reality men should also be able to participate. Change cannot happen unless both parties meet in the middle and go further beyond.

It is time to encourage young women, and women in general to embrace feminism and not feel bad about associating themselves with the want to reach gender equality. It's time to teach boys, young men and men that it is all right for them to express their emotions and to voice their concerns towards gender discrimination because it also affects them. Both men and women have to feel comfortable voicing their concerns towards gender inequality. Men especially have to join the fight; they have as much a right as women do to stand up for themselves.

It's time that we all learn that gender discrimination and gender inequality exists and that working together it can be removed.

Together we can make a difference; working together would ease the stereotype that feminism is anti-men. Instead it would enforce the true meaning of the word, "the belief that men and women should have equal rights and opportunities. It is the theory of the political, economic and social equality of the sexes."

Deep rooted racial issues hinder modern America

BY TIA SPEARS
editor-in-chief

Ethnicity.

This demographic creates a social perception of a person without reason. In America, ethnicity is the most popular manner people choose to categorize one another.

This nation was set on the belief of being the land of the free, but within America's society, absolutely no one is liberated from the clutch of racial profiling.

If everyone could whole-heartedly say they are able to live the American Dream, the idea of specific ethnic groups being "minorities" would be non-existent.

The history of this country is the firm foundation of minority groups. There was the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s through the 1960s, where tension was high against Whites and Blacks in the south.

Then 9/11 when Al-Qaida hijacked planes and crashed them into the N.Y.C Twin Towers causing Americans to think that anyone wearing a hijab was devising a master plan. Before both of those historically prevalent events, there was the internment of Japanese-Americans during WWII after the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor. Even before that was the American Indian wars where Native Americans were forced to desert their land in submission to the "White man." The events are unforgettable.

Modern day events like the protests in Ferguson, MO and the killing of Trayvon Martin are both testaments of how racial profiling in America is at its absolute worst, nonetheless.

At the surface level, America seems to have been recuperated. No more fiery riots in the south or legally removing people away from their land by their heritage.

However, one has to do some deep analyzing to see this nation in detail. What is to be found is the truth. This truth is a very ugly one.

Here are some questions to ask when considering the overlooked issue of racial profiling: When Barack Obama was elected as President, why was it more important that he was a man of color as opposed to him being a national symbol of hope, for some?

Why do people annex "the first 'minority'" to any profound accomplishment if everything is resolved? Why is there a list of ethnicities on a job application in which the applicant is ex-

pected to check the box according to what they identify with?

Are these things important? The answer is yes. Yes, because the American culture feels as though because of events like 9/11, the Civil Rights Movement and more have happened, it is imperative to pay homage to those who suffered from racial discrimination.

Some people are directly affected by those things today, some feel as though it is better to just go along with it to not be considered a racist. The answer should be no, because in order to progress it is vital to see one another as an equal, which is not socially enforced through this country to the extreme that it should be.

There have been efforts made through laws that seem to make everyone seem equal; however, with such a dirty history, it's debatable whether that will actually happen.

As long as people continue to accept being blissfully ignorant, there will forever remain the idea of minorities and white supremacy. People are okay with being Black or Hispanic or Asian and feeling confident as they can walk freely. What they don't realize is that they're being stereotyped by people who may not even realize they're stereotyping at all.

This is not in favor of one particular ethnicity, rather it is a neutral perspective on how American citizens view one another by way of history and way of modern day mechanisms of coping with history.

Truth is everyone is capable of the same things. Everyone comes from different walks of life. Everyone is different. That's where the line is drawn. As humans, we attach to people who are similar and reject anything outside of that unless there is the understanding and appreciation of the differences, primarily.

Unfortunately, there is no central agreement by way of varying opinions amongst people, so someone somewhere will always view a "minority" group as, well, a minority and treat them as such. This country has a societal issue on its hands that may not exactly be mendable. If there ever becomes an influx of people who realize the truth behind the cover ups, then progression may be initiated.

Until that point, the Americans society will exist in a stationary position when it comes to the positive correlation between stereotyping and racial profiling.

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UNTIL DECEMBER 19TH

BY JORDAN YOUNG
co web editor

In the future, if there were to be a zombie apocalypse, don't plan on hiding out in The White House. Better yet, stay away from D.C. altogether because let's face it, if the Secret Service can't keep 40-year olds from climbing the gates to "America's House" and breaking inside (aka, the supposedly most secure place in America), then a bunch of mushy brained, incoherent, living dead freaks might just be able to waltz in with their eyes closed.

After the alleged break in by Texas man Omar J. Gonzalez and trespassing by New Jersey man Kevin Carr less than 24 hours later, there have been many questions as to what could be wrong with the security of the White House. The Secret Service should go back to servicing—there's no need for stricter rules—just the need for people to do their job.

For both of these cases, the usual urgent protocol that would occur when someone tries to breach into the White House didn't go according to plan. This includes attack dogs prepared to chase down an intruder, alarms triggered by the fence lines that notify all on-duty guards and guards set with guns ready to shoot.

But when Gonzalez hopped the fence, no attack dogs were released to sick him, not a single guard confronted him on the lawn and no shots were fired, allowing him to reach the doors, push past a

guard, unlock the doors and continue into the house.

What makes this incident even more shocking is the fact that initially Gonzalez was reported reaching the inside of the North Portico of the house. But, "he actually made it hundreds of feet deeper into the White House before being tackled by a counter-assault agent at the south end of the East Room, near the doorway that leads into the Green Room,"(Politico.com).

One has to wonder how trustworthy the secret service is exactly. The agency director, Julia Pierson, resigned from her position after a hearing about not only the episodes, but also because of "agent misbehavior" during a trip in Colombia (Politico.com).

However service hasn't faced scrutiny in only this regard. Even before the break in and the trespassing, a man with a Pokémon hat parked himself on the lawn. Thankfully this man didn't get past the green and was reprimanded by two guards who kept a close eye on him, with a rifle in hand (huffingtonpost.com).

There have also been other cases of daring acts committed against The White House. One dates back to 2011 when "...several gunshots hit the building..." (Politico.com).

All that extra information could either be dragging the two recent occurrences out, or resurfacing surreal evidence about a group that doesn't seem to be doing their job all the time.

Of course, there are always problems that pop up and get out of control because mistakes do indeed happen. And there are situations

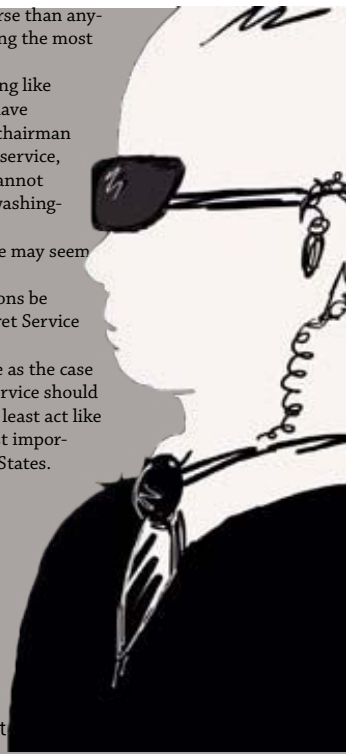
that can occur that are worse than anyone can imagine (9/11 being the most upfront example).

Nonetheless, something like these breaches shouldn't have happened. As Republican chairman Jason Chaffetz said about service, "...This is an agency that cannot make a mistake, ever..." (washingtonpost.com).

Although this pressure may seem laid on too thick, it's true.

Should more precautions be made on behalf of the Secret Service to stop these things?

That's not what we see as the case here. Instead the Secret Service should tighten up protocol and at least act like they're protecting the most important person in the United States.



THE FAULT IN OUR SECURITY

HOW SAFE IS OUR NATION'S CAPITOL? FROM INTRUDERS TO LACK OF PROTOCOL, THE SECRET SERVICE MIGHT NOT BE AS GOOD AT THEIR JOB AS SOME MAY BELIEVE

MADISON ROWELL | Cartoonist

NFL places unnecessary celebration restrictions, penalties on athletes

BY MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

In the past few years the NFL has become a stickler when it comes to touchdown celebrations, and has made it so that it's a penalized event.

For me, the touchdown celebrations and dances were some of the best parts of the game. Now that they are "illegal" football just isn't the same.

Not only has this fairly new rule taken away from the whole mood of the game, but it has caused even larger problems for the NFL. It's implementation has only caused controversy for professional football and those involved in the game.

Husain Abdullah, a free safety for the Chiefs, was penalized after sliding to his knees in the end zone and bowing his head in prayer. The referees saw his actions as "excessive celebration", and gave him a 15-yard penalty for unsportsmanlike conduct.

Maybe it's just me, but something seems wrong about the whole situation. Using unsportsmanlike and excessive in the same sentence as prayer seems sacrilegious. Someone has some apologizing to do to the Chiefs, Abdullah and God after that call.

Apparently, there is an exception to this rule for religious expressions. However, if the referees are going to penalize anyway it means nothing. In order for this rule to work, clearer boundaries need to be drawn regarding it.

It's understandable that at first the official might mistake an expression such as this for "excessive celebration", but while reviewing the play someone should have corrected the mistake. I mean, how often does a celebration include

someone bowing their head as if in prayer?

After the game the NFL did say that Abdullah should not have been penalized, but that was a little too late. The Chiefs did manage to win the game, but if they hadn't this call could have been the cause. Sure, that's the case with most calls from officials, but because of its religious aspects this call is a little different. It's great that the NFL released a statement to fix the mistake, yet it shouldn't have been necessary in the first place.

In order to stop this from happening in the future the NFL must clarify this rule to its players, coaches and officials.

If they are going to implement rules such as this they need to make sure that everyone understands the fine print. An area of controversy in this case, was the fact that the safety slide to his knees before he prayed.

Technically, celebration while on the ground is prohibited, however because Abdullah did this in order to pray the penalty should have never been called.

Maybe the referee didn't know this, maybe they called it because he slid, whatever the case may be it could have been avoided if the details of this rule had been clearly defined.

It's great that this penalty was recognized as the wrong call, but the Chiefs should have avoided the hassle in the first place.

This new anti-celebration rule has been more trouble than it has been helpful. What's so harmful about a player celebrating a job well done?

All of the players are grown men; they should have thick enough skin to deal with it. Plus, if this rule didn't exist controversies such as the one with Adullah could be avoided all together.

Facebook "To Be Honest" threads lack sincerity, exploit amount of friends

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

These days, it's hard to get on any type of social media without noticing it.

That's right, the dreaded "To Be Honest" posts, or, as they are called in Internet slang, "TBH". I don't mean to ridicule anyone who participates in those threads. They are harmless and fun (I suppose) to those who start them. But have you ever taken time to question if there is any real meaning behind "To Be Honest"?

The purpose of these "truthful" statuses on sites such as Facebook, Twitter and Instagram (like for a TBH!) is for people to leave their name for the user who generated the status, who in turn will send the "likers" a tweet, Facebook post, etc., that states their genuine feelings and impressions of him/her.

Often, the people who request a TBH are simply mere acquaintances of the person whose post they liked. Because, in all seriousness, about how many of our 750 Facebook friends are people we talk to on a regular basis? I'd say that maybe 100 of the average American's Facebook friends are true friends, but the number is probably even less than that.

Let's say someone posts a "TBH" and 52 people like it. That means that you must (in the case of Facebook) come up with 52 different "To Be Honest" posts, and that number is just an estimate. For those "popular" social media users, the likes may vary.

Now, I don't know about you, but I can figure out way more productive things to do with my time than generating a "TBH" status. I realize some people become bored, and "To Be Honest" can be a form of entertainment. But it seems like any awfully trivial way to spend one's time. Furthermore, I have never encountered one thought-provoking "TBH" thread, and I have had Facebook and Twitter for a reasonable period of time.

Maybe it means something to the people that receive a "TBH" comment, but ever since I saw my first "TBH", I swore to never endorse this kind of

silliness. "TBH, I really don't know you that well, but I think you are pretty and nice and we should hang out sometime." This is an example of what most "TBH" threads sound like.

In reality, how sincere can these statements be if someone sends a similar message to each of their so-called friends? Is the person who generated the post going to "hang out" with every person on their "TBH" list? I seriously doubt it. Secondly, I object to the usage of the words "to be honest" in the first place. How can anyone know for sure that the user isn't lying or making things up just to spare someone's feelings?

There truly is nothing that "TBH" offers to the social networking universe. Websites like Facebook and Twitter are superficial enough. Add "To Be Honest" to the picture, and you have yet another reason not to waste your time online interacting with people you hardly know in real life. I admit that I personally have fallen into the trap of society, "friending" many people on social networks who I barely knew. It is easy for all of us to become shallow, to want to feel accepted on Twitter and Facebook.

We eventually realize there is a consequence to getting caught up in this phenomenon when we find we added people online just to inflate our popularity, that we should probably delete that random cat-obsessed kid we added from middle school days.

I believe that the spread of "To Be Honest" largely results from this issue. It is not only something people start when they have nothing better to do. It's just another method to heighten one's sense of self-worth in an attempt to obtain the maximum amount of likes possible, similar to the act of posting cheesy quotes or highly-filtered selfies. "TBH" is a frivolous way to draw attention to one's profile and, mainly, oneself. If this and other vain endeavors on social media are what the majority of teenagers use to determine their relevance in society, then I'm scared of what pop culture will be like in the next few years.

Teen mortality rates in Douglas County skyrocket, new statistics reveal

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ
staff writer

In Omaha, as well as other places around the United States, teen death has been an up and coming epidemic in countless communities. It is affecting schools, families and communities due to the growing commonality of this problem.

In a span of one week, two local teenagers have been killed. Burke student, Johntavious Swift, was shot to death on Sept. 24 while exiting his school bus. Later that same week in Council Bluffs, 17 year old Dakota Escritt died on Saturday due to a severe head injury from a fight at school.

The Pottawattamie Attorney's Office met the following Monday to discuss felony charges against Gregory Teer, the boy Escritt was fighting with. He was released from custody to a guardian and was only suspended from school. Later, police reviewed a video of the brawl and found that Escritt threw the first punch and his opponent was only defending himself. No charges will be pressed.

Nebraska is ranked 29th in teen mortality rates. Meaning we lose an average of 53 teenagers a year. Wyoming is ranked 1st with an av-

erage of 110 teen deaths per year. If our community continues to lose two teenagers a week, we would be ranked 2nd on a national level.

Although incidents like teen involved shootings and fatal fights are not common, accidental deaths are. On average, in Douglas County alone, 30 teens die in an accidental fatality. A car crash would be an appropriate example. Motor vehicle fatalities is the leading cause of death among teenagers, it represents one-third of all deaths.

Teenage mortality is a serious and growing public health issue. The larger majority of death among teens is due to preventable causes such as accidents, homicide and suicide.

Homicide is a leading cause of death among teenage boys in several countries including our own.

On the other hand, suicide is a leading cause of death among adolescents around the world. It is estimates that around 20% of teens have mental health issues at some point in their lives, increasing the probability for teen suicide.

Deaths to teens ages 12-19 add up to a small fraction of the total deaths each year in the United States, but still remain to be a growing problem today.

Mortality rates among teens vary by sex, race and age. Non-

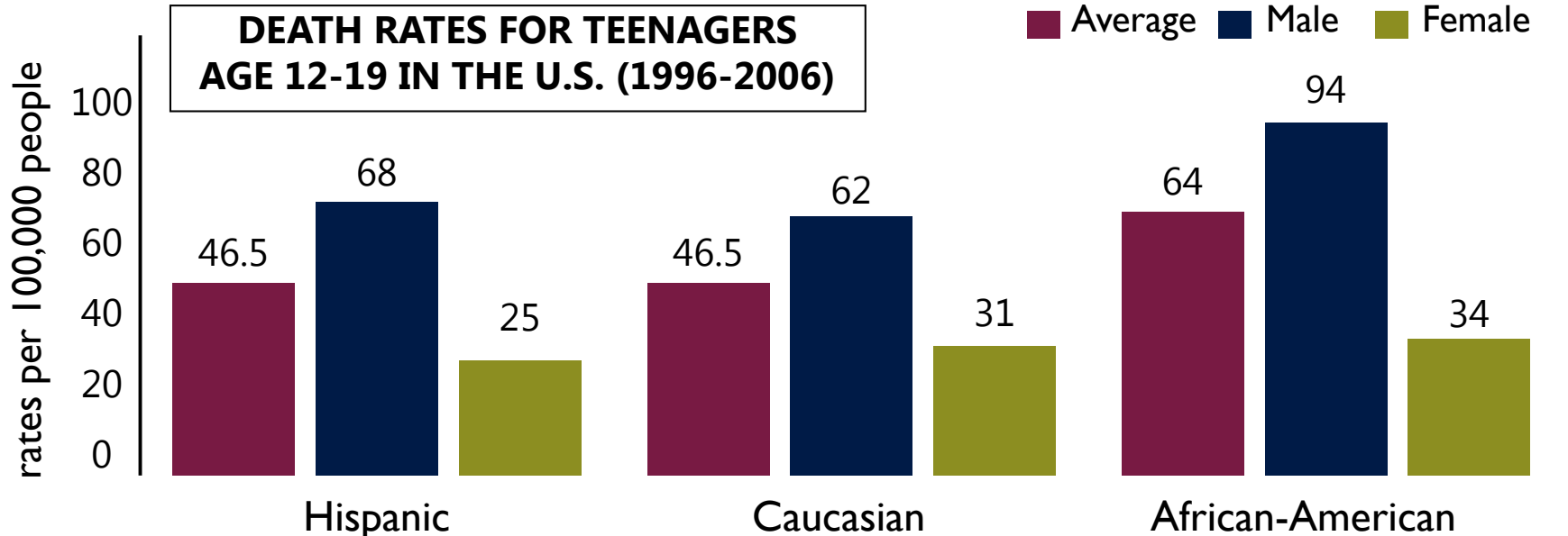
Hispanic black males have the highest death rate: 94.1 deaths per 100,000. Non-Hispanic black females also have the highest rank within their category, 34 deaths per 100,000.

