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Omaha Central High School

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THE

register

FINED?

POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR THE CELEBRATORY BABY POWDER STUNT ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT SECTION



ANN MILROY | The Register

Left: Brandon Wagner kneels down in concern of the Eagle's victory. Right: The student section throws baby powder into the air during the game.



ANN MILROY | The Register

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

The Omaha area is divided not only by countless neighborhoods and streets but also by intense high school athletic rivalries that surpass the distance. One of the deepest rooted and passionate contests in the metro is that of Central High School and Creighton Prep.

During last year's game, even as the Central eagles swept the Prep Bluejays, the Prep student section threw a mass of baby powder into the air, casting a white fog across the bleachers.

Several weeks ago, at the Central-Prep match up, the Central student section returned the baby powder favor, against the wishes of staff.

Following which, rumors of a Nebraska State Athletics Association (NSAA) fine levied upon Central for the act, broke out on Twitter.

Although heavily discussed by the student population and appearing across social media, no official basis for these rumors has been released.

"It is a fineable offense, but I haven't gotten anything yet," said Athletic Director Luke Dillon.

He explained that although the actions taken by the student section are a violation of one of the NSAA's rules, there is nothing official as of yet on the possibility of a fine. He added, "I assume if

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SWORD

CALEB SONNTAG CONTRIBUTES HIS STYLE TO LOCAL FASHION INDUSTRY

BY JULIAN HOCK-BEATY
contributing writer

What starts as a simplistic sketch can become a widely recognized concept. Caleb Sonntag, owner and designer for Sword Clothing Co., keeps the pop culture industry in check with every idea he fleshes out.

Fashion trends are a huge part of society today, and Sonntag aims to keep an artistic spin on things to prevent the market from going stale.

With a variety of designs and a reputable public image,

Sword is destined to expand and intrigue a wide range of customers. The brand never fails to bring artistic elegance and pure modern classiness to the table.

Sonntag has manifested his ideas in the form of art since he was very young.

"Ultimately, I'm an artist. I've been an artist probably ever since I could form memories in my brain... I've never really done it as a career," he says.

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Dickens' descendant performs one person play in honor of family

BY JORDAN YOUNG
co-web editor

It was sheer clumsiness and forgetfulness that led Gerald Dickens to reenacting his great, great, great grandfather's book "A Christmas Carol" as a one man show.

It was 1993, the 150th anniversary of the writing of "A Christmas Carol", a huge deal in Britain. A woman from a charity asked Dickens if he would read the book orally to audiences as a touring show.

With some apprehension, he agreed to do the readings and fell in love with the theatrical point of view within the distinctive characters in performing them during the shows. Around 1995, he eventually

ended up in the United States performing his show in Tennessee, then Alabama, where his show took a different turn.

It was during the mad dash from Tennessee to Alabama that Dickens forgot his copy of "A Christmas Carol" and had to find a way to get through his show in Alabama without it.

"I thought, 'Let's see if I can get through this by memory,'" he said. So with his memory, improvisation, a little wooden stool and a chair, Dickens performed his first one man show and it has taken off ever since then.

"It was absolutely amazing...it all changed on that day," he said. Dickens' overall success didn't only begin in a library in Alabama, but also when he starred in a school play depicting the Nativity when

he was nine years old.

"For me it was theatre, always theatre," said Dickens. Although he is the descendant of Charles Dickens, his father never "forced Dickens" on him or any of his siblings, despite the fact that he too was a Dickens fan. "I had Oliver Twist as a set text at school and absolutely hated it," he said laughing.

The only thing his father told him was "whatever you do in life, do your absolute best."

So he did.

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ACADECA ►

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JEA CONFERENCE ►

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Academic Decathlon students head to Chicago for competition.

Chorus students are granted the opportunity to sing behind Omaha Symphony in collaborative performance.

The journalism students fly to Washington, D.C for the annual fall JEA conference.

Rumors suggest potential fines

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they were gonna do it, I would have gotten something [by now]."

If the fine does materialize, the school will be footing the bill.

According to Dillon, nothing similar to this has occurred before, but also ceded that the majority of these rules are new.

He attributed this increase in regulation to the NSAA's executive director, Rhonda Green.

"Since she's been there, she's come up with a lot of new rules and fees," Dillon said.

Dillon also added that these fines and stipulations are not necessarily helping, "[I'm] not a fan of the new fines and regulations. It takes away from the spirit of the game," he said.

Of course however, the NSAA still has time to impose a fine.

Regardless, Dillon said that the school will still take steps to prevent an actual fine from occurring.

"We'll try to be more proactive with the students in the future," he said.

Just as it is with any story, there are always two sides.

Junior Jacob Bigelow was part of the student section that eventful night and also was one of the first people to hear the rumors about the possible fine.

He as well said that he didn't know if the fine for the baby powder was real, "I know it is violation but I just heard about it on social media," Bigelow said.

The person with whom the fine rumor originated is still unknown.

Although members of the student section have claimed that they were allowed to throw the baby powder, U.S. History and African-American history teacher and sporting event regular Rod Mullen said that this is simply not the case.

He said that the staff had become aware of the student sections plans, "I warned them about doing it but they persisted."

"I then informed Dr. Bennett and he talked to them," he said. Even with this admonishment, no heed was paid.

"Even with every opportunity to do the right thing, they still chose otherwise," Mullen said.

Whether or not the fine will come to fruition is still yet to be seen however, one thing appears to be for certain, social media can make anything seem real, even if it might not be.

Dickens pursues love of acting with his plays



SEBASTIAN BACERRA | O-Book

Gerald Dickens takes his time to carefully perform the one-man show that he constructed based off of Charles Dickens' own work and performances.

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Ever since he knew that he wanted to act, his parents, especially his dad, were incredibly supportive. "The best bit of advice he gave me, you could go to drama college for years and never get such good advice," said Dickens. "He said 'Never start one word until you've finished the first one.'"

With that advice, Dickens poured everything he had into acting. He performed in school, community or semi prof theatre. If he wasn't acting, Dickens was working in other aspects of theatre such as stage management and in the box office with ticket sales.

As well as in school, Dickens kept his immense involvement with theatre during his two years in College and after.

In college, he studied theatre studies that covered practical and theoretical theatre and required in depth study of different playwrights and genres.

"Now doing the one man show, it's so important to have experience," he said. "Knowledge of all that is a real bonus."

Not only has Dickens' experiences shaped the success that has flourished for him, but also his incredible love for theatre and his career in one man shows. "If someone told me as a young kid that I could spend 6 weeks during Christmas performing twice a day I would have leapt at the chance," said Dickens. "I'm at absolute happiness."

This "absolute happiness" also includes the "mad" hectic chaos of life on the road and the nervousness that can settle in Dickens' stomach before the beginning of a show.

"Always feel very nervous before a show about wanting to do a good job," said Dickens. "Nervous energy really." Not only does a nervous energy feed on Dickens, but exhaustion from traveling from coast to coast in the United States as well as all over the United Kingdom.

"I'll get back to a hotel room at night and forget what room I'm in and have to ask the front desk 'Can you tell me where I'm at?'" he said laughing. But none of that hinders or distracts him from giving his best performance and enjoying every moment on stage.

"Full of energy," said Dickens. "It gives you an energy and it drives you on through the show. You might be tired, exhausted, but as soon as [I] say that first line, it gives me a real sense of being alive."

Although performing is Dickens' favorite aspect of theatre, he also enjoys the writing process as well. "Creating is a part of performing," he said. Some of Dickens' shows are dramatized versions of Charles Dickens' own performances he gave when he went on tours. Others are adapted versions of Dickens' work and other shows Dickens did write.

"I have a repertoire [of] about 10," said Dickens. "About three or four I have written myself. [Mostly] it's all Dickens words. I haven't written my own version of Dickens' words. When it's Dickens work there is no need to add any more to it."

Dickens' formula has worked, as he has been performing his official one-man show since 1995 and has been to Omaha four times and still loves it.

"That old Molly was as dead as a doornail..." he said, reciting one of the best literary geniuses of all time with his personal lively portrayal, voice booming and fluctuating.

Sword Clothing designer details retail industry, entrepreneurship

CONTINUED FROM 'SWORD' ON PAGE 1

Growing up in the era of grunge music and skateboarders really had an impact on his art style. The thought of starting a business off of this concept was always at the back of his mind...until this past September.

"For this particular brand, it was kind of a thought in my sketchbook, but I had never really considered it being an actual possibility," Sonntag claims. With the primary distributor for the brand being an antique store in Historic Benson, new products are getting some decent attention. Sonntag hopes to get his company noticed through word of mouth, and he predicts that the optimistic message of individuality will be his ticket to publicity. One major misconception he touches on is that one can have an idea, but in all reality it takes more than just dreaming to achieve greatness. Financial sacrifices are a common occurrence in the business of marketing. In Sword Clothing's particular situation, opportunities seemed to fall into place. Through a friend, the merchandise was set up in That Place in Benson; an antique shop, and launched on Oct 3.

With the booming fashion industry today, many may lose sight of the artistry involved in the making of a product. Sonntag argues that many companies today are all very limited as far as creativity goes. An enormous portion of clothing and accessory corporations have a very brief impact on modern culture. Due to the simple fact that they only appeal to consumers partaking in short-lived trends, these companies do not last very long in the market. Sword Clothing implements visually exciting artwork and invigorating simplicity into its products; and Sonntag prays that those elements will create a more of a lasting influence. Technology has also helped the clothing line jump major marketing hurdles, with the new company website being restocked and updated.

Sonntag wants "Sword Clothing" to be a phrase everyone can recognize as a prominent cultural lifestyle. And so far, he's doing an exceptional job getting there.

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

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

The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its readers accurately as to items of entertainment, interest and importance. The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all of its proceedings.

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

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

The Register has won multiple NSPA Pacemakers, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA, and has been awarded the Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA for its overall work. Unsigned editorials are the opinion of The Register staff and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central High School.

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WELCOME TO DCC



BY MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

From Nov. 5 to the 9 students from Central's journalism department participated in the Journalism Education Association conference in Washington D.C. Despite not reaching goals, like winning best of show, these high school journalists were able to walk away from this conference with an experience that reminded them of why they love journalism. "I think that it's a good opportunity for journalists...the workshops, and the break with the pros, media tours and being around people who love doing what you're doing is a great learning experience. I don't think that you can really get a better one," said senior Tia Spears, The Register's Editor-in-chief.

This conference allows students from all over the country to come together, in order to better themselves as journalists, as well as, to improve their school's publications. Everything that the event is comprised of, like the workshops and other activities, are done in the hopes of providing tools that will allow for the betterment and well being of journalism programs in schools. Student journalism, such as school newspapers, create opportunities for students to grow as re-

porters and people. For those participating, like senior Maya Durfee O'Brien, journalism helps to break down barriers, like shyness, and gives them a way to become involved.

Programs like this, allow the means for people who aren't "athletic" or "dramatic" to participate in something that benefits themselves and that gives back to their community. The interviewees and stories that these journalists cover are the life and breath of their schools, and without these aspects the institutions would be without character or individuality.

"It's rewarding seeing something that you have helped other people produce. You've made this product out of everyone's strengths and weaknesses...It's something to give to the student body, alumni, faculty...it is a really, really good feeling and you know you've done something good," said Spears.

Despite all of the time and effort that it takes to create a publication, many journalists would agree that producing the final product is worth all of it. This is important, because, in order to do this well, it takes dedication from the whole staff, including staff writers and editors.

The issue submitted by The Register to be judged at the JEA

conference may not have placed itself, but five individuals from the journalism program did win awards. These recognitions included Honorable Mentions in Headline Editing, News and Yearbook sports photography and Excellents in Review and Sports Writing.

"There's a lot of work that you have to put into it, and you kind of have to be disciplined about what you're doing," said Dufee O'Brien. Like other team activities, one isn't just letting themselves down if they decide to slack off. The end product depends on everyone, which is why every member's knowledge, shortcomings and accomplishments are important to the well being of the group as a whole.

The outcome of any sort of competition is always highly anticipated, but the results are not what it's all about. In this case, the knowledge gained and friendships made long out live the placing at the end of the day. More importantly than bragging rights, this event brings young journalists together to better themselves and their work.

Improvement and carrying the torch of tradition when it comes to The Register, being the oldest continuing publication west of the Mississippi, is why journalism students at Central do it.



Newly inducted O-Club members recognized for athletic achievement

BY ALEC ROME
staff writer

The O-Club recognizes students who excel in both academics and athletics. This year, a new group of student athletes have been inducted into this prestigious club; and they are all female.

This club is comprised of high achieving student-athletes, and through this club they are recognized through out the school as well as through the community. The O-Club members have plenty of volunteering opportunities, where they complete eight volunteer hours with the club and two on their own. The advisor for the O-Club is English teacher Jessica Renshaw.

The new members for this year are juniors Claire Bexten, Avery Brown, Taylor Gunter, Chloe Madigan, Isabella Martello and Elise Saniuk and seniors Emily Jezewski, Maddie Shafer, Meghan Peterson, McKenzie Clayton, Hannah DePriest, Charity Perkins and Jordan Young.

For one of them, it is her second time being inducted into the O-Club. Meghan Peterson is on the O-Club for the second year in a row. "It's awesome. It is a really good club, and we do a bunch of amazing things. It is all girls this year, so the guys will need to step it up next year. The people are some of the most amazing people I have ever had the opportunity to meet," Peterson said.