A lot of effort has been done in the past 50 years to improve the survival rate of kids. For the most part it's worked, but once they enter their teenage years, danger is another open opportunity. As if teen isn't hard enough, a report from UNICEF shows that each year 1.4 million people between the ages of 10 and 19 die from preventable causes such as traffic injuries, violence, childbirth complications, suicide, and AIDS.

There hasn't been enough thinking about the behaviors and life-threatening actions that occur during adolescence. It is a lot easier to go to a pharmacy and get a child immunized than it is to talk teenage drivers out of texting and driving.

Teen mortality is a growing topic of conversation in our community due to the recent experiences we've been through.

Not only in Omaha, but around our country it is an enlarging and touchy subject that needs to be taken charge of. It's time to take a stand and do something about the future leaders that America is losing every day.



U.S. has highest minimum drinking age; not in best interest of citizens

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

When Candice Lightner lost her 13-year-old daughter, Cari, to a drunk driver, her grief prompted her to take action and found an interest group called M.A.D.D, Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Lightner's organization was pivotal in lobbying Congress to change the minimum drinking age to 21 nationwide, when The National Minimum Drinking Age Act became effective on July 17, 1984.

Yet, was the change of the U.S legal drinking age a wise decision in reference to modern times?

Lightner herself left M.A.D.D in 1985. In an interview with The Washington Times in 2002, Lightner said that the group "has become far more neo-prohibitionist than I had ever wanted or envisioned...I didn't start M.A.D.D to deal with alcohol. I started M.A.D.D to deal with the issue of drunk driving."

Recent statistics seem to validate Lightner's reason to leave M.A.D.D, indicating that the issue of alcohol consumption has been enforced too strictly in America, and that its effect on teenagers is crippling.

According to Procon.org, those in favor of lowering the minimum legal drinking age from 21 believe the law has not prevented teenage drinking. It has had the opposite effect, increasing the likelihood of teenagers participating in underage binge drinking in private and "less controlled environments."

An argument for the lowering of the U.S minimum drinking age is that at the age of 18, teenagers gain all of their legal adult rights, that is, except the right to drink alcohol.

HealthResearchFunding.org has analyzed this information and come to the conclusion that by allowing a supervised drinking ability for teens aged 18-20, it could reduce risky drinking behaviors that can lead to possible injury or death.

Health Research Funding is not the only group that has found the factors of the U.S legal drinking age detrimental to teenagers.

In 2004, former Middlebury College president John McCardell, observing the frequency of teen underage drinking, wrote a New York Times op-ed that referred to the drinking age of 21 as "bad social policy and a terrible law."

Three years later, McCardell founded Choose Responsibility, a nonprofit organization with the goals of lowering the drinking age to 18, as well as spreading better awareness as to the dangers of reckless alcohol consumption among teenagers.

McCardell's stance has credence to it. According to the Annual Review of Public Health, alcohol annually contributes to 1,700 deaths, 599,000 injuries and 97,000 cases of sexual assault among college students.

These statistics could be lower if the U.S minimum drinking age was changed to 18. In agreement with this position are various university and college presidents taking part in Amethyst Initiative, a movement for a reconsideration of The National Minimum



Drinking Age Act.

In a 2010 interview with Boston University Today, Barrett Seaman, the current president of Choose Responsibility and affiliate of Amethyst Initiative spoke in favor of lowering the legal drinking age to 18.

"Another part of my eureka moment was when I visited McGill University. As you know, McGill is in Montreal, where the drinking age is 18..." said Seaman. "I was really struck by the relative civility I found up at McGill. It just wasn't a big deal. They could go down to the bars in Montreal and drink or go to the clubs or they could have a case of beer delivered to their dorm rooms."

Seaman compared his findings to the negative effects of underage teen alcoholism in similar schools in America. There was only one conclusion to be made.

"So I came away from that convinced that 21 was not solving the

problem," Seaman said. "It was part of the problem."

It is clear from the quotes of Lightner, McCardell and Seaman as well as multiple studies that The National Minimum Drinking Age Act moved the emphasis of drunk driving to a skewed position on alcoholism based on mere assumptions about teenage drinking.

If the government were to realize the facts, that there is an increase of teenage violence, drunkenness and death due to frustration among teens of having every right at age 18 except drinking privileges, they would see that maintaining the legal drinking age at 21 is not the way to go.

The statistics instead point to the need to change the age to 18. At 18, teenagers are fully able to make adult decisions. If they could drink, excessive drinking (especially in college dorms) would be nonexistent because teens would not feel the urge to rebel against being deprived of alcohol consumption for so long.

After all, the U.S has the highest minimum legal drinking age in the world. If teenagers can drink responsibly at 16 in Germany, (where Eurocare.org found the total alcohol consumption decreased to about 10.5 liters per capita in 2000) then the same can apply in America with a drinking age of 18 that would be much more equal to the rest of the globe.

The National Minimum Drinking Age Act has caused widespread suffering in the 18-20 age group, but that doesn't mean the concerns of Washington and M.A.D.D aren't valid. Instead, an understanding can be reached by those for and against changing the legal age to 18 if everyone works together to spread advocacy for trustworthy drinking, that restricting teenagers from drinking until 21 doesn't keep the alcohol out of their hands.

It is to be noted that the driver who killed Lightner's daughter in 1980, starting the process for the drinking age law, was 46. Hence, alcohol restrictions in America should not be leveled on 18-20 year olds. The issue should be addressed with all citizens beginning at the age of 18, or teenagers across America will continue to be unfairly punished under the restrictions of The National Minimum Drinking Act that ought to be reviewed by Washington in light of a changing society, where 18 year olds are considered adults yet aren't given the benefit of the doubt when it comes to picking up a bottle of beer.

Denver protests ensure high school history classes teach accurately

BY MADELINE HAYKO
staff writer

High school students in Denver, protested against the school board on Sept. 23. to ensure a proposal does not pass. The proposal leaves out a lot of the important things that happened in U.S. history, like the riots and protests. By agreeing on this proposal, history will be taught so that America seems like a perfect country with no outbursts.

Teachers and high school students disagree. The students want to know what really happened in their country no matter how bad or disturbing it may be.

For two days, hundreds of high school students walked out of several high schools across Denver to protest this proposal. The three conservatives on the board are in favor of the proposal but two others aren't so sure this is the right way to go. They feel like the kids should be getting the truth about how corrupt the U.S. really was in the past.

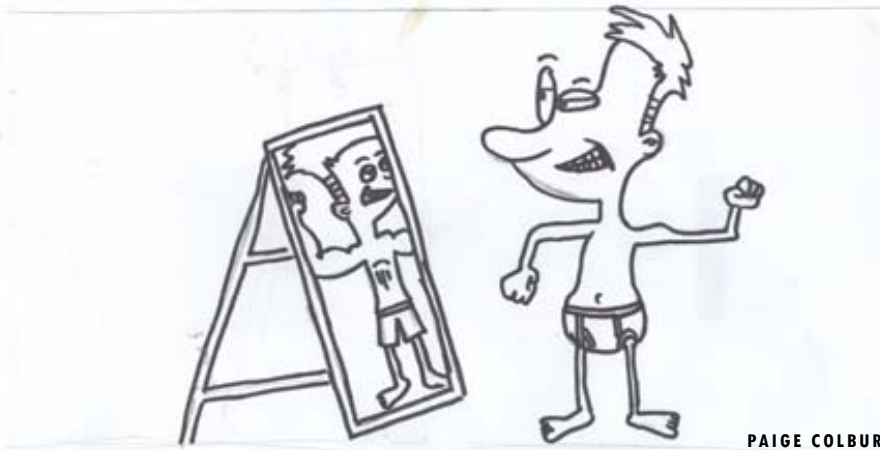
Julie Williams, part of the board's conservative majority, made the proposal and wouldn't give a comment about the proposal to the Associated Press. She says she does recognize the bad things that happened in Americas past but she doesn't want students to think that America is a bad place. The proposal is intended to show America's history in a more positive light.

The students aren't just protesting the change of how U.S. history may be taught, but they are also protesting their teachers pay. A few teachers canceled their classes and went out to protest with students because of their pay. This proposal will link teachers' pay to their evaluations. If teachers receive bad evaluations, they will get paid less. If they get a good evaluation, their pay will go up. The teachers find this unfair and the students also wish to stand up for them.

Both of these issues are unnecessary. The history of the U.S. should not be changed, students need to know what really happened in their nation. If history is taught to show that we are good and other countries are bad, then students will not be knowledgeable enough, ultimately entering the world as adults ignorantly. The school board would actually be doing them a disservice for teachers by not letting them teach the way they want and letting teachers use their own methods. The board could use constructive criticism if they are so focused on evaluations, but they shouldn't be linking pay and evaluations together.

With this new proposal the students wouldn't be learning about protests at all so it is kind of ironic if you think about it. It's good to know that the students care about their education and that they want the really hard facts, they don't need people to sugar coat it for them.

Mistakes prove to be helpful, add to learning



PAIGE COLBURN | The Register

BY ALEC ROME
staff writer

Perfection discourages mistakes, while excellence doesn't due to the fact that mistakes are needed in order to advance in many aspects of life.

Even if one thinks there may be someone or something perfect, there is always something wrong with them, no matter what the magnitude of the issue. Don't believe it? Here's an example.

Let's say a basketball team goes undefeated in the regular season and in the playoffs, then wins the championship. There were some games where the team was dominant and games where the score was fairly close. Some would still call the season a "perfect" season. However, there are plenty of things that made the season imperfect.

First, there were some games where they could have done better. They weren't dominant in all of their games and they could have easily lost some. Also, since it is basketball, the undefeated team had to have been scored on, so that of course doesn't make them perfect. If they were perfect, they would shut out all of their opponents and score as many points as possible in the time allotted. With basketball or any sport, that truly is not possible.

The NFL, for example, has never had a team with a 19-0 season. That shows that even partial perfection is not only hard to achieve but also hard to fathom. Very few thought any team could ever get close to that mark. There have been three teams to come close, the closest being the New England Patriots. In 2007, they stomped their opponents in the regular season and went all the way to the Super Bowl, only to lose (somewhat controversially to Patriots fans). They obviously weren't perfect, but no matter what the outcome of the Super Bowl was, they still wouldn't be perfect. There were times

when they could have played better, gave the other team an easy touchdown, etc. If they were to have been truly perfect, they would have been practically a "football empire," really dominant in all of their games and shut out all of their opponents.

Most people try to look for the perfect person. They're probably fit, attractive and (hopefully) somewhat intelligent. But is there really a person that has no flaws in existence? The answer is a solemn no.

Even a person cannot be perfect. They can have perfections, but there is something that is "wrong" with them. Perfection in a person is perception based, so it is tougher to prove, but most of the time there will be something that someone doesn't like in a person. This is the main idea in the flawed concept of perfection; the inexistence of flawlessness.

When people strive for perfection, they are striving for something that is unreachable. When people strive for excellence, they are setting a more reachable and reasonable goal for themselves.

It's not a bad thing to make mistakes. Mistakes help one learn and become better at what one does or who one is. It isn't meant to put anyone down, but meant to ignite determination even after they are on top. Just like the best players in sports, they don't let their guard down just because they became the best. They continue to work and continue to get better so they can keep their place on the throne that is the best in their particular sport. If one gets themselves caught in the idea of perfection, they will only be hurting themselves in the end. They will be too critical instead of encouraging.

So, to be technically correct, say excellent instead of perfection. "Perfection" is an extreme.

Pope suggests reform regarding same sex couples in the Catholic Church

BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

The Vatican, a state less than 100 acres in area, has a major influence on world views of Catholics across the globe. It is home to the pope, the holiest of all Catholic officials, as well as many other notable people within the faith.

The current Pope, Pope Francis I, has been in office for over a year. Prior to his papacy, Pope Francis served as a cardinal in his native country of Argentina. A cardinal is the level in between becoming a priest and being the pope. Not all priests will become cardinals and only a few cardinals will have the opportunity to become pope.

Since Francis' papacy began, he has brought upon a new way of thinking and tolerance of people to the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church has condemned homosexuals for centuries, as well as other "nontraditional" groups or concepts. For years the Catholic Church has advocated against abortion, gay marriage, and even divorce between married couples. Although Francis does not completely condone any of these things, he has expressed a different outlook than what Catholics are used to and he urges the faith and community to modernize.

Pope Francis has said many things in his first year of papacy that have sparked discussion and controversy. Francis's first public speech told his followers to show mercy and compassion to those who have made wrong decisions. He referenced John 8:1-11, a passage in the Old Testament which tells the story of a woman who committed adultery. Soon afterward, a woman told Francis she was in crisis with religion, and questioning her faith. He told her not to worry, because he is in a similar situation least twice a month.

Francis, like any other pope before him has preached acceptance and tolerance of all people, the idea is main stream for most religions. But rarely are these concepts actually practiced. Francis has preached tolerance of other religions, other view points, as well as being more understanding of the lifestyle of the modern catholic. Pope Francis has served as the Catholic Church's trailblazer in entering the modern world.

But just recently Francis did something more controversial than anything he had done before.

On Monday Oct. 13th the Pope discussed the concept of gay marriage, and stated that the



Church will consider moving away from the traditional view of homosexuality as a sin. The report said that gays have "gifts and qualities to the Christian community" and that gay couples can provide each other "precious support in the life of their partners." The document was read aloud to over 200 bishops and released publicly to the 1.2 billion members of the Catholic Church. Last July, Pope Francis famously stated, "If gay people accept the Lord and have goodwill, who am I to judge them?" His quote hinted at the possibility of reform regarding the perception of homosexuality by the Catholic Church.

The Catholic Church has not come to terms entirely with the concept of homosexuality or gay marriage but stating that they will be more tolerant towards gay marriage is a healthy start for the church to the Vatican released a 12-page report, which did not fully support gay adapt to modern day views of the world. Raised as a Catholic myself, I am aware that the ideas pumped out from the church are not always accepted by all church officials and definitely not accepted by all Catholics.

Reform of the Catholic Church is far from over in the eyes of those within the church as well as outside of the church. Cardinal Luis Antonio G. Tagle of Manila summed up the entirety of the work being done in the Vatican with a simple statement "So the drama continues." The struggles in the Catholic Church will rage on.

Ultimately Francis has worked hard to deal with the modern day struggles of the Catholic Church. Although Francis has preached openness throughout his papacy, trying to change the minds of all Catholics is not what he strives for. Francis goal during his papacy is to preach openness and acceptance of all people and reflect a positive light on the Catholic Church and the Vatican.

PHOTO COURTESY OF BUSINESSINSIDER.COM

arts & entertainment

National Honors Society members volunteer at Omaha Marathon

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

When asked to get up at five o'clock on a Sunday morning, most teenagers would scoff at the audacity of such a question.

But when Central's NHS members were given the opportunity to volunteer for the Omaha Marathon, they eagerly signed up, embracing

the early start time.

Sept. 21 was a busy day for Omaha, the day of the 39th annual Omaha Marathon. With events such as the Half-marathon, Friends and Family Mile, 5 and 10 K also occurring, large amounts of volunteers were needed to make the day a success.

Being an organization whose core values are scholarship, leadership, character and service, NHS committed to help work the event early in Aug.

The specific task was to work three water and Gatorade stations for thirsty runners passing by. Many volunteers were needed to refill, stock cups and, in addition, offer fruit and energy shots to the marathon participants.

According to senior NHS member Bethany Harwick, the job was a simple one, but crucial for the runners in need of something to keep them going.

CONTINUE TO 'NHS' ON PAGE 14



PHOTO COURTESY OF | Cey Adams

CEY ADAMS

VISUAL ARTIST,
GRAPHIC DESIGNER
& AUTHOR
ENLIGHTENS ART CLUB
MEMBERS

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO
staff writer

Cey Adams, a visual artist, graphic designer and author, as well as the founding creative director of Def Jams Recordings, took time out of his busy schedule to speak to Central students about his life, his inspiration and to encourage their curiosity towards art.

Adams began his career in the late 70s-early 80s as a graffiti artist. He then studied at New York's School of Visual Arts and later worked alongside Jean Michel Basquiat, an American artist, who he considered a close friend. He developed a close relationship with popular group the Beastie Boys when he began to design the graffiti lettering for the cover of their

12th single "Cooky Puss."

Adams worked with Russell Simon's Rush Artist Management creating logos, merchandise and advertising campaigns for rap artists. He's been known to work with Run DMC, De La Soul and LL Cool J.

It was in the late 80s that Adams began to oversee the visual style of Def Jams artists. It was there that he worked with Public Enemy, Jay-Z, Mary J. Bilge and many other artists. Adams has been described as legendary for his work in hip-hop graphic design and continues to do so.

Currently Adams continues to work on his paintings in his studio but has dedicated time to speaking to young stu-

CONTINUE TO 'CEY' ON PAGE 14

English author Skypes book club members for question, answer session

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

Even in today's technologically driven climate, there are always going to be students who prefer a good book, and for them, the only thing better is getting to talk to the author behind the literary work. With this in mind, librarian Beth Eilers and Central's book club make sure to provide opportunities for students to interact with the authors of any books they might be reading. On Oct. 7, Alexander Gordon Smith, author of the Escape from Furnace and The Inventors series, Skyped students for a question and answer session in the library.

Smith, born and still resides in Norwich, England, was able to connect with Central students via Skype. The first of six author digital visits, an event was orchestrated by Eilers, who also heads the book club. Students were given several weeks notice for the visit. They either signed up in the library or emailed Eilers in order to attend.

The meet and greet began with Smith giving a brief introduction about his life and career as an author. He elaborated on his early aspirations to become a horror writer, beginning with his first book, "The Little Monster Book," written by him at age six. He says, "I just wanted to scare my mom." At around the same age, his grandma introduced him to "Texas Chainsaw Massacre", following which he said that even Scooby Doo scared him. By age 11 though, that fear had subsided, and he had set his mind to becoming a young adult horror author.

CONTINUE TO 'GORDON' ON PAGE 14



ANN MILROY | The Register

Author Alex Gordon passionately relates his experiences and offers advice for aspiring young authors.



HAUNTED ATTRACTIONS ►

PAGE 16

The Register reviews four of Omaha's haunted houses. Enter if you dare!



FILM STREAMS ►

PAGE 15

The independent movie theater showcases films from several young local directors.



HEALING ARTS CENTER ►

PAGE 17

The Center enriches the Old Market shopping district by offering foreign healing products and services.

National Honors Society works stations at Omaha Marathon

CONTINUE FROM 'NHS' FROM PAGE 13

"It wasn't what I expected it to be," said Harwick. "It was very crazy with all the runners and I didn't expect I would have to work so fast."

Like all big races, the water stations at the marathon were full of excitement, with three groups of NHS members present to encourage the crowds of participants and provide them refreshments.

"It was awesome just knowing that you're making a difference for the runners so they can perform better as well as stay healthy and hydrated," said senior Emily Callahan.

For senior Yedid Maya, the onslaught of runners was the best part of the marathon. It was the principle of giving back to the community that drove her and other NHS members to help at the marathon. In the eyes of Harwick, Maya, Callahan and others, it was a little service compared to the efforts of the marathon participants to donate to the city and run the 26 mile race.

Yet, numerous thank-yous and words of appreciation were called out by runners as they received their cups of water and Gatorade.

"The best part was seeing how happy and grateful the runners were when you gave them water," said Harwick. "It was also exciting when a fast runner would successfully take mine without it spilling everywhere."

With homeowners coming out of their homes to cheer on the passing runners and crowds energetically waving to monitoring police, the community spirit was obvious to the NHS volunteers.

"It really surprised me how many people actually took the time to thank and show their appreciation for the volunteers, even though they're under such stress and time constraints that come with running a marathon," said Callahan. "It was great to see that the runners really did appreciate what we were doing."

For the NHS members, the atmosphere at the Omaha Marathon was one of togetherness, friendship and teamwork to reach the finish line.

One example of that was the marathon's choice of the Team Jack Foundation as the official charity of the race. Many runners sported the Team Jack logo on their shirts, and over \$50,000 was raised for Team Jack, according to Fox 42 News.

Harwick was also impressed by the crowds of supporters and positive attitudes displayed at the marathon.

"I would definitely do it again next year," said Harwick.

Maya and Callahan also felt the unity of the event was plenty enough reason to volunteer in 2015.

"I would definitely do this again next year," said Callahan. "This was my first time ever seeing a marathon, and I thought it was inspiring to see the perseverance of the runners and also fun to be able to help out and make a difference."



PHOTO COURTESY OF |NHS

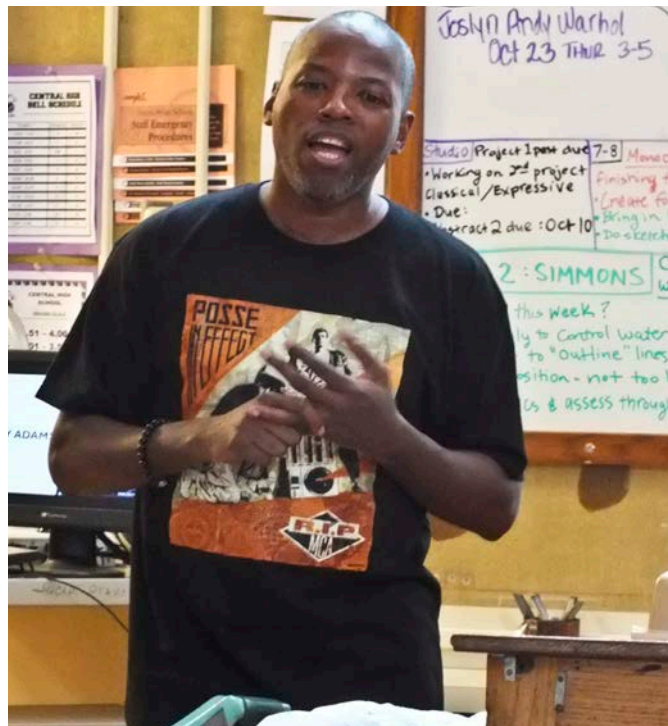
National Honors Society members represent Central as they run a water and gatorade stand during the marathon.

Def Jam Creative Director, artist motivates Art Club members



PHOTO COURTESY OF |Cey Adams

Left: Cey Adams' graffiti art piece entitled "Carpe Diem." Right: Adams shares details of his career with student artists.



PAIGE COLBURN | The Register

CONTINUE FROM "CEY" FROM PAGE 13

dents interested in art. "I'm really big on connecting with younger artists," Adams said during his presentation.

Adams grew up during the hip-hop era in New York City, which is why he is interested in connecting with young artists. He said that his parents encouraged his interest in graffiti and even gave him supplies.

His career emerged at a young age when he first discovered graffiti. It was his love for graffiti that led him to building connections with up-and-coming artist who would later become big names, such as Jay-Z.

During his presentation, Adams alluded to his past and the development of his career for students to understand his work. "[I'm] trying to shed some of the light on what me and my friends did back in the

day," Adams said. "Hopefully I can say something to enlighten you, inspire you or set you on the right path if for whatever reason you're not clear about which direction you want to go into."

It was Adams who asked to come to Central and speak to the students. "I asked to come here because I think that you guys are growing up at a time where you are really impressionable but you may or may not be clear on what you want to do with your art work," Adams said.

Through slide shows the students got the chance to see some of Adams' work. He has developed his style throughout the years but states that he is "a creature of habit." His works have remained subtly the same throughout the years; he claims that his use of the same color palette consistently is him only trying to perfect his work.

With each picture Adams showed, he included a personal story that involved the inspiration behind the work and the experience he

had. He spoke to the students about his relationships between the many artists he has worked with in the past as well as projects he had undertaken himself and current ones as well.

After working for Def Jams, Adams continues to perfect his craft. He still maintains connections with the artists he worked with as a teenager. And along the way he has made new ones, including working with Maroon 5 and Kid Rock. He states that it was his work with the Beastie Boys that allowed him to branch out to be able to work with other artists. He also toured with the Beastie Boys and that allowed him to work on commissions for various people overseas. It was this period of his life that really allowed him to hone his skills.

With his story, Adams hopes to inspire younger artists to cement their own path and be certain of what they want to do and to know that there is no failure.

Gordon answers book club's questions via Skype from England

CONTINUE FROM "GORDON" FROM PAGE 13

During his childhood, Smith recounts a time where he and his friend Nigel decided to spend the night in an abandoned manor house in order to have something to write about. Upon entering the parlor, they began to hear repetitive screeching sounds. These sounds made Smith flee the house, and he also said, "I thought the house was eating Nigel." This experience helped shape the kind of author he wanted to be, "the author who went out and found real experiences."

After his introduction, students from the audience were allowed to come up to the webcam for a small face to face meeting and ask questions of their choice. The questions ranged from "What is your favorite book" to "Which character in Furnace would you like to meet." All were very eloquently answered, as well as being filled with jokes and pieces of humor.

Regardless of what question he was asked, Smith always made sure to include his love for his profession in his answer. He says, "Writing a book is just like reading the best book ever. You know what is going to happen and your characters don't."

He went on to explain what drew him into the genre of horror. He said, "Nothing is straight forward, if you believe the impossible in the world, you'll believe the impossible about yourself." He also added that it is that sense of possibility that fuels his writing, and continually provides him with new ideas.

Smith was asked several times how long it takes him to complete a book. To this he answered that it all depends on the length of the work and the effort the author is willing to put it. He said the hardest part of writing a novel is becoming attached to a character and then losing them.

Staying true to his mantra of using experiences to inspire stories, Smith said that the majority of his inspiration for *Escape from Furnace* came from his own rough patch as a teenager. He gets the rest of his inspiration by asking one simple question, "Ask what if, and you will have so many ideas it would take many lifetimes to write them all down." Lastly, he adds that try as he might; he never seems to be able to write something that is not horror, but that he is working on it, and has several new books currently in the works.

Eilers said that the attendance for the Skype visits has varied from six to 25, and that with more visits to come, she thinks it would be great if new students could come. If anyone is interested in attending the next sessions, they can be found on the library's website, as well as a list of the Authors speaking. Eilers said, "The reason they are always entertaining, is because any author willing to Skype a room full of high schoolers, obviously isn't shy, and is very out-going."



ANN MILROY | The Register

Youth author Alex Gordon holds a question-and-answer session with students. Gordon was in England at the time of the call.

social media sites infringe privacy, make money from users' personal information



NATALIE NEPPER
NOT GONNA LIE

As social media profiles become more prominent than ever, the idea of privacy is almost an after-thought. Anything you post or share has the possibility of being out there forever; however Facebook takes this to a new level. Although not one of the newer social media sites, Facebook to disregard privacy the most.

Once you log out of a social media site, nothing you do on the internet afterwards should have any effect on your profile. For Facebook, this is not the case. This social media platform tracks and monitors all other websites you visit afterwards. This information is gathered together to form individual user profiles that businesses can use when you open the site once again. When you log in back in to Facebook, advertisements of previous websites visited and businesses that relate to your internet history will be purposefully placed alongside your feed. Although the concept itself will save marketing money by appealing only to a target audience, the idea of tracking your internet usage is a totally absurd invasion of privacy.

Facebook's "tracking" goes to the extent of specifically placing ads with the production of an online shopping platform. Additionally, the Facebook app will trace apps you use on your phone and websites you visit on the Safari app in order to form more advertisements.

Facebook tracking is not a new concept. Facebook has been recording tracking users since early 2011 despite the fact that they denied these claims. So essentially, all the videos you've read, songs you've listened to or videos you've watched in the past three years have possibly been stored in a pit of information that Facebook uses to pay for.

In fact, this pit of statistics can only stop tracking you if you delete cookies from any access after you log out. These cookies are essentially just small text files that are silently installed on your computer to monitor your site usage. Stopping cookies can be done by installing ad blocking programs such as AdBlock Plus or Facebook Disconnect for Chrome. The process of going through and installing programs for something that you've been stopped a long time ago is tedious and quite annoying.

These cookies also let advertisers know who, if anyone, visited their site and their ad appeared on Facebook feeds. The allowance of this data to be used is part of Facebook's terms of service, which each user blindly agrees to when signing up for the site.

In this year, digital ads are expected to be purchased more by marketers and printed in newspapers or magazines.

In all, the idea of being monitored and tracked on a regular basis is not in itself, let alone the fact that businesses can purchase this information without user consent. Deleting Facebook and all of its cookies doesn't seem like such a bad thought considering their monitoring will probably only increase in an effort to make more money.

Official guitar ensemble group comes to a close, dozens of dedicated students plan to continue performances throughout the year

BY JORDAN YOUNG
co web editor

The guitar program at CHS is still going strong with two classes of 49 students—a growth of 14 students from the 35 the classes began with three years ago.

Last year the guitar ensemble consisted of second year guitar students who performed at the State Capitol, the winter assembly and the guitar recital that they held for the first time.

Though the whole group graduated and there is no third year group of students currently, the second year class will still perform during the guitar recital on May 6th and the guitar festival on May 9th at South High School.

Setting aside competitions and performances, three years ago the focus for the guitar program had a very dissimilar focal point.

"...We thought there were kids who wanted to be a part of instrumental music [and] didn't play a band or orchestra instrument," said guitar teacher Brad Rauch. "It's a growing trend in the country to start guitar classes, and guitar ensembles and we wanted Central to be cutting edge—a part of the trend."

And these kids who come to class are a diverse and unique group.

"I really like the diverse group of students," said Rauch.

Rauch noted that some kids have a vast background in music, while others simply don't.

"[Some] haven't had any ensemble experience...some have," he said.

Senior Yedid Maya is one of the more musically experienced guitar students and loves the class, atmosphere and teachers.

Maya began taking the class last year and although she didn't know exactly how to play guitar, she caught on quickly and it became one of her favorite classes.

"I enjoyed it very much," she said.

But having to learn fundamentals such as playing chords

or reading notes doesn't deter students from succeeding in the class.

About learning to read music, Rauch says "[it's] like learning a language, learning to read, math...[it] takes repetition."

What can be even tougher is performing improvisations.

"It's more that we're all really shy," said Maya with a laugh. "...Mr. Rauch likes to pick on me especially...[but it's] helped me get more confidence." Despite the challenges, Rauch has full belief in his students and sees improvement in the class.

"It depends on the student...if they practice," he said. "It's easy if you try," he said laughing. "How corny is that?"

If not in the case of Maya's story, the hurdles needed to jump in the class are then tolerable for second year guitar students who move up a year from the last.

Unlike the beginning class which focuses more on key fundamental skills, second year plays more pieces; much like the band or orchestra would do during class. Sometimes they play together as an ensemble and other times they split up parts from a bigger piece and practice them individually. While the beginning class plays a lot in unison to practice, second year will practice more individual pieces and do "more work on actual pieces."

The genre skips from blues and jazz to classical, even Renaissance styles.

"My favorite was folk...those are fun," she said.

The common thread running through all guitar students, whether beginning or advanced, first year or second year, is that they all just want to play.

So in the future Rauch hopes for his guitar students to perform and play more out in the community.

For now, the courage and confidence students build up from improvising, learning to read a new "language" push them to play for the recital and the South High tournament where small groups, big groups and some solos.

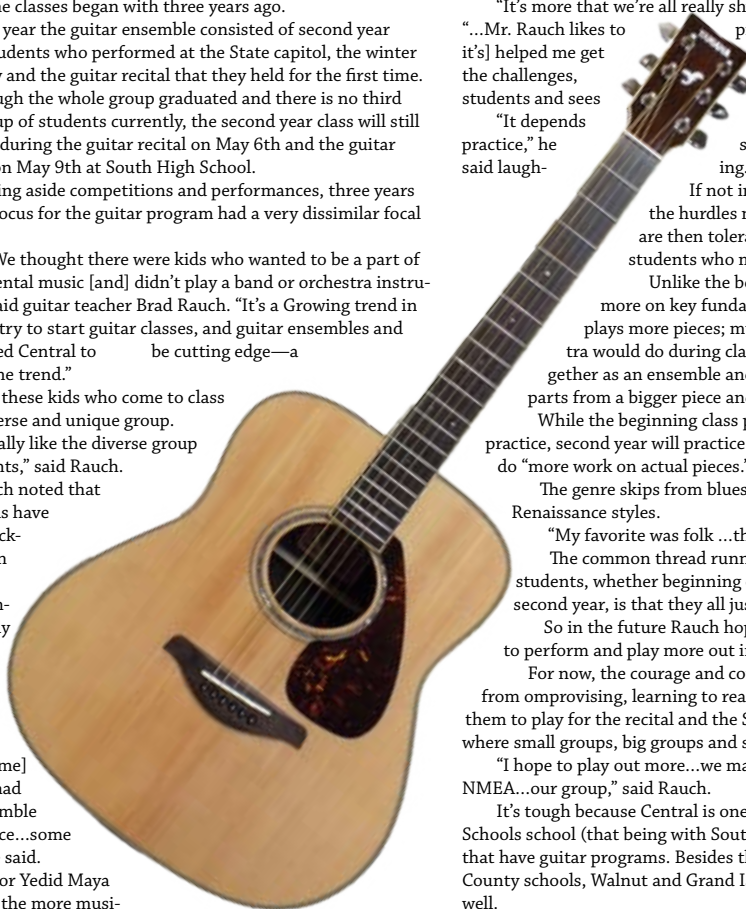
"I hope to play out more...we made a recording [with] NMEA...our group," said Rauch.