This club also creates new friendships outside of the classroom for all of the members. "A lot of them have become really good friends of mine outside of school, and it is very eye-opening," Peterson said.

Peterson was also pleased to return for a second year. "My junior year when we were inducted, I really wasn't sure what it was, I knew it was an honor, but I wanted to know more. It opened up so many doors and I met so many people through it."

So far, they have been able to line judge at a volleyball game, volunteer at the Open Door Mission, and other "cool experiences" as Peterson described it.

Peterson is in her senior year, and has now made a mark in Central's history. "We all want to make our mark and leave something behind, and being a senior. It is bitter-sweet to leave, but it is cool to know that there is a legacy left behind."

"It is special in the fact that it has opened up so many doors for me and it has changed the way I see a lot of things. I have gotten to meet a lot of amazing people and along the way I have gotten to know a lot about myself, my community and my school that I didn't know before."

Another of the O-Club's members is senior softball player Jordan Young. She has a lot of the same feelings as Meghan and the other O-Club members.

"I like being recognized for doing well in sports and academics, so that is really cool. You receive a notification that you have been nominated, and it is a really good feeling



Stephanie Sanchez | O-Book

Newly inducted O-Club members and principal, Dr. Ed Bennett, applaud former O-Club member, Maddie Buller, on her speech.

to know that my coaches notice that I am working hard."

She also believes that being in this club is engraving herself in Central history. Young recognizes the achievements she has made.

"I have come a long way in my performance in sports, be-

ing involved in two sports and taking different steps, along with doing well academically."

Members will frequently wear their O-Club jackets on Fridays, in order to be recognizable to those in the building.

AcaDeca member displays huge dedication for intense competitions

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ
staff writer

Academic Decathlon is a ten subject competition, in which a total of nine students compete to achieve the highest team score and potentially win state and then possibly nationals. Is it possible to be obsessed with a competition such as this one?

Current competitor, Grant Sturek, seems to think so.

Sturek admits that he is considered to be obsessed with the competition that he's been a part of for two years.

"The obvious answer is yes, I could be considered obsessed. I like the fact that you learn a lot of new stuff and the competition nature of it. There aren't that many competitive academic things sadly enough and so the fact that this exists I think is an outlet for both competitiveness as well as intellectual exercise," he said.

Sturek says that he has a lot of fun studying for the competitions. After Central's team lost state last year, he thinks it sparked his fixation once he realized how badly he wanted his team to win.

The team spends a lot of time preparing for tests on the ten different subjects.

"For the seven objective exams which are multiple choice, we have resource guides that are published by the AcaDeca organization and we read those and have practice quizzes and practice tests. That's all we can do to prepare ourselves," Sturek said.

For the other three subjects, interview, speech and essay, they prepare differently. During the speech portion, they have to have a four minute long prepared and memorized speech and a two minute impromptu speech. So they have to be used to speaking publicly on very short notice on a subject that they just learned about.

For interview, they do all sorts of practice interviews and such.

They have different organizations and companies and people that will come in and help them with the preparatory interview process.

For the essay portion the only thing they can do to prepare is write some practice essays. That's not the one they really focus on the most, especially since Central has such a high standard for how students execute their essays. Most of the students on the team are either in or have been in AP English so they know how to write essays already.

Sturek explained that during first semester, the team has two scrimmages. Then the regional, state, and national competitions are during second semester. He said that the AcaDeca teachers in Omaha are very close knit so there are occasionally events for the teams in Omaha. The groups have taken trips to places like Kansas City and Chicago to visit museums and learn more about their curriculum.

Academic Decathlon students travel to Chicago for competition

BY KELSEY THOMAS
executive editor

Thirteen sophomore and junior students were accompanied to Chicago on a Academic Decathlon trip by social studies teacher and Academic Decathlon coach Victoria Deniston-Reed. Science department head Jean Whitten also chaperoned. Along with the students from Central were over 70 Academic Decathlon students from Burke High along with their sponsor.

The three-day long trip to Chicago was packed full with visits to museums, exhibits and important sites in Chicago. The group visited three museums: the Art Institute of Chicago, the Field Museum, and the Museum of Science and Industry. On each visit, the students were allowed to explore the exhibits for two to three hours.

Sophomore Miles Kay said, "At the Art Institute, we saw artists featured in this year's Academic Decathlon guides including Monet, Warhol, Pollock, and Picasso. At the Science and Industry Museum we saw energy in action via an exhibit of a tesla coil and also where humanity is headed in the future through models of buildings and gadgets that are on their way."

One of the most notable sites the group saw was the Carson-Pirie-Scott building. The Carson Pirie Scott building is important because it is included in the art curriculum for this year's topic, Ingenuity and Innovations. The building was chosen because it was one of the first structures to use a steel-frame structure, which was lighter and allowed for more window space than previous methods. Today, the building is a Target store.

Though scheduled tours occupied the day, students were allowed to have free time during the night.

"At nights, we got to walk around Chicago, which was a great experience and an opportunity for us to explore more than just museums. One of our stops was the Navy Pier Ferris Wheel. Despite it being a trip for academics, it ended up being one of the coolest things I've ever done with Academic Decathlon," Kay said.

Deniston-Reed could also greatly contribute to the trip with her own background knowledge.

"[She] also led us on an architecture tour, in which we learned the history of Chicago's buildings and the distinctive architectural styles. One thing that was emphasized was the fact that the entire city needed to be rebuilt following the Chicago Fire, paving the way for the newer skyscrapers and high-rises," Kay said.

The Academic Decathlon team finds themselves traveling often



PHOTOS COURTESY OF | Miles Kay

Left: AcaDeca students gather at the Chicago Bean for a group photo. Right: Students admired the Chicago skyline throughout the competition.

during the season. In order to go to competitions, the team must go to other schools such as Gretna High or Lincoln Pius IX. If the team wins the state competition this year, they will travel to Garden Grove, Calif. to participate at the national competition, which is attended by one school. Last year, Lincoln Pius IX won state, and the team attended nationals in Hawaii. Next year, national competition is scheduled to be held in Alaska.

Almost every year, the social studies department organizes a trip similar to this one. Students in both Academic Decathlon and AP U.S. History often travel together under the supervision of Deniston-Reed and other social studies teacher Scott Wilson. The trip usually corresponds with the Academic Decathlon topic of the year; last year students visited the World War I museum in Kansas City, because the topic was World War I. Many students from Central will travel over the upcoming summer to Europe, with Deniston-Reed and Wilson as

chaperones.

The cost to students to go on the trip was lower than most other trips offered in the past. All admissions to museums were paid for by the Academic Decathlon fund, so costs were only left for a bus to travel to Chicago and hotel rooms. Once distributed among the dozens of students from both Central and Burke that attended, the cost was less than \$100 per student.

The trip greatly enriched students' knowledge, while providing them with a fun experience in one of the nation's most historic cities.

"The fact that phenomenal art and exhibits that could be closely tied to the theme of the competition this year were just a few hours away was a real deciding factor," Kay said. "We are grateful that the teachers put so much time and effort coordinating this trip."

WHAT ARE YOU MADE OF?

The Omaha Durham Museum is offering an interactive social exhibit in order to help people understand what makes them who they are. The show, titled "Identity," will be on display until Jan. 11.

BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

What makes you who you are? The Identity exhibit in Downtown's Durham Museum gives visitors an opportunity to reconsider who they are as a person and where they truly came from. The Identity exhibit gives hands-on interactive situations that show how your genetics, brain chemistry and even your social life helps to mold who you are. The exhibit explores every aspect of your life and asks questions about who you are genetically, personally as well as what type of personality type you have.

The Durham opened the exhibit in early October and the exhibit will run through the New Year up until Jan. 11. The exhibit is set up as a tour that takes visitors through different obstacles and explores the life of each individual human. The overall exhibit is aimed at exploring in a fun way how our genetics, brains and social relationship help make us who we are.

The exhibit uses hands-on stations and also looks at how science provides insights into how we think about our identities. Adults and children are welcome to explore the exhibit and are divided into three different areas of identity: psychological, physical, and social.

The psychological identity area offers insight into how brain chemistry affects the way we think. Museum goers experience a series of stations and explore their personality traits and determine if they are introverted or extroverted, a challenger or an adapter and much more.

The first part of the exhibit explores the family aspect to your identity. The first part of the family looks into your family DNA. The primary part of the DNA addition is to see if you can determine whether or not somebody is related to another person just by looking at them.

In the addition you play a game where you see whether or not you can match specific children to a set of parents. Perhaps surprising at first, most people were able to match children with their parents just by seeing a picture of them.

Another part of the Identity exhibit is the Doppelganger addition, the addition gives people insight into how others view them. This includes the different stereotypes and generalities that people think upon first meeting you, while also touching on how different cultures view race over time. The doppelganger creates a person that fits under the stereotypes that you could be considered as.

A major part of the identity exhibit is the personality addition of

the exhibit. The dreamer addition takes into account how somebody thinks day to day and what they think of.

A questionnaire helps figure out what type of personality you have and then compares you to other groups of people that share the same personality.

Another part of the personality addition is the musical personality area. In this part of the exhibit, visitors take into their musical intelligence and interest and use it to discover unique aspects of their personalities. A major part of the exhibit is when visitors change different children's songs and nursery rhymes and place them in different orders. The exhibit takes into account how sociable, thoughtful and intuitive a person can be when trying to understand music.

The final part of the exhibit ventures into the different thoughts of people and their personalities in relation to thoughts of people with similar traits. This specific exhibit asks you about your thoughts and helps you realize why you think the way that you do.

Additionally, a section is dedicated to the personality kaleidoscope which studies your personality and how you function socially in groups. Overall, the exhibits provide an intriguing alternative to the everyday museum exhibit.

New changes in sophomore tests prepares students for the ACT

BY NATALIE NEPPER
executive editor

Sophomore testing this year experienced some changes as the ACT administered the Aspire testing nationwide. The tests, taken during the half day on Nov. 7 and spread out onto the following week, ended up adjusting the school scheduling. Classes throughout the week were switched to hour long periods due to the extended testing, or were shortened accordingly.

Four separate sections, English, math, science and reading, divided the testing and attempted to connect to the student's coursework.

Bette Norton Ball, counselor, explained that when the tests are finalized by the ACT company, they will be sent back to the district. From there, they will be distributed throughout the high schools. "Hopefully it's going to give information that will help them to understand where they are right now in terms of their skills and abilities and where they need to be," Ball explained.

Eventually, these tests will help prepare students to take the ACT, which counselors suggest students should take beginning the second semester of junior year.

Previously, freshmen were required to take the Explore test on the half day, while sophomores were expected to take the Plan. These tests, in addition to the four sectioned curriculum, also included a career assessment for the students' benefits. However, the Aspire testing holds no career assessment for the sophomores and the freshmen do not take any type of assessment at all.

"The Plan and Explore, which we used to give, there was a career section which you got results on. It was called 'world of work.' So they kind of give you some ideas, based on how you responded on that inventory, where you would

fall," Ball said.

The Aspire test itself was longer than the Plan test, and the speculation over whether or not next year's sophomores will have to take it is still to be determined.

"This was the first year of it and I think what will happen, the school district will be looking at it. Was it a good fit for all the high schools?" Ball said. "The other thing we're anticipating is that based on the feedback that we give back to ACT, they may make some changes in the tests before we send it next year. All of that has to be evaluated."


Since no other students were expected to come on the half day with the exception of the sophomore class, some of the counselors were concerned with how seriously they would take the Aspire.

"I was really impressed, because we only tested one grade level, that our attendance was really good. So I'm really proud of the tenth graders for stepping up and realizing, 'hey it's an important test, we need to take it.' That was a really good thing," Ball said.

Mindy Morgan, counselor, said, "As a test coordinator, we really appreciated the faculty's help with administering the test." In between the 10 boxes of test booklets and around 2,000 answer sheets, the staff members had to work extended hours in order to distribute the tests and prepare for the half day as well as the changed schedules.

Leslie Hall, counselor, also commended the commitment of the staff members. "It was a big change. It didn't impact us just one day, it impacted the following week. Everybody was very on-board and very supportive, so that made our job a lot easier."

It is unclear whether or not the testing will still be given out next fall, but students and their parents are still expected to receive results for the Aspire tests within five weeks.



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A Capella members granted opportunity to sing with Omaha Symphony



PHOTOS COURTESY OF A Capella

ft: Students from Bellevue East, Bellevue West, Lewis Central, Lincoln Southwest, Papio South and Central pictured above the orchestra. **Right:** Students practice songs they sang during the performance.

BY JULI OBERLANDER

staff writer

Not every school can claim that they were asked to sing with the Omaha Symphony.

In fact, only six have been given that opportunity. Bellevue East, Bellevue West, Lewis Central, Lincoln Southwest, Papillion-La Vista North and Central were all invited to participate in a recent performance of Andrew Lloyd Webber's Requiem because of their reputation.

For the conductor of Central's A Capella group, Lyn Bouma, this was a big deal.

"The choral collaborative is an outreach education project of the Omaha Symphony," said Bouma. "The last two years it's been an opportunity for high school students to sing collaboratively with professional singers, the symphony and other high schools."

According to vocal music instructor Sara Cowan, the collaborative started around fall 2000. This year marked Central's second invitation to take part in the exclusive group after they performed with the Omaha Symphony in 2013.