It's tough because Central is one of three Omaha Public Schools school (that being with South High and Norris Middle) that have guitar programs. Besides them, Blair High School, Tri County schools, Walnut and Grand Island have the program as well.

In the opinions of guitar students, it would be a fantastic idea to have the opportunity to show more people their abilities.

"Yes," said Maya about the hopes of guitar classes performing more. "I know that class is very good, but they are kind of hidden in the basement."

However, from the sound of music uplifting from the room, that hopefully won't be the case in the near future.



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ART FORM - DEVOTED TO THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FILM AS AN ART FORM

ANN MILROY | The Register

Theater showcases films from local young directors

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ART FORM - DEVOTED TO THE PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION OF FILM AS AN ART FORM

BY MADELINE HAYKO
staff writer

Film Streams theater has begun to show a new series of movies, featuring only works from local, independent filmmakers.

Created by Omaha World-Herald entertainment writers, this is the fifth annual showcase of regional filmmaking.

This year the showcase features 12 films in a 123-minute program. Screening started on October 16.

Thanks to The Omaha World-Herald, these upcoming artists will have a chance to shine in their native city.

In the past five years, some artists have not only come from Nebraska, but Iowa and South Dakota too.

The staff writers who are responsible for selecting the films are food critic Sarah Baker-Hansen, film and theater writer Bob Fischbach, columnist Matthew Hansen, feature reporter Casey Logan and online entertainment editor Micah Mertens.

Out of all the short films, the longest one runs for

only 30 minutes. That film is called Ready For Kindergarten and was directed by Nebraska Loves Public Schools. It is essentially a 30 minute documentary exhibiting the benefits of public schooling.

The documentary was filmed from interviews from teachers and students who share their views on the good and the bad in the schools. Teachers also talk about how they wish for all students to succeed in public schools.

Another film, Afterlight, is a story of the inherent darkness and lightness a human being is born with. It only lasts three minutes. This film was made with several pictures that were drawn with charcoal.

Sometimes one picture had to be drawn up to eight times to get it right.

The director is also an animator that has also written two books of poems, and his films have won international awards.

Orenda Fink, "Ace of Cups" and The Faint, "Evil Voices" are two films that were both directed by Nick Fackler who is the only director to have two films in the showcase. When Fackler decided to become a filmmaker he

met Orenda Fink and the first film is about her.

After she saw potential in his work she let Fackler make a music video for one of her songs. They have since worked together on music videos and films.

His second film in the showcase is a music video for a band called The Faint. This video was based on an experience he claims to have had where he "left" his body and little elves took out his soul and wrapped it around a cog which represented the universe.

Aaron Gum who has worked with Fackler for many years helped with post-production work and other art.

Fackler who is from and still resides in Omaha made his film debut when he made the film Lovely, Still, which included a few Oscar winning actors and the film received much praise.

Later he began his career directing music videos, and is a member of the band Icky Blossoms which released their debut album on Saddle Creek Records record label.

There are several more artists of all ages in this showcase, and the span of ideas and creativity shown is expansive.

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SCARY ACRES

Rating: 8 / 10

BY TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

The long drive to 172nd and Giles Road is probably the most painful car ride ever, depending on the distance. For many, the car ride may be long and for others a quick drive but either way the feeling is the same. Anticipation rises and anxiety is present. What awaits you?

Walking up to the admission booth you see the Scary Acres sign and instantly you consider going to all three attractions for \$25 or paying for one of the three attractions. Paying for either "The Haunted Woods" for \$8, "House on the Hill" for \$10 or "The Masters Castle" for \$11 is okay, but how could you pay for just one? You could save four dollars if you paid for all three, for a night of fun.

As you walk past the admissions booth there are bonfires and concession stands in sight. Then all of a sudden there is a skeleton chasing you with a chainsaw. Everyone is screaming and running as if their lives are in danger.

Walking further unto the sight you come upon the three main attractions. The first one you see is near the bonfires, "The Haunted Woods." Approaching the attraction and listening to the rules, then you think to yourself, "What have I gotten myself into?" Suddenly she screams, "Fresh meat" into the wide open. Your pulse rises and you dart off in hopes of not falling over your untied shoe string.

Overall "The Haunter Woods" is not the scariest because there aren't many surprises lurking behind trees. The actors are out in the open and this attraction lacks the feeling of what is going to happen next, until you're nearing the end and you trip over your shoe lace because you are being chased by the man with the chain saw.

After exiting "The Haunted Woods" the next attraction is, "House on the Hill." Looking at the House (which is actually on a hill so the name is not deceiving) sparks up your heart beat. Even the sight of this place makes you want to pee your pants. Walking up the hill is another thing because you never know if an actor with jump out at you. The tension creeps up your back as you stand against the porch single file line listening to the rules (once again). Enter if you dare. As you go into the house there is a creepy girl who makes you fall her through a book shelf, this is where the fun be begins.

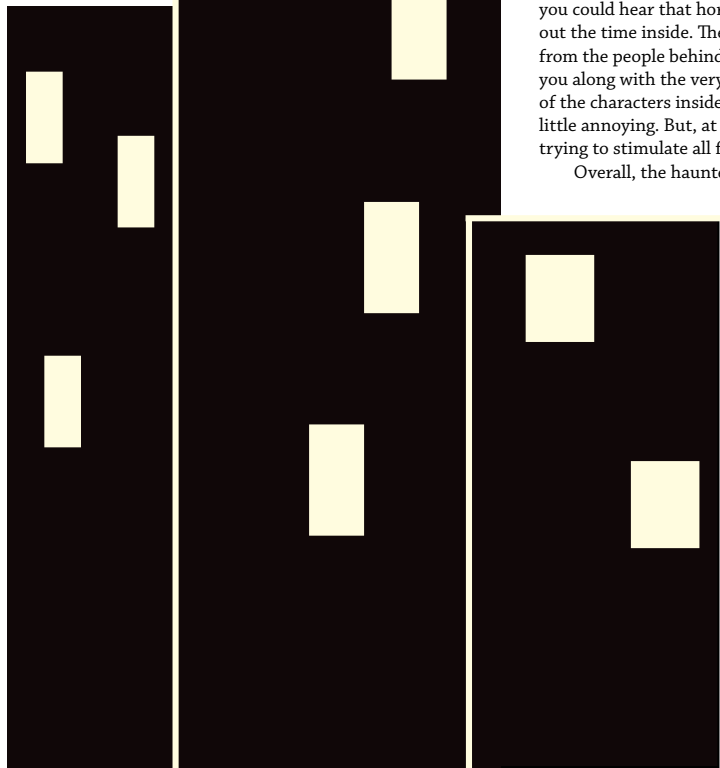
After leaving "House on the Hill" you have one last attraction to attend. Walking to the entrance of "The Masters Castle" is not as terrifying as "House on the Hill." But going inside the castle is another thing. As you wait for the rules to speed by, the creepy laughs and giggles get the best of you. Every corner you turn you must check your back because there might be that one actor lurking behind the door and makes you want to pee your pants.

Of the three attractions the scariest one was "House on the Hill" because you end up being chased by a chain saw and actually falling as you try escaping and running down the hill. As you enter this house imagine you are in a scary movie, would you fall and get up or stay on the ground screaming for dear life?

Other scary attractions were "House on the Hill" and "The Masters Castle." They are the best because the scariest parts of each were the illusions and creepy noises the actors made while you walked through. At some point in time you are in a black and white spinning room with an actor jumping up and down screaming, "Beetle Juice."

While "The Haunted Woods" was not very scary, it is a fun experience because the actors are funny and easy to joke around with.

Instead of spending \$25 for each, save yourself \$8 and exclude "The Haunted Woods" from your night. Although these attractions are only scary for your first time, any second time visits are not recommended.



ENTER — IF YOU — DARE

THE REGISTER REVIEWS AND RATES OMAHA'S
BEST AND WORST HAUNTED ATTRACTIONS
OPEN THIS FALL

SHADOWS EDGE

Rating: 8.5 / 10

BY ALEC ROME
staff writer

You walk up to this haunted house, and you hear two things: screaming and people warming up chainsaws. Chills run down your spine and your first thought is "Awesome, let's go in."

The Shadow's Edge is out on South 84th in the Mangelsen's parking lot. Don't let the size of this haunted house fool you; it can take a good 20 or 25 minutes to go through. Most of the haunted house was very cramped and so there were plenty of things to see.

Shadow's Edge described itself as "an in your face haunted experience."

However they do not tolerate grabbing or touching, adding to the quality of the entire experience. While waiting in line, they also entertain you by walking around and getting in your face, which is quite enjoyable when hearing someone scream before they even get into the haunted house. There are characters around every corner. According to their website, there are some volunteers, which attests to the true quality of the exhibit.

The details of the rooms are one of the first things that stand out. There are many different small things, dirt and grime that look fairly real, and an ambiance that made the entire thing feel like it was real. The makeup was also very detailed for all of the characters. They weren't just wearing masks that you could buy at a Halloween store anywhere around town, they had professional makeup on that improved their character and improved the experience as a whole.

In addition to complex makeup, the inside of Shadow's Edge is just as intricate. There were some tunnels that you had to duck under and go through, along with walls that closed on you and made you feel quite claustrophobic. One of the worst feelings when going into the house was the feeling that it never ended. There were times that it was very hard to see and you had to feel for the walls and even the person in front of you just to figure out where you were going. Luckily, there were glow in the dark arrows painted on the walls that told you when to turn, otherwise you needed night vision to tell where you were going.

Sometimes, there were even "fake" sparks that flew out of the wall but looked incredibly real. Of course, there were the chainsaws (without the blade part) that they brought fairly close to your calves, which made you jump.

The only bad part of the entire house was the noise. SPOILER ALERT: There is a very loud horn that sounds and is more deafening than screaming itself. Since the house was so small, you could hear that horn well throughout the time inside. The screaming from the people behind or in front of you along with the very loud speaking of the characters inside made it to be a little annoying. But, at least they were trying to stimulate all five senses.

Overall, the haunted house was very high quality, well presented and worth the \$12. Yes, it is a little pricey, but on some days you can get in for six dollars. They are open from dusk until 12:30 a.m. on Friday and Saturday, and until 10:00 p.m. on Sunday. If you're going to go to this, definitely go with a few friends.

MYSTERY MANOR

Rating: 8 / 10

BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

Mystery Manor is a haunted attraction located in downtown Omaha that is open through the Halloween season. The attraction is open from September 19th to November 1st. Tickets can be purchased at the door as general admission for 12 dollars as well as fast passes online that cost 20 dollars but makes getting from attraction to attraction go by much faster. Mystery Manor is said to have been constructed in 1887 and began as the house of William and Greta Hall and used as a meeting place for the elite citizens of Omaha.

The significance of the building is incomparable to that of other haunted attractions across Omaha. The legend has it that John Hall; brother to William Hall was killed at the building on Halloween night and still haunts the house to this day. The background of the building is used as a synopsis for parts of the experience at Mystery Manor. Still a variety of different scenarios are used to scare the haunted house goers.

The experience is different from most haunted houses because although the building is not exactly small, it is still situated downtown and has less space than some of the other haunted houses across the metro area some of which have more space to utilize. However, the experience is still incredibly enjoyable to anybody who has some capacity to be scared. Some of the most horrifying experiences include the new Insane Asylum room where visitors are simulated into a life-like insane asylum where they encounter odd patients along with what it is like to be patient at a 20th century Insane Asylum. Another remarkable feature to Mystery Manor is the Swamp themed Cabin Area where visitors are confronted by an interesting set of characters.

A vast majority of what goes on behind the scenes at Mystery Manor, like other haunted houses is unbeknown to the visitor. Employees at Mystery Manor work from dusk until midnight during the Halloween season. One employee is sophomore Thomas Romberger who gave insight to what goes on behind the scenes at Mystery Manor.

Romberger started working at Mystery Manor three years ago because he was intrigued by the unique and captivating opportunity of scaring people and working as an actor. Romberger said "I started three years ago and started working because it seemed fun and the haunted house business seemed exciting." During his time at Mystery Manor, he has worked a variety of roles but he currently works as an actor, makeup artist and set designer. There are 20 to 40 actors who work at the haunted attraction, depending on the day.

Actors work long nights and have to be able to hold character at all times, which Romberger said could often be a tough task. Upon arrival at Mystery Manor, actors must wait for a makeup artist who prepares them for the night. Romberger said "when we get there we set up for makeup and open the wardrobe room and people get costumes and then wait for a makeup artists to be ready for them". Actors have to be able to handle repetition and be able to terrify audiences time and time again.

For the most part the reception around Mystery Manor is positive, people enjoy their experience and want to bring back friends back for future visits. Romberger talked about the positives of working at Mystery Manor, he said "the best part of working at Mystery Manor is probably being able to work at a place that I really love and being able to scare people."

Romberger also added that he enjoys not only going through Mystery Manor in his spare time but also other haunted house. Mystery Manor and other haunted houses in Omaha collaborate in the hopes for healthy competition and balance for all parties. The Mystery Manor staff and actors have one intention, to scare people and bring them back again during the season, and in future years. The Mystery Manor experience for visitors, in addition to those who work behind the scenes, is truly petrifying.

HAUNTED HALLOW

Rating: 4.5 / 10

BY NATALIE NEPPER
executive editor

Haunted Halloween on 120th and Giles is anything but haunted. The combination of exhausted workers, sub-par scares and ridiculous prices makes this Halloween town a nightmare in itself.

After searching and searching for the Halloween with my staff photographer and I, the three different addresses we had acquired came up short.

Not one of the so-called addresses we pulled from Google led us anywhere but to the middle of nowhere—and Siri was no help either.

Finally, we reached the intersection of 120th and Giles where we were miraculously able to spot a tiny yard sign labeled "Haunted Halloween" with a black arrow pointing us to the direction of disappointment.

After driving a bit, we were only further confused. Don't let the abundance of sketchy warehouses and gravel roads fool you – you're nowhere near close yet. Eventually, a wooden sign towering over the road indicated that we had finally reached our destination.

Since it was opening night of the haunted attraction, we expected long lines of excited people ready to be scared.

Instead we were greeted by about 20 other cars in the parking lot. At the admission gate, we reluctantly paid the \$20 each which guaranteed us one walk-through of the haunted house and then access to anything else in the area including mazes, tarot card readings, airbrush tattoos and more.

The park's "attractions" were small tents and wooden houses built up on the side of a hill in the forest. Overlapping dirt trails labeled with painted signs made the area a complete maze to get around. When we found the "bathrooms" (located all the way up the hill and to the furthest right possible) we saw two Port-O-Potties tilted next to some trees.

This was extremely poor planning on Haunted Halloween's part, because the lack of lighting made using the bathroom impossible, and the pitch black sky didn't do much either.

At this point, neither of us was excited for the haunted house or anything afterwards. The haunted house, a three story wooden tower overgrown with the forest surroundings, looked sketchy and worn.

The doorway to the entrance had no line, instead, a painted sign told us to "please wait." Soon, a witch lady unlocked the gate and opened the door for us, ushering us in.

We were given no rules, no regulations or helpful tips. Instead of the usual haunted house spiel, her hand simply pushed us on our way into the dark.

It was scary. But not the type of scary it should have been. Pitch blackness surrounded us as we attempted to find our way through this maze of a building. The occasional clown jumped out at us and would point the way when we begged them to tell us where to go. There was one part in particular where the floor moved up and down that served no purpose other than to practically break my ankles and throw me into a wall.

The second floor, awaiting us after a steep set of stairs, was a combination of themed rooms.

Most of them were just bedrooms with creepy dolls and coffins, where workers waited to surprise us with the art of the jump scare. The amount of furniture packed into such a small space with no windows and way too many strobe lights was surely a fire hazard.

The third floor, a simple attic, was the worst in terms of scares. Small, narrow passages led us to a chainsaw man who guided us out the door, down a few sets of rickety wooden steps and back into the forest.

And then it was over. I'm not sure what I was expecting, but it definitely wasn't that.

Afterwards, we hung around on the smaller tent attractions, getting messy airbrush tattoos and tarot card readings just because. I left unimpressed and bored, and frankly, that's not how I'm supposed to feel after visiting a haunted house. The overpriced tickets and below average experience didn't satisfy. It was clear that unlike all the other haunted houses in Omaha, Haunted Halloween's aim isn't to scare – it's to make money.



— A SOULFUL — EXPERIENCE

CENTER DEEMED PLACE FOR PEACE,
HEALING AND CREATIVITY IN HEART OF
THE OLD MARKET

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web editor

The Omaha Healing Arts Center is a place for peace, healing and sharing one's creative ideas. Located in the Old Market on 12th and Howard streets, it's a great place to be no matter one's age.

The center offers various activities that let people experience new things and it offers education regarding different methods of healing, such as aromatherapy or herbal therapy.

Sandy Aquila, director of the Omaha Healing Arts Center, has dedicated herself to trying unique sorts of therapies. Aquila is a licensed massage therapist with over 20 years of experience, and she was featured in Heartland Healing magazine. She decided to open up the Center with her mother in 2001.