"We showed up to school in August and Bouma said we were doing it again," said Erika Regier, a soprano in the choir. "Bouma gave us

the sheet of music and it was official."

For the A Capella members, the performance was invaluable to their growth, testing their skills in sight reading a death march. According to Regier, learning this style of music was challenging, especially because it was written in Latin.

It was a bit of an adjustment for Bouma, as well.

"I'd never heard the piece before," said Bouma. "There were lots of meter changes and moments that were hard to conduct. It was good for me to expand my musical horizons."

It also meant long hours of work to prepare the choir students for the intensity of the event.

"It was more difficult so they had to work hard to learn their parts," said Bouma. "It's always a big undertaking to do something like this early in the school year. They definitely had to stay focused and dedicated."

For Regier, the chance to sing with professional musicians was once-in-a-lifetime.

"They brought professional soloists and the soprano soloist was the girl who always plays Glinda in the Wizard of Oz," said Regier. "They had people from Broadway as well as several prestigious boys' choir academies in California. It was legit."

The A Capella instructor also observed the effects that the col-

laborative had on her students.

"It's always a great opportunity for them to sing in the Holland Center," said Bouma. "It's great exposure to work with professionals and to represent OPS on a bigger stage."

Overall, Bouma was pleased with A Capella's efforts.

"I thought it went really well," said Bouma. "The students made adjustments when they got into the mass choir. The symphony was pleased and we got good feedback from audience members, so for us, it was very successful."

Regier was also proud of A Capella's accomplishments for Central and OPS.

"I enjoyed working with the professionals and the symphony," said Regier. "How many schools can say they've done that?"

For the senior, the choral collaborative affected her on a personal level, as well. Planning to major in theology, Regier's experience with the symphony has shown her ways to implement music into her future career.

"It exposes you to the professional world, as opposed to regular school concerts," said Regier. "I don't plan on going into music in college, but I can use it in the ministry, and that's very important to me."

Six students chosen for Doane's annual Fall Festival

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO

staff writer

Doane College held its annual Fall Festival of Winds on Nov. 1. Six Central students were chosen to participate. Nebraska high school students were invited to audition for a position on one of the bands that performed along-side Doane students.

Juniors Alea Bilyeu, Chris Kathka, Michael Svolos and Clark Pavel along with senior, Christina Siek and sophomore Mitch Fey represented Central at Doane. Most students chose to use their All State Band audition video for the festival auditions.

"Students audition for it, we send in audition videos of them playing their instrument, they get placed in certain bands [levels]," said Pete Wilger, band director. "They rehearse a day and they perform that same day."

Doane College has celebrated The Fall Festival of Winds for four years. Central has been part of the festival for all those years. Unlike previous years, this year Central had more students participating. "We usually have one two three [students participating], but this year we had a lot of interest," said Wilger.

"It wasn't like a huge surprise," Wilger said upon learning which students were chosen to participate in the festival. "I knew they were all some of the top people in their sections, I'm really pleased that they were able to do that."

This year's group included three students who play the same instrument, the flute. "I don't know, there's just something about it [the flute]," said Bilyeu, who has been playing the flute for six years now. "I'm not sure why, but I just knew that it was the instrument that I wanted to play."

For Siek, playing the flute became something she had in common with her mother and has been playing since the fifth grade. "My mom played it when she was younger, so it was the natural instrument that I chose to play," Siek said.

Svolos started playing the flute in the eighth grade when the band program began at his middle school. "I don't know why I picked it; it sounded cool when I saw it in concert," said Svolos.

Fey has been playing the trombone since fifth grade. "When the band director was showing off the instruments, I thought it sounded the best," said Fey. "It was different than other instruments."

"I've been playing for six years now," said Kathka, who plays the clarinet. "My grandma used to play and I thought it'd be fun to carry on the tradition of playing the clarinet in my family."

"I play the tuba," said Pavel. "I've been playing since the sixth grade. I always thought it would be fun to try when I was younger."

For some of the students it wasn't a surprise that they were chosen, but overall they were happy with the results. "I kind of expected it honestly," said Bilyeu. "It's a smaller group thing, I've worked really hard to get to where I am now, so getting into a group for that sort of thing isn't quite as big of a deal as it would be when I was starting out."

None of the student's felt nervous for the performance, although Fey wasn't able to attend due to being ill. "I really wanted to go, I had a sore throat," said Fey. "I wouldn't really be good use at Doane, but man I would've loved to go and play."

For many of the students, this was their first performance at Doane. Though the underclassmen would like to audition for next year, the seniors given the chance would do it again too. Seniors, like Siek would have liked to do it previous years. "I don't know why, probably because I wasn't aware of it earlier but I had I really good time."

Overall, all of the students agree that it was a great experience and Wilger hopes that students who participated this year do so next year and for other students to audition as well. "If they practice and they prepare like we had this year, I think we have a chance of doing it," said Wilger.

All City Music Festival moves to TAC building for this year

BY MADDIE HAYKO

staff writer

The venue for the annual All City Music Festival has been moved from the Civic Auditorium, which will be deconstructed, to the OPS TAC building. Music supervisor, Linda L. Hulsey is one of the people who is working on moving this concert to its new venue.

"Our previous venue, Civic Arena, is no longer in existence so we needed to find a different venue to continue this musical tradition," said Hulsey. There have been concerns about this move, but Hulsey is sure that everything will work out even though the TAC building is a much smaller place than the Civic Center.

"The TAC building absolutely has enough space for this event. We are still working on the fine details and the auditorium at TAC is a beautiful venue," said Hulsey.

However, with any change as large as this there will be a lot of little things that will have to be worked out, like times and tickets that the music staff will have to work out. They will also have to limit the number of people that who be able to play at the concert. Subsequently, this year high school students will have to practice a lot more on their audition material.

"High school vocal students will have to audition at the request for their vocal teacher. Middle school students will still be recommended for All City, same with sixth graders who will now be divided into two ensembles," said Hulsey.

Dress rehearsals also will not change. They will be set up before the performance so the students participating will know where to go when it is their turn to perform, like it was at the Civic, but the time will most likely be different.

There are still a few more things have not been worked out yet.

"Ticket price change has not been determined at this time. Having the TAC building as a permanent location for the All City Music Festival also hasn't been determined yet," said Hulsey.

Even though all the preparations for this event haven't been sorted out, they will have to be final soon because All City is only just a few months away. What is important is that this OPS tradition will still be able to continue for many years to come.

Barnes and Noble bookfair raises money to benefit the library and students

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN

web master

Central's library held a book fair at the Barnes and Noble in the Old Crossroads Mall. The fair was held from Nov. 14 through Nov. 20 to benefit the library in order to raise funds for more books to be brought into the library.