Aquila toured with Sting as his massage therapist, and travels to places around the United States practicing various methods of therapy.

Aquila pays close attention to tradition, and she tries to keep things as they were when she first began the center.

Before the building was opened, she asked different spiritual leaders to write things on the flooring of the building before it was covered. The leaders wrote prayers and well wishes for the building. This type of careful thought and meticulous planning can be seen throughout the building.

From the musical acts that perform here to the classes one can take, everything has a purpose for being in the space and are all centered around one thing— the well being of all who receive services from the center.

Omaha Healing Arts Center is a place to experience or learn about acupuncture, aromatherapy, massage, reiki, craniosacral therapy, bodywork, shiatsu, yoga, color therapy, humor therapy, meditation, astrology, herbal therapy, alternative medicine, alternative therapy, ayurveda, music concerts, counseling and workshops. Speakers also come to share ideas related to healing and other things.

Upon entering one can see on the walls both old and new décor. All with a beautiful flair. There's a tea bar with a tibetan sand painting under glass, the only one of its kind in the entire world.

There is also a gift and import shop for those who want to purchase something unique and interesting.

There is also a rental hall that can be used for weddings and other events. Tai Chi, yoga, drumming and meditation are just some of the few classes offered at OM. Usually the classes meet weekly. They are designed to help participants find their inner peace in their hectic lives.

Perhaps one of the most interesting and notable things about the center are the poetry slams that take place.

In this setting anyone and everyone are welcome to step up to the mic to try their hand at competing in slam poetry. Louder than a Bomb, the area's youth poetry organization/competition has some of their slams here and have had them here in the past.

The Omaha Healing Arts Center is a place that promotes healing and learning. It's a place to get out of your comfort zone and try new things. It's also a creative space for artists to share their creations, whether that be through spoken word or a different type of medium.



Bowling club plans to grow membership

BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

Bowling is an intriguing and unique activity that can be practiced by almost anyone. Bowling club has been a visible part of the clubs and activities spread at Central since the sport gained popularity in the United States during the 1960's and 1970's.

This year the school's bowling team will return for the fifth consecutive year. It is supervised by math teacher and avid bowler James Jordan.

After he began teaching at Central, Jordan took interest in reforming the bowling club and after interest from students grew the club was restarted. Prior to Jordan assembling the team, bowling club had been organized by parents and students but had never solidified. After Jordan reformed the club five years ago, interest steadily grew and the club has been able to field a team for the last five years. Since the reformation, Central has been able to produce a team that typically consists of somewhere between five to ten people.

Jordan said "This year I know I have six guys returning. There seems to be a decent amount of interest, but with the traveling and expenses a lot of kids lose interest, or are just unable to make the commitment".

In past seasons the team had practiced at West Lanes, however, this year the team will switch to Maplewood Lanes. Although Maplewood Lanes is farther away from Central, ultimately it worked better for the team.

Practices include three rounds of bowling during which Jordan and other coaches work with the students to give instruction on technique and help with marks which are used to improve aim. Although, sometimes time consuming the practice is intended to improve upon and sharpen the bowlers' skills.

Competition for students is most frequently done on Mondays at Mockingbird Lanes for five weeks and then Leopard Lanes for five weeks. Central competes alongside students from other local high schools such as Bellevue West, Bellevue East, Burke, Skutt, Marian, Gross and Milliard North among other schools. Based on scores from previous years, Central will be a serious competitor for state with the biggest competition being Northwest. The Omaha Metro High School League runs from mid-November to mid-February. Students have to wear matching shirts and can wear pants or jeans but are unable to wear shorts.

Students competing for the bowling club will be required to pay for expenses which can have a wide range. However, the minimum required for interested bowlers is 50 dollars to enter league play and another 18 to 20 dollars yearly to be sanctioned. Bowlers being sanctioned simply means they are ready for competition.

However, opportunities outside of the regular league play are made available to the bowlers. Weekend leagues are a great opportunity for bowlers who want to bowl at the next level and attract attention to receive scholarships and other opportunities outside of school. Many of the bowling team take these opportunities and make a 15 dollar investment in the hopes of receiving scholarship money or other opportunities outside of Central's bowling team. Tournaments usually take place around the Omaha metro area but are certainly not limited to just the metro area and can occasionally take place outside of the state.

Jordan and the team are optimistic about their chances this season. Evan Bauer, Devonte Carr and Zachary Hangman are a few of the bowling teams six or seven returning players that will have a large impact on the schools hopes to be the best team in state. Sophomore bowler Evan Bauer has bowled since he was young and had never considered bowling competitively until a friend recommended that he join bowling club. Since joining he has thoroughly enjoyed his experience, Bauer said "the best part about being in bowling club is probably just the experience of meeting new people". The family-like atmosphere is part of the reason the bowling club is one thing that has helped bring the team together.

However, bowling club is something that does not end when students graduate, "One other thing I think is cool is that one of the members of the team last year is coming back to help coach the team this year" Bauer said.

Bowling does have some drawbacks but Bauer believes that ultimately the great experiences in bowling club outweigh the drawbacks, "One thing that can be tough is being committed to the club and having to go to practice every week and try to maintain high scores," Bauer said.

Jordan and the Bowling club are looking forward to another successful season and have every intention of competing for state. Jordan was adamant in encouraging any interested parties to join bowling club. Jordan said, "Bowling is a fun activity that anyone can do. It provides another opportunity for friends to hangout and be active in a different environment."

Communication skills discouraged by teen reliance on technology



CHOTEAU KAMMEL
CHO-TIME

In today's technology driven social climate, it has become more popular to just send a text message rather than make a face to face effort. This has become even more common place among the teenagers and their cell phones.

Although the simplicity of a text message cannot be denied, the increasing reliance teenagers have on their devices is damaging their conversation skills and inadequately preparing them for the future and any possible encounters they may have.

For every generation of teens, there is always something that the parents do not like, a so called "pet peeve". In the 1950s it was wearing leather or denim jackets and 1960s it was protesting the Vietnam War. In the 21st century it has become cell phone addicted teens.

Parents can no longer have a simple conversation without their teen having to check a Tweet, text a friend or update Facebook.

Parent's annoyance with cell phone attachment, although not initially based on science, is not unfounded.

According to a report compiled and released by the Huffington Post, 50%-65% of personal and commercial interactions are carried out in a nonverbal fashion, with factors such as eye contact, posture and facial expressions playing a large part.

This means that those who communicate solely through text or email leave out almost half of the information necessary for the receiver to properly interpret the message.

The research found that eye contact, which demonstrates either honesty or aggression depending on the use cannot be carried through in a text message. Posture is also very important because it either gives off an aura of confidence or weakness, and once more it is not seen in text messages.

One of the more well known parts of personal communication is the handshake. The handshake has been a cultural icon for centuries and according to allparenting.com just isn't being taught to kids anymore.

All things considered, essential body language is being lost in the digital craze and the reliance on texting and email is harming the next generation of citizens.

Even though the ease and convenience of a text or email is unquestionable, there are times at which face to face communication is the best option. This is due to its importance in the world outside of a teenager's circle of social media.

A study done by NFI Research, polled the business executives all over the world and found that 67% of them believed that less reliance on digital communication would lead to higher levels of productivity and efficiency.

This evidence makes it logical to conclude that the world teens will face in adulthood will require more than the ability to quickly pull out a phone and type out a quick text.

As well as hurting teens in the future, the increasing use of texting over face to face discussion is damaging teen's abilities to understand each other.

A study done by Pew Research Center showed that only 35% of teens actually verbally talked to their friends outside of school. This, when combined the importance of body language, causes much consternation when messages are not properly portrayed or understood.

Study after study can be found that will show that teen's reliance on texting is damaging their abilities to communicate in other aspects of life.

Personal communication is absolutely necessary for the career world and the lack of developed skills can cause a hassle now and when searching for employment.

There are many aspects of face to face communication that are no longer being learned or practiced due to the emergence of digital messaging. This leaves today's young adults woefully unprepared for the world they will face on their own.

People skills cannot be sacrificed in the name of convenience and brevity.

All in all, even as technology continues to proceed at a rapid pace, perhaps it is time to go back to the basics of personal communication and simply what works.

Family owned pumpkin patch provides fun for all ages

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS
staff writer

The fall season brings about various activities—ranging from going to haunted houses to simply taking a walk around the park to take in the beautiful sights of the trees changing colors.

One annual tradition in my family is going to a location near 120nd and Military St. A small, family run farm is tucked away and is home to a field full of pumpkins waiting to be taken home, all for very low prices.

Hundreds of people pile into this small farm to create memories with their family and ignite a tradition that will be with their children forever.

Even though the business is small, going into the field, picking out pumpkins and purchasing them is still one of my favorite activities to do and is something I look forwards to each year.

The pumpkins are inexpensive and are a variety of different colors, sizes and shapes. With a purchase, smaller pumpkins are sometimes received for free as well.

Ranging from big orange pumpkins to small gourds of various colors, they have a lot to offer.

In more urban areas located near Central, there are not very many open land plots or opportunities for families to go out and spend quality time with each other, especially not in a pumpkin

patch.

Yes, there is Vala's Pumpkin Patch, but it is not quite the same as this small farm out in west Omaha.

Nothing can be compared to this experience, and I thoroughly encourage each and every student to convince his or her family to take a trip out west and visit this pumpkin patch.

The owners of this farm are an older couple, and each year they welcome more and more people into their quaint farm.

It is hard to describe the benefits of visiting this pumpkin patch that for many is not in existence, but all in all, it gives kids an experience that nowadays many take for granted.

It is an opportunity for children to take a break from their phones and Twitter feed and stop for once to take in the beauty of the countryside and value the importance of family.

Many students take this for granted and never stop to look at what is passing them by in life.

It is the simple things in life that people will look back at when they are older, and this is one of them.

This farm is nothing special on the outside, but to any family, and to mine, it means everything.

So next weekend, instead of going out with some friends, take some time to drive out west with your family and pick out some festive decorations for the fall season. It will certainly take you by surprise.

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MICAH MARTIN | staff writer

movie



The Maze Runner

director: Wes Ball

rating 5 out of 10

Book-to-movie transformation everything but crowd pleasing

If you've read the Maze Runner, don't bother to see the movie. As in most cases when books are made into films, The Maze Runner strayed from its original glory and was only loosely based on the novel's storyline. Giving this movie a five out of ten is gracious.

The director, Wes Ball, focuses more on creating a "strong" cinematic mood, than staying true to James Dashner's vision for the story. Along the way the film loses the relationships and moments that makes the book so phenomenal, and replaces them with elements that only aim to enhance the cinema experience.

Unlike the book the characters are underdeveloped, which takes away from the importance of relationships in the story.

Not only does this make it harder to relate to the characters, but, in this instance it degrades the story.

The Maze Runner is mainly an action thriller, but it also includes attributes of a mystery film. Both the novel and film dare you to solve the mystery right along with the Gladers. The story truly makes you think. However, at some points, the scenes that are left out of the movie make understanding the plot difficult.

The main character, Thomas' thoughts and observations are hints to help readers solve the mystery of the Glade, but without them in the movie it's much more difficult to figure everything out. Instead,

the movie, more so than the book, figures it out for you and steals some of the watchers opportunities to try and solve the problem themselves.

The whole premise of the movie is a group of boys, or the Gladers, who have been left in the Glade by an unknown power. There they have created a small community in the enclosed pasture surrounded by towering walls.

Outside of this barrier is the maze and all of the horrors that it holds. The main antagonists are the Griever, which are monsters that aren't quite biologic or mechanical. The maze is the only way out, and the boys live on the hope that freedom lies beyond its solution. The only problem is that the maze changes every night, and even after three years the runners have had no luck cracking the code.

However, everything starts changing when Thomas shows up in the Glade as a greenie, which is a new member of the Glade. Some of the other boys are accepting of this change, while others are more suspicious.

Just as Thomas begins to figure out how the Glade works, events take a turn for the worse. For the first time a girl shows up with a cryptic message saying that she is the last one ever. As time ticks away Thomas must crack the code before it is too late, in order to save himself and the other Gladers who have become his friends.

After watching The Maze Runner movie goers are left with unnecessary questions that could have easily been answered. At some points the novel does seem to be vague, but in the end everything is explained. Readers are left with just enough questions to keep you thinking, but not enough to cause confusion. To put it simply, that is not the case with its counterpart. Despite all of the hype leading up to this movie it was far from the next biggest hit.



TIA SPEARS | editor-in-chief

album



Souled Out

artist: Jhene Aiko
genre: R&B

rating 10 out of 10

Artists excites fans with R&B masterpiece

"I gotta keep going... I gotta keep going," are the lyrics Jhene Aiko very soulfully whispers on "W.A.Y.S.," a song belonging to her album, "Souled Out," released Sept. 9.

Those lyrics amongst the rest, formed by the lyrical genius herself, are why time.com calls the album "soul" food for thought."

The sweet flowing words are everything aside from sugar coated. Aiko exposes the harsh reality of the world in an ever so tranquil manner, so it is only fitting to call the album an R&B masterpiece.

Aiko told Def Jam, "I escaped the made up world of Hollywood to experience the natural beauty of the real world." Evident through each of the 12 songs is that particular attribute she infuses into her music, inspired by her being a "student of life." Tattooed on Aiko's right shoulder is the Wheel of Dharma, representing a Buddhist Eightfold Path to spiritual peace which is also hinted throughout the album.

"Limbo Limbo Limbo" is the opening song on "Souled Out." The coincidence in the title of this song is that the album itself is caught in a "revolutionized limbo." The instruments and synthesizers are used to create a very unusual sound that is peacefully hypnotizing. It adds a high dose of originality to this album.

Aiko's romanticism is never saccharine, however. This is another attribute of the artist that can attract anyone into the realm of R&B music.

"Like did I really break your heart?/Was it all my fault?/If you don't knock it off/You know like I knew where this was headed/I'm a wanderer," Aiko explains to her ex-lover on the track "Spotless Mind." It is implied that she understands love. She

goes through the typical love notions while pulling back to her "spotless" perspective on life. Instead of being whiny and writing the surface level, Taylor Swift, "I'm sorry but I can't love you anymore" blues; she sticks to her ways as lyrical genius.

With a voice as soothing as hers, she is ten times more poetically inclined to create sweet flowing music. "Wading" is one of those songs that showcases her spiritual wealth.

"I am not perfect/I would never let you think I was more than this," is what the main purpose of the song is. She's describing running the high risk of wasting her time with a potential lover. She explains, in short yet powerful words, that he will run a risk, too, of watching her love and be loved by another man if he doesn't step up and claim her soon.

The ending of "Souled Out" reveals a breakthrough. For instance, the song "Eternal Sunshine" describes her trials and tribulations in every aspect of life and their affect on her as an individual. She's reflecting.

This makes "Souled Out" feel like a story, which it is. This is a musically intelligent decision on Aiko's behalf, as the listener is able to follow her through the ups and downs throughout her story.

Aiko has had troubles in the past with having to sell herself and in many interviews she described this. She liberated herself from that kind of musical career and "sailed" herself. Get it? Her previous album was named "Sailing Souls" and this one is "Souled Out." Kudos to the lyrical genius, again.

If someone "listens between the lines," they will learn a lot about life. She's such a liberated person and her eased way of living is truly refreshing to hear and witness musically. One can take from her music and apply these ways to life, which is the most valuable part of the album. In addition to the content, her voice is very soft and easy to listen to.

Without a doubt, "Souled Out" will go down in history as the most note-worthy R&B album of the decade, and rightfully so.

Aiko is extremely proud of the album and her fans have every reason to be as well.



JULIA BIELEWICZ | staff writer

café



Aroma's Café

location: 1033 Jones Street

rating 8 out of 10

Coffee house with urban vibe, variety of desserts

Aromas Bliss Café and Bakery was founded four years ago by a married couple.

Bliss Old Market Bakery was added on in 2010. The owners subleased a small storefront of Aroma's Coffee house in downtown Omaha and were eventually

In Oct. of 2013 they opened their second location in Benson, Which also houses the 402 Arts Collective

As you enter their Downtown location, you are greeted by a strong, chai scent and a cozy atmosphere. To your left is a large case of the bakery items they offer, as well as an extensive menu of the coffees offered.

The lighting is dim, but there is an abundance of light shining through the front windows. There are dozens of tables scattered around the joint. Though the café is located south of the bustling Old Market, it is in a peaceful and quiet spot.

Aroma's is constantly full of customers. During the time that I spent there, there were several different generations of customers purchasing coffee and pastries, showing that all are welcome here.

The drinks go from simple to exquisite, and cheap to pricey. They have several interchangeable options; you could order it hot or cold for example or soy vs. almond milk. This café also offers a wide

variety of teas to choose from as well as juices and Italian sodas.

The Bliss Bakery portion of the cafe was even more satisfying than expected. The first pastry I got was a triple berry scone. It has a really great consistency and the flavor was very distinctive and tart.

The Car Bomb is one cupcake they offer. It is a chocolate cupcake with Baileys frosting and Irish cream ganache filling, and it was certainly the most delicious treat out of the entire trip.

Their range of desserts and pastries is extensive. They first have classic cupcakes like red velvet, or German chocolate. They also have several exclusive options like a cinnamon chai cupcake, or pink champagne.

They offer a specialized cupcake each month, and this month's cupcake is maple bacon.

Aroma's also specializes in custom cakes for weddings, birthdays and other occasions.

In the mornings, the bakery offers some treats for breakfast. There are jumbo sized blueberry muffins, cinnamon and caramel pecan rolls.

There are also several desserts available, and the most unique is caketini: a one inch sphere of cake and frosting dipped in chocolate.

An interesting aspect of this coffee house is the mobile coffee cart. An individual, large group or business can book the coffee cart for offices, festivals, parties, weddings and more.

The cart travels around at such events, and provides coffee and pastries upon request.

Aroma's café and Bliss bakery can be recommended to anyone looking for a cup of quality coffee along with a great atmosphere and friendly service.



KELSEY THOMAS | executive editor

café



Spielbound

location: 3229 Harney Street

rating 7 out of 10

Midtown café caters to unique crowd

At Spielbound Café in Midtown, the tight-knit community within its patrons becomes apparent upon arrival. Though over a dozen groups sit separately at any time throughout the café, each group regards each other with a sense of family. Everyone there loves board games, and they all want to meet other game aficionados. Luckily, Spielbound provides them with the means to do so.

Yet, the connectivity between the people at Spielbound brings some drawbacks. The community at the café is so close, that to someone just looking to buy a snack it or study it feels a little unwelcoming. Almost every group there is determined to master the art of the board game, and any patron that isn't there for that purpose receives suspicious glances.

There are four rooms inside of the café. A room available for big parties, two rooms for playing games, and a room dedicated to the storage of the board games. The room holds over 1000 games (1107 to be exact) which makes it the largest collection of playable board games in the United States. Each game is unique, and several different genres are available to ensure that each person can find a game they enjoy.

There are games easily accessible to families or children, like the Game of Life or Abandon Ship. There are complicated, drawn out strategy games such as Russian Railroad or Nations. There are hundreds of options and new games to try at anytime. One may buy a membership to play, or pay five dollars for a one-day pass. Since Spielbound charges very little to play the games, it largely relies on food and drink sales to make money.

Fortunately, they offer plenty of choices.

They have specialty coffees, lattes and espressos. Their love of games is even incorporated into the ordering system; the Dice Delight urges patrons to roll a 10-sided die and six-sided die, then choose the flavors they want in their coffee from a numbered list that corresponds with the number they rolled. For example, rolling a five and a one results in peppermint and vanilla coffee. Rolling a ten and a two means pumpkin pie and caramel. There are 60 different versions of coffee available in the system.

Spielbound also offers a variety of baked goods. Though the selection is small, the quality is high. They have lemon poppy seed, pumpkin and blueberry muffins. Even if one doesn't want to play a board game, they can find a snack to enjoy at Spielbound.

Spielbound also provides a comfortable environment to study or do homework in. Though almost every table is filled with a group playing a game, the noise level is low as each holds very deep concentration.

The café is open seven days a week, and for extremely long hours. On Sunday, they open at 11 am, and Tuesday through Thursday they are open at 7 am. On Friday and Saturday, they stay open until midnight. The long hours provide customers with plenty of time to get through any board game.

Location is somewhat of an issue to the business. Though they are located in Midtown, the traffic down their street is sparse at times. Their business isn't highly visible or easy to get to, which may prove to be an issue. Parking is also difficult. There is no designated parking lot, so customers have to parallel park on nearby streets. Spielbound also continues to renovate their building, which takes up more parking space.

The community at Spielbound is close, and oftentimes a little foreboding. However, the café is a great study spot, and offers a variety of delicious snacks.

sports



PHOTO COURTESY OF |BigTen.com

AMEER | abdullah

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

First down, Ameer Abdullah. That phrase has been uttered so many times by announcers of college football all over the nation that people are starting to take notice.

It's not just fans who see the talent and work ethic of number eight on the Huskers, but coaches, defensive coordinators, football analysts and most importantly, NCAA staff members.

The word is spreading about the senior I-back. Husker Nation and general fans of the sport love him for his toughness, focus and dedication to his team.

The movement for Abdullah to become a Heisman contender began when the senior generated more than 100 yards in four straight games this season.

People especially got on board the Abdullah for Heisman movement when the I-back

had a heroic touchdown run against McNeese State that clinched the 31-24 win, allowing the Huskers to avoid a brutal upset and a fall in the NCAA Top 25 rankings.

The Husker marching band responded with a halftime show that caught the attention of the nation.

The band made a formation that spelled out the words "Fear Ameer", showing the fan-base's desire for the player to not only be in the running for, but win college football's most coveted award.

Husker fans have reason for hope in this scenario. Official NCAA stats show Abdullah as the country's rushing leader heading into Week 7 with a total of 878 yards and 10 touchdowns.

At 5'9" and 195 pounds, Abdullah has been described as fast, agile and a frustration for defenses to handle. His ability to stay on his feet is what Husker fans believe is the reason for his latest achievement as Nebraska's newest record-holder in all-purpose yards.

CONTINUE TO 'HUSKER' ON PAGE 20



RYLEE BOTTORFF | O-Book

Junior McKenna Corbaley up to bat during a game in 2013. McKenna and her twin Taylor play softball ten months out of the year.

Corbaley twins double the effort, dedication

BY MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

Twins McKenna and Taylor Corbaley have played softball at Central for three years, and have come to be a vital part of the team. Their hard work and dedication to softball has helped them improve and succeed in the sport. "They are very hard workers, and very gifted athletes. They just love being around softball and love being around their teammates," said Central's coach, Ryan Neel.

Softball itself is a fast paced game that requires, quite a bit of strategy and skill. Yet, players can make it as difficult or as easy as they want; it is all about how much you are willing to invest.

"I think I started playing when I was five," said McKenna Corbaley, "My sister played so I just wanted to be like my sister." For these twins, being able to play together and compete

against one another is a plus. Not only do they work well together, but they push each other to improve.

This is one of the reasons why they believe they are such successful softball players. "I play second base, and she plays shortstop, so we work really well together on the infield. We're always there for each other and always teach each other new things," said Taylor Corbaley.

These sisters have been playing since they were young, and plan on playing for as long as they can. As well as being a part of Central's team they play for a club team the goes from Jan. through the summer.

In all, they play about ten months a year and only have about a two month break. Despite this time commitment, and sometimes having to sacrifice sleep and aspects of their social lives, the Corbaley twins enjoy playing softball.

"They're always up for anything, and they don't complain."

CONTINUE TO 'TWINS' ON PAGE 20

Pom squad, ACP students perform unique dance during fall pep rally

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO
staff writer

Central students had the opportunity to watch a performance involving the Pom Squad and Special Education classes during the fall pep rally and homecoming game. The Pom team and special education classes teamed up to perform a special routine for the students.

Alyssa Smith, a senior and one of the Pom team captains and an ACP student mentor, approached Lisa Studer, the ACP teacher about the possibility of including the students in a pom squad performance. "It was when I was sitting in a pom meeting when I got the idea of having the students coming out to perform with the dance team," Smith said.

Smith had wanted a career in which she would be able to work with people; it wasn't until her nephew was born with Down Syndrome that she decided to change her career options. "After watching him grow up I decided that I wanted to work with kids with special needs," Smith said. Working alongside Central's ACP students allowed Smith to have that experience.

Special education faculty thought that getting the ACP students to perform with the pom girls was a good idea to get them involved in school activities and acknowledged by the student body.

"I thought it was a great idea," Studer said. "I think the more we get the students with special needs involved in regular activities the better off both groups, special needs students and regular students, will be."

The special needs student participating in the homecoming game performance allowed them to become more involved with Central and their fellow students. "I think just getting them exposed, in front of the whole student body is important so the student body acknowledges them," Studer said.

With Studer's approval, Smith and Kaylee Land, another PE mentor and Pom dancer, began to plan out a routine. "It was nice because I had the help from her to help me pick songs to use and to make up the dance and helping me teach the students the dance," Smith said. "I wanted a dance that would be fun and interests them, so I asked them which songs they liked and asked them if they liked dances like the cha cha slide."

Accommodations had to be made to make the dance easier for the students to learn. "We did a warm up day where we all warmed and did stretches to get a feeling of what we were going to be doing," Smith said. "They made some of the moves easy for them, they kept it very simple," said Studer.

CONTINUE TO 'ACP' ON PAGE 20



NICK BILLINGSLEY ►

PAGE 21

Alum varsity basketball star shares his experience playing in junior college so far.



STUDENT SECTION ►

PAGE 22

Themes, chants, spirit. The Eagles behind the student section tell The Register what it's all about.



STEP TEAM ►

PAGE 23

Meet this year's step team captains Jalyla Valentine and Deanna Anderson.

Husker Nation rallies behind “Fear Ameer,” hope to win Heisman

CONTINUED FROM “ABDULLAH” FROM PAGE 19

reason for his latest achievement as Nebraska’s newest record-holder in all-purpose yards.

College football fans behind the “Fear Ameer” movement believe those could be Heisman-worthy numbers in reference to the trends for Heisman winners over the years. The last Nebraska running back to win the award was Johnny Rodgers in 1972.

Rodgers was the Husker who Abdullah recently passed for number one on the yards list.

Abdullah supporters are confident that he has the ability to win the Heisman. Admiration for the senior’s drive and perseverance is becoming as widespread as “Fear Ameer” signs, tweets and headlines.

According to Nebraska’s Head Strength and Conditioning coach, James Dobson, Abdullah has had a specific purpose for himself since he arrived in Lincoln.

“I believe that Ameer has had a plan of what he wanted to get out of his college experience both academically and athletically the

minute he arrived here,” Dobson said. “Athletically, he has worked extremely hard to become the physical presence he is. He is one individual that has not wasted a second when it has come to his physical preparation.”

Dobson also said that the Husker is “a very through, hardworking, tough individual that has improved a tremendous amount since his arrival.”

Like others deeply invested in college football, Dobson has been moved by Abdullah’s accomplishments in his time at Nebraska.

“I believe that Ameer’s consistency is the quality that I am most impressed by, among others,” Dobson said.

The Husker fan has also been impressed by Abdullah on a personal as well as business level.

“I have been his strength and conditioning coach since he arrived on campus the summer of his freshman year,” Dobson said. “As time goes on the relationship has become less formal and more personal.”

Dobson enjoys getting to know his athletes on “a different level”, and Abdullah is one he has developed a relationship with. He is evi-

dence of the vast amount of support behind Abdullah, not only due to his excellence on the football field but his work ethic aside from it.

Though the fans hope to raise awareness for Abdullah in the “Fear Ameer” trend and social media, Dobson has dreams for the senior separate from his Heisman contention.

“My goal for Ameer is for him to accomplish anything he sets his mind on,” Dobson said. “I don’t have any specific award goals for him other than to make sure he feels that he was well prepared for this game and treated with respect during his time with our strength and conditioning program.”

Regardless of what happens the rest of the season and regardless of if Abdullah gets the Heisman award, Dobson’s opinion of the Husker I-back mirrors the purpose of the “Fear Ameer” following: to show the country what Abdullah can do. Husker Nation and football fans can be proud of Abdullah’s efforts, and of his representation of Nebraska, on and off the field.

Twins show their passion, talent on softball field

CONTINUED FROM “TWINS” FROM PAGE 19

“They’re always up for anything, and they don’t complain. They just get to work and get it done,” said Neel. They know that practice makes perfect, which is why they practice with each other constantly outside of school. McKenna admitted that Taylor was a major reason behind her success and improvement. However, they also recognize that others play key roles in their successes as well.

They know that bonding with their teammates is important to the team’s success “In this sport, hard work really pays off, and you really have to get along with your girls. It teaches you good lessons about getting along in order to do well,” said Taylor. McKenna added, “You can get a lot more out of it than just how to throw a ball.”

Along with playing softball the Corbaley twins are able to learn about how to interact with others and create new friendships with their team members.

The sisters’ willingness to put the team first is one of the things that makes them such successful athletes.

Central’s softball season started in August and ends in October after Districts and State. For the twins, high school season is coming to an end, but they still have to look forward to club season.

McKenna can’t wait to cheer the team on at Districts, because she is injured and unable to play. “I’m looking forward to seeing how well they do... and seeing if we can get past whoever is in our district. I think we have a good shot,” said McKenna.

No matter how the team finishes out the season the Corbaley sisters both agree that, for the most part, this season was a good one. “I don’t think it really matters what the score is at the end of the game,” said Taylor, “How you handled it and sportsmanship really matter more than the score.”

Quail Run: Small town course, big time feel

ALEC ROME
staff writer

A chilly day in the plains of small town Neola, Iowa. Fog and frost cover the hills and valleys and reveal a golf course as majestic as the its surroundings.

From downtown Omaha, it is about a 30-minute drive to get to Neola, Iowa and Quail Run Golf Course. It’s only a nine-hole course, but playing the course twice is just as entertaining.

Don’t let the “small town” label fool you; this course is as challenging as it is visually appealing.

The first hole tee box is on top of the hill right next to the clubhouse, and the fairway is a long trip down in elevation, along with it being fairly narrow. Trees to the left and right allow for not a lot of room for error, but on bad days, the golf ball will be gone.

Hole two is fairly easy as long as you don’t hit it to the right, otherwise you will need to put on some scuba gear and look for your ball in the pond. Par three, fairly short, and a good chance to get back a stroke that you lost from the first hole.

The next hole is where we get serious. A tilted fairway from left to right makes for an awkward second shot if you don’t hit it far enough. That leads to a third shot possibly from just off the green, or a great eagle shot if you’re good enough.

The fourth hole is another interesting hole, a dog leg right that seems almost like a 90 degree angle. You can take a risk and try to shoot over the trees, or play it safe by hitting towards the “elbow” of the dog leg. An easy birdie is possible here if you get some distance.

Hole five is a perfect opportunity to hit some balls into the cornfields directly left of the course. Because if you are really ter-

rible at golf, a farmer will get a golf ball. Otherwise, a good drive leads to an easy second shot and a fine chance to get a stroke back.

Hole six is the signature hole for this golf course and one of the toughest par threes that some have ever played. This hole is a semi-island green, with water in the front and back of the hole, leaving little room for error. Make it there, and you can salvage a par, drop it into the water, and you may be lucky to leave with a double bogey on this particular hole.

Number seven is the time to bring out the heavy machinery: your driver. Five hundred and thirty-nine yards from the back tee box, it is another great opportunity to hit it out of bounds if you do not hit this drive straight. Do so, and this fairway will reward you with a great shot to move towards the green with. Otherwise, there are some bumpy roughs on the left and right that you can have some fun with.

Eight is a long par four, but still fairly straight. Keep it straight, and you will be fine. You certainly do not want to take another trip to the back to the last hole.

The final hole is an uphill battle toward victory, or retaining a little bit of your dignity. You need to have an accurate drive to make it easy for you on your second shot, compared to an awkward second shot if you put it short or in the trees. Then, make it up on the green, putt it in and leave with some pride.

Overall, this course is perfect for the experienced or new player. The trip is worth it, it is impossible to not have an enjoyable experience, regardless of how many golf balls you lose.

Cheer squads put to test by lack of official coach

MADDIE HAYKO
staff writer

Central’s cheerleaders are without a coach this year. Their former coach was with them for the last three years, so it has been a hardship on the team. Without a coach, the varsity members and seniors are left in charge of over 40 girls, something very difficult to do. Gabi Cameli is a senior who has been a cheerleader since her freshman year. She says that this year has been especially difficult on everyone, especially the four seniors.

“This year it has been harder to perform at football games and I think some would agree and some wouldn’t. But for me I had the same coach for all my years and it is definitely different this year by far. We all thought when she quit we wouldn’t be much of a squad because she kept us focused just like [Dionne] Kirksey does but she had that background that Kirksey doesn’t,” said Cameli.

The cheer team’s former coach, Brittney Ruffin, was a cheerleader at both the University of Nebraska at Lincoln and Central High.

“Our cheer coach was expecting a baby in the middle of our last season and she was looking to move on with a family life, but she has contacted us to see how we are doing. Kirksey oversees everything right now. [Ruffin] was looking to move out of state and she just got married as well,” said Cameli.

Ruffin will be missed, but Activities Director Dionne Kirksey is doing her best for the girls right now. The girls hope to have a coach with experience sometime soon, or at least by the next season.

“I think she did a great job coaching the team. She was always there for us and she always contacted us even though she always had her own school things. Because she was an elementary school

teacher she was a good coach, we got third in state last year and I think most of the other girls would agree,” said Cameli.

Although Kirksey is very good at organizing the practices and getting the team together and ready to work, she is very busy and sometimes the four remaining seniors have to take over coaching the younger girls with less experience. None the less they are thankful for what Kirksey is able to do for them in their current situation.

“She helps out a lot, she will tell us what to do for the day and prepare us for Friday games and basketball season when it does come. She also helps us organize the group of 40 girls so we are [not] all over the place... she does a good job with keeping us all together. I don’t know if we would be much of a team without her. She keeps us all focused and reminds us why we are cheering. And she reminds us that we are cute,” said Cameli, with a laugh.

One woman was interested in the coaching position and was even considered to be their official coach. But before the season started she withdrew her application, and moved out of state for a new job offer.