Librarian, Beth Eilers, found out about the possibility of doing something like this from another librarian.

"A former librarian at Burke was approached by someone at Barnes and Noble and she went out and did a book fair at the Burke location and they did very well, then the next librarian at Burke did the same thing- so it's just kind of starting to spread by word of mouth," said Eilers. She also said that Barnes and Noble is doing its best to reach out to the community as a whole.

The book fair ran all day on Saturday Nov. 14, only at the Crossroads location, through Nov. 20 with an online component as well. "You could- if you had the code, you could go ahead and order through Barnes and Noble's website," said Eilers. Depending on how

much was sold that's the percentage the library will get of the money raised.

"Whatever amount [of money] that we are due they're just going to give that to us in Barnes and Noble gift cards," said Eilers. She plans on using the money raised to help buy a Manga collection for the library. Eilers said that she has a student who loves Manga, so the funds will help to benefit more Manga type books to be brought into the library.

"It's relatively new," said Eilers about the book fair at Barnes and Noble. It has only been done for the last couple of years, but said that if it was successful it would be something that could continue. "I was there for about two hours [at the store]," said Eilers. She had some IB and National Honor Society students come in and do a story book reading time, along with a crafting activity in the children's section.

"They were getting their volunteer hours for IB and National Honor Society," said Eilers. She said that she too bought some items, and was happy to see familiar faces from Central coming out to help support the cause.

"[I] saw a mom with a stack of things," said Eilers. In order to

gain money the customers had to mention that they were there for the Central High School book fair, which then a percentage of the total cost of what they purchased was then given to the fund.

"10 to 15 percent of the total purchase... if people from Central spent 10,000 we would get X amount, and if we were to get 15,000 that amount would go up," said Eilers.

Eilers was somewhat skeptical about the amount of money that has been raised. "I don't know if our marketing efforts were good enough," said Eilers. She tweeted about it, and got retweeted by the Dundee Community a twitter account that has 1,200 followers.

"It's nice to have those group (like the foundation, the twitter accounts etc.) supporting us to help to get the word out," said Eilers.

"We may not do it again- I can do up to two a year, so I could do one in the fall and one in the spring," said Eilers. She said that if the fair didn't do as well as it could have that it may not be something they will do again. "We'll just have to see how it turns out," she explained.

In the end, Eilers was able to get \$137 in Barnes and Noble gift cards to be used for the library.

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IMANI BROWN

grade: 12

BY JORDAN YOUNG
co web editor

Some people religiously follow television shows, freak out when they see their favorite on a commercial or become completely enraptured when they hear their favorite musician on radio.

For senior Imani Brown, her “fangirl-dom” surds the world of art, where she thrives.

“Details in movie [animations],” said Brown of her animation obsession. “Especially in the ground...I fan-girl over pictures. Like, it’s crazy.” Brown has one significant and outstanding past that has led her to her love for intricate art: drawing.

It all began in 6th grade when she and her friends began making comic strips and drawing stories for fun. The intensity for her passion ignited when she began taking art classes in middle school. “[I] carried around my sketch book... I love it,” she said.

When high school finally came Brown was sure the career she wanted to pursue would concern everyone for drawing. “It became a gradual thing,” Brown.

The formula it took for Brown to reach her conclusion was simple: add supportive friends, family and tons of practice.

“It keeps my urge going to become what I want to be in my family and friends support,” said Brown. Besides her family and friends, classes that she taken at Central have also helped her improve. Even more important is practice, which has helped her improve her style. “I think everyone draw...just practice and practice,” she said. “It gets...like drastically. Back then I used to use the edge of a cup, I couldn’t draw things without using at something else. [Stepping] away from using just one thing to a lot of things, going out of my comfort zone.”

“My style has changed a lot and is still changing,” said Brown. She described her artistic style as that is a mix of Japanese Anime cartoon and American cartoon. In addition, she can create a more sophisticated and detailed sketch versus her more simple cartoons.

The inspiration she gets her drawing from is mainly from an anime artist, Hayao Miyazaki, from Studio Ghibli, who has sketched the cartoons for movies such as Pano and Keke’s Delivery.

“All those cute movies,” she said. “He’s my inspiration.”

Brown desires to become either an animator or graphic designer. She loves the story and cartoon combination of animation but also the free style of graphic design. Overall, she enjoys animation the most.

“I want to share my work with other people,” she said.

To help her push herself farther in that direction, classes at Central have helped her along the way.

“Junior Graphic Design class—the class that made me go, ‘this is what I want to do...I’m sure of it.’”

Her teacher Dane Haggart was a huge proponent in that class, urging students to interpret art assignments in their own way and even going as far as to help students figure out what they wanted to do in the future with their artistic abilities by proposing additional assignments concerning what career students were interested in pursuing.

“He wasn’t like a teacher, more like he would give you assignments that you can do whatever you want to,” said Brown. “He said that art shouldn’t be judged by one person, people can look at it in different ways.”

“He encouraged me to join the Scholastic Art competition,” she said. “I probably wouldn’t be where I’m at. [It was a] confidence booster when I got the gold key award.”

With those pushes, Brown’s creativity has taken off in the realm of possibilities.

One of her other favorite designers, a talented video game creator named Rin, has also inspired how she is working hard to not only be noticed, but continually improve.

“She made that whole [game] by herself,” said Brown excitedly. For now, she networks online on Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr, entering into contests, other artistic forums on The Register and at art competitions. She even hopes to make her own YouTube channel all dedicated to her art form.



EMILY CALLAHAN

grade: 12

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

For Emily Callahan, the performing arts have always played a big role in her life.

Besides playing the violin, the senior has been involved in stagecraft at Central since her freshman year. She has taken part in everything from pit orchestra to tech crew in plays and musicals, where she has spent many hours working on lighting and sound. Between music and drama, Callahan has participated in a variety of classes, including Orchestra, Chamber Strings and Advanced Stagecraft. Over her four years in the CHS orchestra, she made an impression on her teacher, Brad Rauch, especially during her junior year, when she was the violin of the orchestra.

“Emily is very cool and poised,” said Rauch. “She is always eager to help the performing arts department.” Rauch also believes that Callahan “has shown tremendous musical growth and dedication in the orchestra program.”

Though she started out with orchestra, she doesn’t have a favorite among the two classes. “In orchestra, stagecraft has been instrumental in helping up her abilities in performing arts.

“Stagecraft means a lot because you meet a lot of people and learn leadership and teamwork skills,” Callahan. “You can apply that to real life, or orchestra for me.”

Through her time involved with orchestra and drama, Callahan has earned a reputation for her commitment and work ethic. “She is an excellent musician and musician,” said Rauch. “Her participation and effort is exemplary.”

As Callahan’s high school career draws to a close, she hopes to transfer her experiences to the collegiate level.