“She was a previous Central student, her sister had dance and cheer experience so she was planning on being our coach but got an internship. So the times were conflicting but I don’t think we will have a coach this year. Kirksey will be our main person,” said Cameli.

But despite all the difficulties of not having an experienced cheer coach these girls are not holding back because of that. They are ready to support Central the best way they can, by showing enthusiasm for their classmates’ accomplishments.

Pom squad, ACP students perform during half time

CONTINUED FROM “ACP” FROM PAGE 19

Studer gave them a place to practice and advice when needed. “I gave them tips as to helping those that weren’t quite getting it,” Studer said.

Studer had a great experience working with the Pom girls. “It was a great experience seeing them interact with the ACP students and it’s nice to see my ACP students interact with my mentors,” she said. “It’s nice that those pom girls that weren’t always there in my class came and supported them and helped them through their routine.”

The Pom team enjoyed working with the ACP students as well. Pom loved working with them.

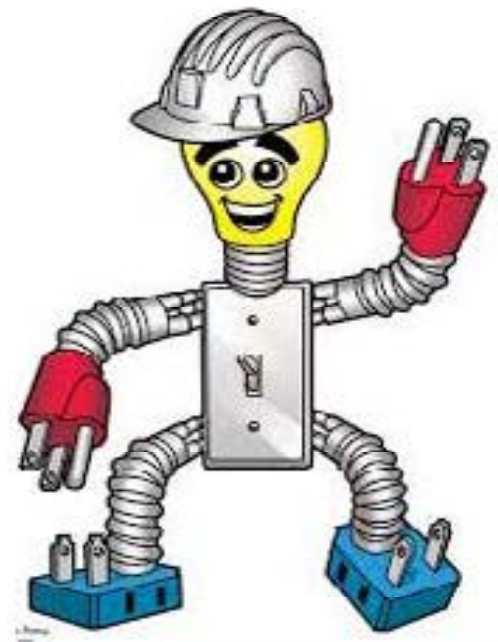
“They all said they had a great time and loved getting to meet them,” Smith said. “When it all started and I told them what I had in mind, they were all for it and were filled with excitement.”

The Pom team and ACP students received plenty of positive feedback from both faculty and the student body. “I got many comments from other students and teachers that they loved it and it was the cutest thing they have seen,” Smith said.

“They had a blast being involved in the activities, I think they enjoyed it,” Studer said. “They made me proud by going out in front of all those people.”

Studer and Smith haven’t discarded the possibility of doing something of the like in the near future. “We do plan on performing more times this year,” Smith said. “I haven’t talked to the special education department yet about something I have in mind, but I can’t say, it’s a surprise.” “I hope it starts something that happens every year,” Smith said. “Like how there is a pep rally every year, I hope there will be “pom and their buddies” dance.”

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Key softball players taken out of lineup due to concussions



66% OF CONCUSSIONS HAPPEN DURING GAMETIME

248 THOUSAND HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES HAVE BEEN HOSPITALIZED IN THE PAST YEAR FOR CONCUSSIONS

HIGH SCHOOL CONCUSSION RATES HAVE DOUBLED IN THE PAST 10 YEARS

BY KELSEY THOMAS
executive editor

Three varsity softball players are suffering from concussions after a series of “freak” accidents, rendering the girls incapable of playing, and leaving the team without key players.

Junior Vanessa Himelic was hit by a ball during practice. “We were in the batting cages and we [were] warming up before our game. [Coach] Neel was tossing to us and I hit [the ball], and the ball hit the pole. Then it hit me in the head,” she said.

Taylor Corbaley, also a junior, experienced the same kind of accident. The team was practicing again before a game, this time on the field.

Ryan Neel, the coach, hit a ball to Corbaley and it hit her in the head.

Sophomore Makensey Pankers was concussed during a game. Pankers, the team’s starting catcher, ran backwards to get a foul ball and slammed into the fence.

All three girls are key components on the varsity team. Their injuries have taken them out for the rest of the season, forcing the other girls to make up for their absence.

“I think it kind of affected team morale a little bit. It affected key players in our lineup, and obviously we had to do a lot of shifting around,” said Mohr, another coach.

The changes have put many girls in positions they haven’t played before, and aren’t as comfortable with.

“Makensey is our catcher, and the other two are freshman and sophomores. We’re a lot more experienced with Makensey.

“With Taylor and I gone, we’re putting infielders in the outfield

right now. It’s not bad, but we’d rather keep infielders in the infield,” Himelic said.

Central softball has done fairly well this season. They are ranked sixth in the high school league, with a record of 9-4. Overall, their record is 15-13, counting non-OPS sanctioned tournaments and games.

Concussion policy has undergone major change in OPS in the past year, requiring athletes and coaches to handle the situation in different ways than ever before.

Though many athletes are unhappy with the strictness of the new rules, coaches have no choice but to follow the guidelines. Mohr supports the new system.

Coaches now follow a “When in doubt, sit them out” rule. If they suspect that a player has been concussed, the policy requires them to remove them from play until they are cleared or properly diagnosed. Some telling signs of concussion include headache, confusion, nausea, dizziness, fatigue and slowed speech.

At times athletes show symptoms immediately after the incident, other times it may take hours or days for symptoms to show.

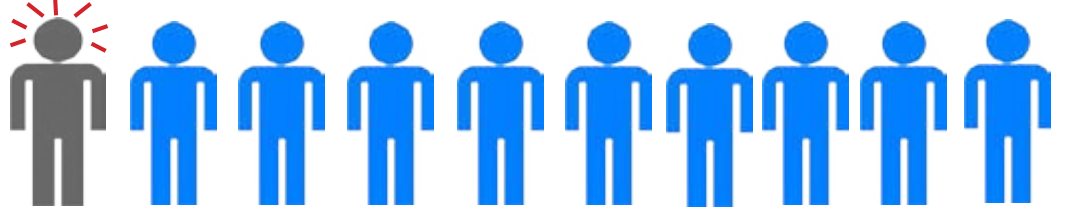
Himelic felt the effects immediately, however.

“I felt really dizzy and really nauseous at first. My head kind of hurt. Then it went away, then it just progressively got worse,” she said.

Once diagnosed by the athletic trainer, or a doctor at a clinic or hospital, players are oftentimes removed from play for the rest of the season.

Concussions can have long term effects, and if an athlete chooses to play while concussed, they risk making it worse. In recent years, the effects of concussions have been heavily researched, and athletes, coaches and doctors are working to understand the injury better.

1 OUT OF 10 HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETES RECEIVE A CONCUSSION



Girls soccer coach introduces new endurance tests to determine athletes’ skill level

BY JORDAN YOUNG
co web editor

Current girls soccer coach, Eduardo Suarez, has implemented a system of new endurance testing for his aspiring players. He says that this test will help eliminate the players that are participating with the wrong motives in mind.

“There are many reasons for a test to take place. The best one is that soccer involves a lot of running. Many of the girls have an interest in joining soccer only for the reason of hanging out with their friends. In order to be successful, you have to do it for the right reasons. This exam will definitely help to eliminate players. The test that will be given is not the kind that you can either pass or fail. It’s the kind that will help the coaches decide upon the players they want to work with and have on their team. For example, if you can’t run two laps around the track in three minutes, that will tell us something about your agility. Our players should always be well conditioned to achieve their goals for soccer,” Suarez said.

Suarez says that all players wanting to be a part of the team have to take the test that will occur during the winter.

“Every student who is planning on trying out for our team must participate in the endurance test. From freshman all the way up to seniors. The test will take place sometime in the duration of February,” he said.

The test will consist of basic endurance drills as well as practice activities with the ball.

“It will consist of activities like suicides (a running exercise) or 30-yard sprints. It will also have soccer drills from passes to shooting. Coaches will be looking for effort, skill, heart and character,” Suarez said.

Suarez said that the team has already started conditioning. It will help aspiring players prepare with their future teammates.

“*Many of the girls have an interest in joining soccer only for the reason of hanging out with their friends.*”
EDUARDO SUAREZ
girls soccer coach

“We just started conditioning in September. [Which] includes running and weight lifting. We will also be starting futsal on the weekends as well as a winter league,” Suarez said.

Suarez says that the girls might be nervous about a test like this, but he is sure each girl can succeed if they prepare correctly.

“I believe that some of the girls are scared because they probably

have never gone through anything like this before. Although, the other coaches and I are confident enough that if the players are taking advantage of the opportunities that they are given to get ready for the test, that the test itself should be no problem,” He says.

Current player, sophomore Alexis Menard, says that the test will solely determine who and who doesn’t want to put in the effort of being a soccer player for Central.

“I feel that there being a fitness test this year is really good. If each individual pours their heart, blood, sweat and tears to try their absolute hardest, it will really narrow down the results to the players who actually want to be there. I think that the test will determine how important the sport really is to the individual that is trying out for the team,” Menard said.

Suarez agrees, and all other coaches are certain that the test will help determine who they want to coach and what team placement is appropriate for each girl.

“The test will determine who really wants to be part of the girls central Eagles soccer team. All of the coaches agree that it will be the best way to achieve our goals for this upcoming season,” he said.

The test will not only test skill, but also dedication. The opinions of players and other outside sources may vary, but the decision to test each athlete trying out has been made final.

NICK BILLINGSLEY



ALUM BASKETBALL STAR REFLECTS ON HIGH SCHOOL AND SHARES EXPERIENCE SO FAR AS A JUNIOR COLLEGE ATHLETE

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

The 2012-13 boys basketball season began with high stakes and even higher expectations for Central’s defending state champions. Led by a core group of five seniors, the team looked to repeat their performance once more, and an integral part of this franchise was Nick Billingsley, who has since graduated.

Billingsley has been playing basketball ever since he can remember. Since he did not have any brothers, he improved by playing with the “big kids on the block,” he said. This challenge helped prepare him to play basketball at each level he was offered, playing in grade school while at Fontenelle Elementary, moving on to the varsity teams at Alice Buffett Middle School, playing at both North and Central High School, and lastly at the junior collegiate level with the New Mexico Junior College Thunderbirds.

In his final season as a Buffett Bobcat, Billingsley and his eighth grade team make it to the city finals, only to come up short against the Monroe Mustangs. He says of the loss, “It molded me, because I never wanted it to happen again.”

Following junior high, Billingsley decided to go to Omaha North High School. There his basketball prowess became well known throughout the high school basketball circuit, as he played for the Vikings his first three years of high school. However, Billingsley still felt that his potential could be better utilized. That is why he chose Central High School for his senior year.

Upon arriving at Central, Billingsley already knew the tradition of Central’s boys basketball teams, and had already developed rapport with the team’s other seniors through select basketball. One player he was particularly close to was fellow senior KJ Scott, as he says on all five of the starting seniors, “Everybody just had that chemistry.”

As the defending state champions, the expectations for the boys varsity team were very high. Billingsley says, “In practice Coach Behrens expected a lot. He expected us to repeat and we did not [want to] let him down. I really appreciate him, he molded me into a good basketball player and it carried into college.”

When not playing basketball, Billingsley also enjoyed getting to know some of the teachers and staff around Central, including Rod Mullen, who had him in his African American history class. Mullen notes his abilities both inside and outside of the classroom, saying, “He did excellent in the class, all that you could ask of a student... He was willing to sacrifice his game for the betterment of the team.” Billingsley says he thoroughly enjoyed Mullen’s class, and that it taught him a lot about the history of his ancestors, and the importance of remembering one’s past.

In the end, all the hard work paid off, as the 2012-2013 boys basketball team took state once more, and even went down to Florida to play against the best teams in the country, where Central proved that they could hold their own.

As his senior year came to a close, Billingsley began to look ahead towards college. “I wanted to get away from home, going away would [help] make me more of a man.” With this as well as basketball on his mind, he decided on New Mexico Junior College.

Billingsley began to get acclimated with his new home right away, as well as getting an idea of what he would like to do with his life after college. With basketball practice taking up his mornings and his evenings, he makes sure he takes care of his homework as soon as it is assigned. “Whenever I get schoolwork, I do it right away,” he says. He also adds that the block scheduling helps relieve some of the stress of academic life, which includes classes in athletic training, social studies and photography.

Even with the demands of studies and sports, Billingsley says he still has chances to relax. “It all depends on how you use your time. You do your work, you get free time,” he says. His hobbies include watching Netflix, practicing basketball or working ahead in class to have more free time.

Billingsley and his team also make sure to give back to their community, as well as help younger aspiring basketball players. In fact, several weeks ago his team, the Thunderbirds, hosted a basketball camp for local kids and plan to host several more. This plays directly into what Billingsley would like to do for a career- coach and mentor junior high and high school kids. He says that it would be a great way to help train up the next generation of basketball players, and be a positive role model for younger men. In all that he has accomplished, as well as what he seeks accomplish, one thing keeps him going, “You can’t be a quitter, you’re only limiting yourself. You have to finish strong.”



LET'S GET



THE REGISTER TAKES A BEHIND-THE-SCENES LOOK AT THE FOOTBALL STUDENT SECTION AND WHAT IT TAKES TO FUEL THEIR FIRE

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS
staff writer

During the football season, many students find themselves attending both the home and away games to show support for the Eagles. However, what makes the games worth attending is the student section.

At the North vs. Central game, the student section was at full capacity. With “pink out” as the theme, one could see anything ranging from a guy wearing a bra to another person covered in pink body paint.

Chants were screamed at the North’s student section, phrases such as “we can’t hear you” and “why so quiet?” could be clearly heard from across the stadium. It was obvious that for a couple hours, tons of people that were starkly different from each other shared a similar interest and a desire to have a good time.

What makes the student section so lively and enjoyable? The credit goes to several upperclassmen that “reign” over the student section and start cheers, helping to keep the student body excited. Richard Stockton, Jacob Bigelow, Mike Turone and Jake Troia make up the body of this group, that calls themselves the “Seemann Soldiers”, named after Central’s stadium.

“In all honesty there is not one specific person who leads the student section like in the years past. I would say it is a large group of seniors with a handful of juniors assisting them,” Bigelow said.

Troia has had a bit more of experience than Bigelow. “[It] started out

with me, Richard Stockton and a couple other guys dressing up for last years’ games... This year we created our squad that we call the Seemann Soldiers to make a mark for our student section,” Troia said.

To be one of these ‘soldiers’ one has to demonstrate a loud personality-- someone who is not afraid to act out of his or her mind.

“Before this season some of the seniors told me that I would be a good person to help them out because I am loud and people usually listen to me,” Bigelow said.

The student section is based on these students’ ability to hype their peers up and keep up the intensity even when the game is not going the way they want it to.

The energy given off from this student section allows for everyone, even the ones usually quiet in class, to get out, have a good time, and bond with their classmates.

“We try to make the game fun for everyone by brining things like face paint and body paint so people can go along with the themes,” Bigelow said. “We try to be as hyper as possible so there is never really a dull moment.”

Of all the years, this has to be one of the years representing the most school spirit. The football team has also had an extremely successful season, so many more people are getting into the game.

Together, the boys have started new pre-game rituals such as the Nebraska prayer and a Twitter page created in hopes to get more people involved, according to Troia.

“We have received a lot of love and thanks from the football program

for our support. The football players really like what we have done this year,” Bigelow said. “There is even a Twitter account to encourage people to come out and support and go along with the themes. I have never seen this much involvement in a student section, especially for football season in my years at Central.”

Troia agrees with Bigelow in regards to this being a strong year for the newly founded Seemann Soldiers. “I think that this year has been really strong; we have gotten more people into it and it is louder than I have heard it in the past,” he said.

Plain and simple, this year proves to be the liveliest in regards to the student section due to the fact of the unity of the student body.

“A good student section comes from high involvement in the theme, good attendance from the students, a strong sense of togetherness, lots and lots of school pride and of course noise,” Bigelow said. “You cannot be a good student section if you are not loud.”

When it comes down to it, a good student section is a result of school pride amongst students. When students go all out for the theme and scream their loudest, memories are made and people bond over their devotion to their school. What can go wrong with tubs of baby powder and extreme amounts of paint? Nothing. It is just a bunch of students together hoping for a win for the Eagles.

“The most important thing is for everyone to participate with the themes, chants and actually show up to games,” Troia said. “With that it drives the team and keeps [the] theme going and that is what makes the student section a powerful thing.”

Emily Jezewski puts physical, mental abilities to test on the golf course

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web writer

Many people may not expect golf to be physically and mentally challenging sport—but it is, and senior Emily Jezewski is one of the talented golfers on the Central girls golf team who embraces it’s difficulties.

“I like the challenge...I have to stay focused. I can’t think about hitting the ball in the water because then the ball will go into the water,” she said. “I have to think about the ball going over the water.”

For her, her love for golf began about 10 years ago. “Since I was about eight ...I have been competing since I was in seventh grade,” she said.

Jzewski was heavily influenced by her dad who took her and her two brothers out on golf trips frequently and again on weekend outings to practice on the green. Her house is also located very close to a gold course.

Once, out of the blue, her father enlisted her in a tournament for the first time. “He said ‘just go do it for fun’ and I think that started me,” she said.

Now, Jezewski and her two younger brothers play the sport and her passion for golf continues to flourish.