Though the senior’s college plans aren’t completely certain, she has a broad idea of what her major will be. “I’m deciding between sound engineering and fashion marketing,” said Callahan.

So far, she likes the idea of sound engineering because she “can work the sound board for productions and really have a broad skill set.”

Though Callahan doesn’t plan on majoring in orchestra, she still intends to be a part of musical ensembles in college. “I still want to get involved in orchestra, not as a career, but as a volunteer for the symphony when I get older,” said Callahan.

Ultimately, Callahan wants to continue pursuing her passions, wherever that may lead her in life. Through her involvement with orchestra and drama, Callahan believes her preparation at Central has been unlike anything other schools can offer.

“With stagecraft, we learn a lot that people at other schools don’t, since we have had volunteers come to help us,” said Callahan.

Along with her stagecraft education, Callahan believes she has gained a lot from her time in orchestra. “From orchestra, I’ve learned a lot about teamwork and community skills that comes from participating in a large ensemble,” said Callahan.

This is knowledge that her teacher knows will help her in the future.

“The main goals I have for Emily are to be confident in her ability,” said Rauch. “I hope for her to keep getting better at whatever she strives for, and to help make the world a better place with music and the arts.”



DIANE ALLEN

subject: ENGLISH

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ
staff writer

Diane Allen is an English teacher with some uncommon ties to Central. Not only did her both of her children go to school here, but so did she. The diversity and student body brought her back to being one of Central’s English teachers.

Allen said that her childhood was always playing with her siblings, and the way she was raised was pretty strict.

“I had two brothers and one sister so it was always sharing and playing with my siblings. I was very bossy, so I guess that’s why I might have become a teacher,” she said.

Her parents were very disciplined in the way that they raised her, they were rigid. She had schedules, bedtimes and when her or her siblings got in trouble they got in serious trouble. Family dinner was also important aspect of her childhood that she recalls.

Allen went to St. Cecelia’s up until eighth grade. She then went to Lewis and Clark for a year before coming to Central. She really enjoyed the switch from private school to public school because she finally was able to wear her own clothes.

She said that when she went to Central, it was as great as it is now.

“Central was amazing, just like it is now. A lot of the classes were challenging and the teachers were very strict.

However, a majority of that magic that happens at Central is the way that we all just kind of get along. “We accept people for their differences and that has never really changed,” Allen said.

Allen went to UNO. To her it was a lot like high school. She did not find college to be very difficult and the only reason she stayed in town was because of her then boyfriend, now husband. She wished that she had been more involved in activities at college, but was too busy being a girlfriend to get involved.

She and her husband were high school sweethearts and have been committed to each other ever since then.

“I walked by his house every day in my school girl uniform and my friend lived on the corner. One

day, my friends’ mom left, so we were like ‘Hey yeah, let’s call him up.’ He was the hot paperboy. So we called him for my friend, Sheryl, who lived in the house but he didn’t like her, he liked me.

So we had to call one of his friends to distract her and keep her busy because he liked me instead,” Allen said.

Allen and her husband really connected and hit it off and they became high school sweethearts.

Her advice for high school relationships is to stay away from them altogether.

“Don’t, just have fun. You think that having a boyfriend or girlfriend makes you secure when really the only thing that person is doing is distracting you from having fun with the people in your life who are your good friends. That boyfriend will distract you from your academics, will distract you from your parents, distract you from everything good and moral and true in this world and turn you into something you’re really not. Have fun being single, you’re too young to be tied down to someone,” Allen said.

Allen has one set of twin daughters. She came to teach at Central when her girls were about two and a half. She had to take care of them even while grading and completing the work that an English teacher is required to do.

Allen said that the girls are good combination of her and her husband. One is committed to schedules and deadlines. The other flies by the seat of her pants, although she is very passionate about doing what is right and eventually following through with her commitments.

Allen enjoys teaching at Central and loves building relationships with students. Although the grading is an excessive amount of work for her, she still finds a passion in it.

“I love teaching at Central and I wouldn’t teach anywhere else. If I couldn’t teach here, I would have to quit my job. I love the diversity found here. I love the relationships I build with students and that is what I find most rewarding, being able to have these relationships where kids come back saying ‘Hey how are you doing,’” Allen said.



MALIK ABDESSALAM

grade: 10

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

Few students have been born in a state, moved, and then returned to where they were born. Even fewer are the oldest with four younger sisters.

Malik Abdessalam, sophomore; however is part of both of these select groups. Born in Omaha, Abdessalam moved to Columbia, Ohio, after only four months of his young life.

There, he and his parents and later two sisters Safiyah and Nayera lived on the Ohio State University Campus. He said, “I grew up loving Ohio State athletics and still do to this day.”

Shortly after his seventh birthday, Abdessalam and his family returned to Omaha because of his dad’s job. He explained that it was hardest for his mom because of all the close relationships she had formed in Ohio, and that the lifestyle in Omaha was quite the change of pace. However, they moved into the Dundee neighborhood and easily assimilated.

He said, “There were a ton of kids in the neighborhood, which I loved.”

Abdessalam attended Dundee Elementary for 2nd through 6th grade, where he made many friends, and said, “[it is] the best elementary school in the United States.”

From there, he went on to McMillan Magnet Center for junior high, describing it as a very different atmosphere. Even while running cross country and playing soccer, Abdessalam also participated in numerous extracurricular programs.

He added, “Middle school flew by and before I knew it, I was at Central, the greatest high school in the country.”

Freshman year he played tennis in the fall and golf in the spring.

He noted that the culture shock was not as big as one might expect, and that you never really notice how many kids actually go there. He said, “Freshman year is mostly about trying to adapt with the surroundings and getting to know a good group of people that you will hopefully be friends with for the rest of your life. For me, freshman year was great; I built strong relationships with the students and the faculty.

Before I knew it, it was finals week and boy did it go quick.”

Taking advantage of the leisure that summer time affords, Abdessalam spent the days traveling the country and going from city to city on a family road trip.

“It was a really great time and it made our family bond of five siblings and my mom and dad stronger,” he said.

For him, sophomore year has been going even faster than his freshman experience. “I love all of my teachers and my classes were a great fit. I just hope this year can be as good as last year!”

perspective & commentary

DEATH with dignity



MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

Death with Dignity is an option that allows mentally competent, terminally ill patients to end their own lives. They do this by taking a physician prescribed pill. Despite the comfort and peace of mind that this option provides, it is a controversial topic, that some see as morally wrong.

Why is this? What right do we have to tell someone that they can't make this choice for themselves? If a terminally ill patient wants to be able to choose death, on their own terms, they should be able to.

Currently, only five states in the United States allow Death with Dignity. These states are Oregon, Washington and Vermont. This makes the option extremely hard for those who qualify to take advantage of it. It is almost as if people are trying to make it so inconvenient that no one regularly considers it as an option.