The spark that drove Jezewski has since exploded into success.

During the 2014 season, she has won three invites at Duschesne, Bellevue West and Lincoln High School. She placed at the Metro conference, something that she hadn’t accomplished in past seasons.

However to reach that level of success, the desire to be challenged couldn’t and wouldn’t be the only thing to propel her. She has had to pave her way there through the process of hard work and the evolution of maturing.

“I think when I was a freshman it was more trying to get from point A to point B...I have to calm myself down and think positively in those situations,” she said. “It’s how I think. I have a lot more focus. Growing up has helped in the game a lot too.”

Jzewski isn’t the only individual to acknowledge her growth from her freshman year to the present.

“Emily was more mature when she was a freshman than a lot of juniors or seniors,” said golf coach Ben Mihovk. “That hasn’t changed. She is more resilient now than she was...she bounces back after bad results on the course. That’s huge in golf.”

Mihovk doesn’t shy away from insisting that initially he thought Jezewski would be “...really good, even great, by the time she was a senior.”

Ever since then, Jezewski has taken her spot as an extremely impactful player for the team, as a leader and positive role model.

Not only that, but she also one of the four seniors on the varsity team that consists of five girls. There

are five girls on varsity and five on Junior Varsity.

“We need some players for next year,” she said laughing.

But hopefully, those players will have learned from her attitude, said Mihovk. “A good attitude will get others on your side,” he said.

Although the season will soon be winding down and their time together as teammates is limited, Jezewski lives in the moment with her teammates.

“It’s a lot of fun, it’s a small group of girls and I think we get along really well,” she said. “We’re competing as a team and that’s really fun. Mr. Mihovk is really sarcastic and funny and Mrs. Barna is fun too,” Jezewski said.

Considering the duration of the competition events, the girls and their coaches spend a lot of time together.

“Normally we won’t even come to school; we’ll just meet at the golf course at eight. Then we’ll wrap up around 2:00, 2:30...Maybe even 3:00, 3:30,” said Jezewski.

The invites may provide bonding time, but they also conflict more than enough with school.

“So far I’ve missed seven days of school. It’s just kind of talking to teachers. A lot of them are understanding; they don’t want me to miss but they are okay if I do. I just go in and get my work.”

Besides playing for Central, Jezewski also plays during the summer for another organization.

“I compete in the summer through the Nebraska Golf association,” she said.

She has been to Norfolk, McCook and Lincoln for tournaments. Jezewski usually stays in-state to play. Competition for her outside league is set up similarly to high school golf, however sometimes there are smaller groups of girls competing, around 15, instead of about 35 to 60 in high school play.

Either way, Jezewski enjoys it so much that she is considering continuing to play in college.

“I hope to play in college maybe at the Division three level, I could maybe walk on at Creighton...it’s a possibility I could play there if I wanted to. It’s just a big commitment and the level of competition is pretty steep. I’m not sure if I want to commit to that,” she said.

But her possible college career isn’t too important. “I wouldn’t be completely heart broken,” she said, on the chance that she doesn’t play in college.

What matter most to her right now is districts and state. “I’m really excited,” she said.

Coach Mihovk believes she will excel, although in his book she already has.

“She’s already met all my expectations...she plays with heart and never gives up on herself. In golf, all you can do is focus on what you have control over and play your game,” he said.

“You can’t do anything about another player shooting the round of her life...so you focus on process and let results take care of themselves.”

broadcasting

CAREER CENTER ANNEXES SPORTS MEDIA COURSE TO OPS STUDENTS IN ORDER TO FULFILL THE GROWING DEMAND IN ATHLETICS

BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

Interest in Omaha Public Schools sanctioned sports is always high and in order to meet that demand, the school system has combined a Career Center class with coverage of athletic events.

The TAC Building and the Career Center provide students with various opportunities to acquire skills that can be used outside of the classroom. Students from all OPS high schools have the opportunity to take a class as an elective at the Career Center during their sophomore, junior or senior year.

One class option is the broadcasting career class which gives students the opportunity to learn about the different skills needed to become a broadcaster or videographer as well as actually practicing the skills at high school sporting events.

Central junior Thkumin Seng began the class this semester and has thoroughly enjoyed the experience. When students enter the program the instructor assigns different positions such as journalists, reporters, and cameraman. Seng works primarily as a cameraman and goes to a different event every weekend.

Students work in the studio on a daily basis. Each student works to master different skills for their assigned positions. The

team films one primetime game every week.

“We find a game each week that’s the most exciting, like North and Central would be an exciting game so we would choose to do that one,” Seng said.

Students film events for all sports, but basketball and football are most commonly filmed because they tend to attract the largest audience. Still, students can influence what does and does not get filmed.

But ultimately the instructor makes the final decision. “We do all sports but primarily football and basketball, but I have been trying to get him to let us do soccer and other sports just because the audience is getting bigger for those kinds of sports,” Seng said.

Students travel to the game with equipment from the classroom and film the entirety of the game as well as clips from the student sections, fan sections, and interviews with players and coaches. The game is not broadcasted live via the student’s filming but rather at a later date, on local channel 18 for Cox users as well as on the ops.webtv.ops.org.

“We edit the games before they are broadcasted because... there is no way to get it perfect if we live streamed. There are things we have to edit like putting in interviews. There are things that don’t need to be said or things we need to edit out,”

Seng said.

During the games at least two or three cameramen will be filming throughout the stadium or arena. Typically one will film the game while another provides a different angle or films other happenings around the stadium.

“Sometimes we will switch off halves, or like at half time we will go around and film the different fans or go interview coaches and players that way we aren’t just doing the same thing for the whole game,” Seng said.

The opportunity is unique and challenging for Career Center students. It requires time outside of class and a lot of hard work. However, Seng and other students have enjoyed the opportunity and wanted to encourage students to take the class,

“It’s a really cool class and I encourage people to take it, I really enjoy it and I plan on taking it again next year” the junior said.

With the demand from parents and others outside of the student body and the interest from students within OPS in broadcasting, the class provides all parties a new way to enjoy major OPS sports events.

STEPPING UP

JALYLA VALENTINE AND DEANNA ANDERSON TAKE LEAD OF THE STEP TEAM AS THE NEW CAPTAINS

BY TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

Step team's two new captains are Jalyla Valentine and Deanna Anderson, both seniors. To become captain these two had to show they were capable of leading the group, make up new steps, handle the responsibility, organize appearances at games and coordinate the uniforms.

Being captain has given both Anderson and Valentine a new sense of responsibility. "It opens your eyes more to what your surroundings are and what you need to pay attention to, such as the areas needed for improvement," said Anderson.

Being captains of the step team provides the two girls with experience and an opportunity refine their leadership skills. "It's an excitement, it's good being captain because everyone on the team looks up to you, and they see what they have to do and the role they'd have to play to be a leader in anything," said Anderson.

Together, the two girls are a dynamic duo. They have made up the routines and their formations and set the dates they will perform during basketball season and pep rallies.

The captains have higher expectations for this year compared to last year. Anderson expects the team to be more interactive with the crowd. She wants the team to get more excited, so that the crowd feels their energy.

"Just like the students know the cheerleader's cheers, we want the crowd to know our steps. They aren't that hard because we still do some of the same steps from last year," said Valentine.

After graduating, Valentine would like to continue step in college by joining sororities that offer step. She has not yet decided what exact sorority, but that is something she plans to look into.

"I don't want to put my team down from last year, we did well. But we are going to do better this year because we have more and new steps," said Valentine. Both of them are expecting better results and reaction from the crowd than last year.

The step team this year is filled with freshman and sophomores, only four members from last year are on the team. There are 15 members on step team. "Our whole team is different," said Valentine. The captains not only made new steps but they had to teach an entire team the steps. While there are only 15 members in step team, Valentine and Anderson want more people to come and try out for next year because "teams should have 20-25 members." Anderson encourages more boys to try out.

"We barely have anyone on our team now so we are trying our best to get more people into it for next year," said Valentine.

Tryouts were held at last May and judged by former step captains, office secretary Erika Plummer and Activities Director Dionne Kirksey.

The two captains are thrilled to have the opportunity to lead their team for the upcoming season.

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web editor

Junior Danielle Mohr has been a cheerleader for Central since her freshman year, but her time with cheerleading began before she was enrolled in kindergarten. Mohr is very creative person, and since elementary school, art has been a huge factor in her life. Her two interests are very different things, a visual and performing art, but both showcase Mohr's creative abilities and allow her to express herself.

"I was always good at art when I was younger. My parents were always trying to get me involved in activities for art. So I would go to summer camp for art students since I've been in fifth grade," said Mohr. She just stopped attending the Adventure in Art camp last year which takes place in Benson.

When Mohr got into high school, her art teachers encouraged her to take more classes outside of school, and these classes have allowed her to improve her technique with many different types of medium.

"I usually use colored pencil. I like it because it's smooth and the colors are richer. Sometimes I use acrylic paint because it's more expressive. It's more flowy and you can kind of make whatever you want," said Mohr.

The pieces that Mohr creates are oftentimes abstract. "You can feel more when you look at it," said Mohr. Stylistically Mohr said she is more expressive than realistic. Mohr primarily paints people, but she tries to create the people in such a way that each is unique and emits a different vibe. "It's more personalized to you and what you would rather do. [Whereas] Realistic is where you have to kind of do what's in front of you and get it down so people understand what it is. [Expressive] doesn't necessarily have to look like the object," said Mohr.

This year, Mohr is taking three art classes. Previously Mohr has taken only one per year, but this year she decided to change that. "I just feel more comfortable in the art room. My mind is just more free up there. It's just something that's super relaxing to me. It's something that I want to do when I'm older- to go into art. So I would rather take classes to help me with that," said Mohr.

Mohr's start in cheerleading, however began when she was four years old. "I've been dancing ever since I was four years old, and so when I was an eighth grader I decided to try out for cheerleading," said Mohr. She said that cheerleading is a lot similar to dance and that is what helped her to land a spot as a cheerleader at Central. Mohr started out on freshman cheer and has worked her way up to Junior Varsity.

Mohr still dances now at Nebraska Dance and takes tap, a class that she said makes her feel the most expressive with her own movement. "I used to do a lot of ballet, but now I just take tap because I realized that tap was more expressive than ballet," said Mohr.

"A visual art is performing, and I just really like to perform," said Mohr. Right now in her art classes Mohr is working on print making, cutting copper to make a piece of jewelry and a portrait of someone.

Mohr's favorite aspect of cheerleading is the performing piece. "Definitely performing with my friends," said Mohr. Mohr said her dance background helps her out a lot with cheer.

Whether on the court cheering at a game, or in art class perfecting her craft, Mohr's creative abilities always seem to show through. For Mohr, it is all about feeling and expressing herself.

DANIELLE mohr

cheerleader &
creative arts
student



HANNAH dePriest

AP student &
varsity athlete

BY NATALIE NEPPER
executive editor



For Hannah dePriest, senior year is undeniably busy, but it's nothing out of the ordinary for this AP student and varsity athlete. Since seventh grade, dePriest has been heavily involved with cross country, swimming and track, which leaves little time for other activities.

Her commitment and athletic ability lands her varsity spots every season, meaning even more of her time is channeled into sports. But despite the long after school practices and lengthy weekday or weekend meets, dePriest still manages to finish the piles of homework from her busy class schedule.

"[I take] AP German, AP government, AP English, and AP physics," said dePriest. Additionally, dePriest takes time out of her full class schedule to aide for Marcella Mahoney, one of the English teachers in the building.

When she's not running or swimming, dePriest is also an active member of National Honor Society and spends time volunteering to earn her requirements for community service hours. She also is the O-Club President, making her one of the most elite varsity student athletes. Additionally, dePriest is the Senior Class Secretary and still manages to fulfill her obligations in all other activities.

dePriest says that she's overwhelmed "everyday" but nothing stops her from continuing these activities.

Her favorite sports season is swimming, even though it's the hardest. "It's a lot more time consuming than any of the other sports and you are involved a lot more," dePriest said. "I think it's more, overall, exhausting. You get home and you don't want to do anything."

The swim team practices usually last until between 6:30 and 7, which is one and a half to two more hours spent on swimming than cross country or track practices. This year, dePriest plans on getting a personal best in both of her races, the 50m and 100m freestyle.

When track season rolls around in the spring, she plans to continue with the 800m and the 1600m at all the meets. Just like last year, she also is committed to participating in pole vaulting, an event which requires athletes to travel to North three times a week for additional preparations. These preparations take time out of normal track practices but because Central does not have the correct pole vaulting equipment needed for the team, traveling is necessary.

dePriest had originally planned on continuing her sports career in college, but has since changed her mind. "I think I'll do intramurals instead," she said. "They're like college sports but it's not like a team. It's kind of like a club."

Until then, she still has to finish out her senior year. The hardest part of balancing school work, activities and sports for her is "probably time management." Her advice to others in a similar situation is to "try not to focus all on one thing. You kind of just got to go with the flow."

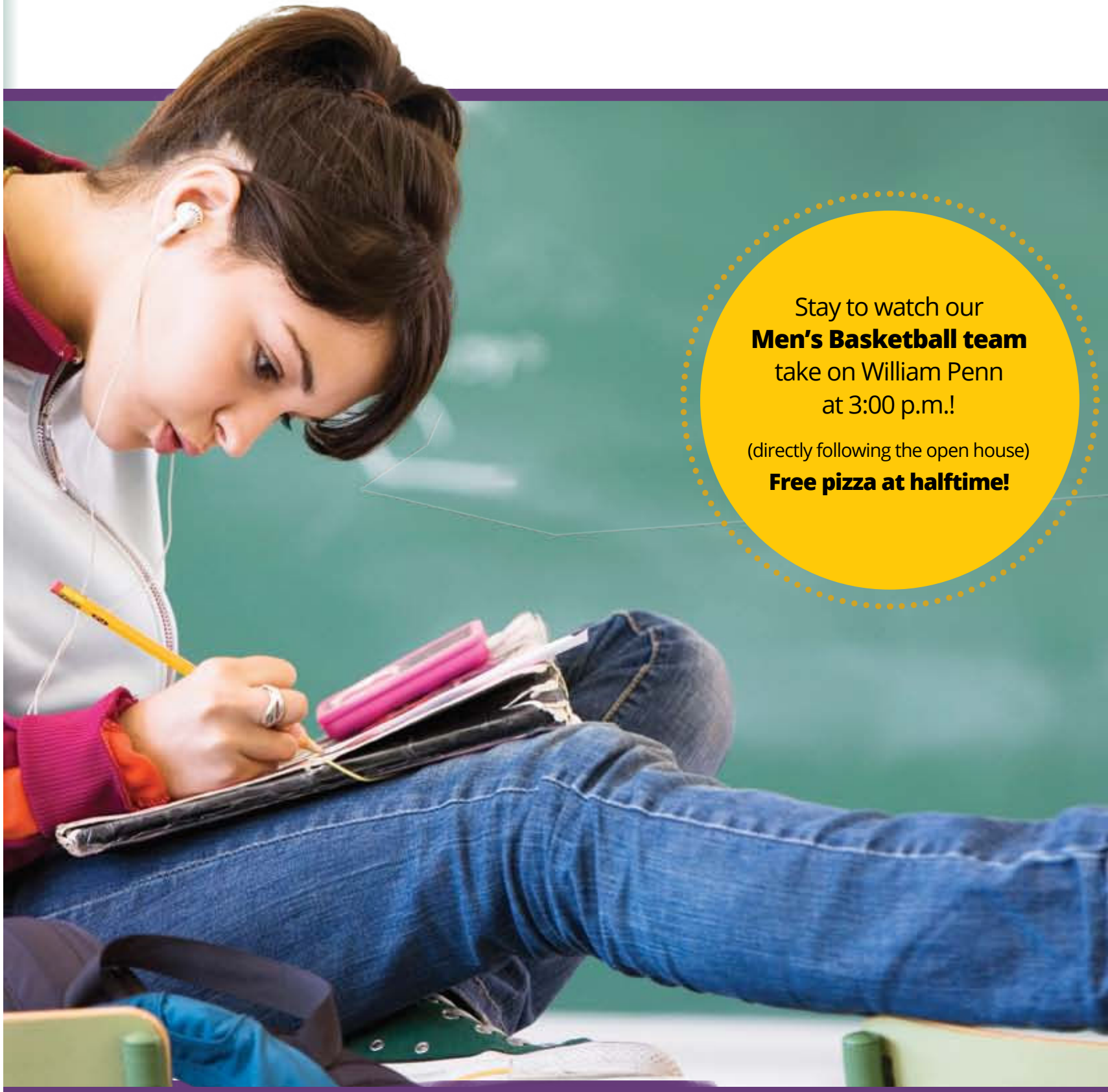
Hey, Juniors and Seniors! *This one's for you!*

BELLEVUE UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE 2014

Saturday, December 13 • 12 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Margre H. Durham Student Center, Bellevue University Main Campus

- **FREE** chili feed
- Raffle drawings
- Meet and hang out with other students!
- Learn about scholarships and grants



Stay to watch our **Men's Basketball team** take on William Penn at 3:00 p.m.!

(directly following the open house)

Free pizza at halftime!