Despite all of this, Brittany Maynard decided that this was the option for her after being diagnosed with an aggressive brain cancer.

Even after having a partial craniotomy and partial resection of her temporal lobe, Maynard's tumor came back. She soon found out that the doctors could do nothing to save her life. Her only medical options were partaking in procedures that would prolong her pain and suffering. Maynard didn't want to spend the last days of her life like this, so she

CONTINUE TO 'DIGNITY' ON PAGE 8

DO THOSE WITH TERMINAL ILLNESSES HAVE THE RIGHT TO END THEIR OWN LIFE?

Alexander Wang collection clever marketing move by H&M, still disappointing

The highly anticipated Alexander Wang for H&M collection made its debut on Nov. 6. After the less than ordinary fashion show Wang showcasing his athletic line, stores across the US and China sold out entirely. However, this limited edition line will forever remain only a dream for most Wang fans.

For those who don't know who Alexander Wang is, the Parson's graduate was named the creative director for Balenciaga and decided to create his own line.

A-list celebrities like Rihanna and Zendaya Coleman are seen wearing his clothes all the time.

The collaboration with the Swedish based retailer, H&M, allowed those with who don't have bank accounts in the six digits to have access to Wang's designs.

For Wang, the athletic line he created serves its purpose. He said that he spends a lot of time in exercise clothing and feels that it's becoming common trend in street wear.

All items in the line are fully functional and durable for any on-

the-go lifestyle. Considering that athletic wear is a trend, most people don't care about that feature... It's the look.

No matter the desire for the garments, the sales were on a first come, first serve basis. With thousands of preorders, little was left on the e-Commerce level. On the brick and mortar level, the line sold out in most U.S. stores within minutes, leaving a limited selection for those on the Alexander Wang bandwagon.

Wang's collaboration with H&M is one of fourteen. H&M definitely knows how to strategically plan a launch, that's for sure.

With customers able to view the line on H&M's website and through the action packed, acrobatic fashion show; they knew exactly what they wanted.

This is probably why the collection sold out so quickly.

The publicity H&M received went through the roof once Nov. 6 arrived. It probably was more so about gaining a prestigious image rather than the quality of the line. (If you ask me, they were mostly pretty typical items with "Wang" plastered all over them.)

The amount of people who have access to Wang's clothes give him publicity (Rihanna, Zendaya, etc) and so that trickles down to draw lines from those celebrities to H&M itself.

There blooms another possibility for the company. More relationships equal more links which equal more money for H&M.

Choosing Alexander Wang's collection for that purpose was an intelligent business move on their behalf.

I feel that if they continue to have Alexander Wang create much anticipated collection then the possibilities are endless.

If there's one person who knows what H&M's target market likes, it's Alexander Wang.

Word on whether or not the collection will be restocked goes unanswered. Considering that it was a limited edition collaboration, then it probably won't be.

The success of the collaboration was undeniable, but the prospects for H&M are even more unmistakable.

This was a grand business choice and they surely have and will continue to reap the benefits from it.



TIA SPEARS

Healthy Kids Act inadequate, merely provides low quality meals for students

JACK DOODY
staff writer

The Healthy Kids Act, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 is a law that started as a federal statute before being signed by President Barack Obama in Dec. 2010.

The bill is part of the reauthorization of funding for child nutrition. The bill funds child nutrition programs and free lunch programs in schools for the next five years.

One common misconception of the bill is that the bill was only part of the Obama Administration when in the bill actually provides an addition to the original Child Nutrition Act.

Additionally, the bill sets new standards for schools and allocates 4.5 billion dollars for their implementation.

The new nutrition standards have been a focus of First Lady Michelle Obama in her fight against childhood obesity as part of her Let's Move initiative.

Although Michelle Obama has been beneficial in trying to spread awareness for kids being healthy, the Healthy Kids Act has been far from completely effective.

The Healthy Kids Act promotes many positives within school buildings for students. The law helped to improve United States Department of Agriculture(USDA) standards within lunchrooms by requiring that lunches be up to a certain standard and contain certain food groups for students.

The USDA is an organization that is part of the United States government which develops and enacts federal policy on farming, agriculture, forestry and food. The law also helps to work with local farmers and improve the nutritional value of the food produced from the USDA.

Another improvement the healthy kids act brings is providing access to drinking water throughout schools. Additionally, after school

CONTINUE TO 'HEALTH' ON PAGE 8

Nurse from Maine sentenced to lengthy quarantine



IMANI BROWN | Contributing Cartoonist

JORDAN YOUNG
staff writer

Civil liberties, controversy and Ebola. The three are undeniably intertwined as the possibility of a worldwide pandemic heightens and more specifically, in the case of a stubborn nurse from Fort Kent, Maine.

Kaci Hickox was one of the many nurses who traveled to Africa over the past couple of months to treat the growing spread of Ebola. Upon her return, she was sentenced to a 21-day quarantine, but unlike the others she wasn't having it.

The entire debacle ended with Hickox walking away, free from a short term quarantined life, health officials hanging their heads and the public questioning whether she was right in defying them.

Oh the joys of mass panic. It was obvious that Hickox is intel-

ligent and knowledgeable—she knows her "Ebola" pretty well. She reported herself having no fever and no symptoms of the virus, which is supposed to be a sure sign that there is no infection.

She was completely free of disease right?

To the rational educated doctor, nurse or health person, this might seem obvious. But to millions of Americans who consume current issues and information from money hungry television programs seeking the next big scoop, that wasn't the case. It might sound overly harsh, but Hickox should have simply complied with authorities.

It seems like Hickox knew this but didn't care, which can be somewhat understandable.

The more intimate details explain that Maine officials had no real scientific evidence that would support the reason why they imp-

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SICKLY INMATES

Should old and terminally ill inmates be released due to conditions?



TEEN MOMS

What effect does the MTV hit show have on today's young girls?



ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Are the efforts of those trying to close the achievement gap between races helpful or harmful?

Terminally ill patients given option to end their own lives when suffering

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turned to Death with Dignity.

This option allowed her to spend her final days with her family and friends, celebrating her husband's birthday and completing her bucket list. She was still in pain, but was able to end her life doing the things that she wanted to do.

Before her symptoms and pain became unbearable she took the medication, and ended her own life.

Her choice to do this wasn't an easy one, but when it comes to terminal illnesses there aren't an overabundance of options. Death with Dignity isn't an option for everyone, but that does not mean that this choice should be taken away from those like Maynard.

This option is able to give sufferers of terminal illness some con-

trol over their disease, so why should we take that away from them? If they are able to come to terms with their decision we should be able to as well.

In truth, the whole opposition to Death with Dignity has nothing to do with those who are deciding to use this option. It has to do with our own judgments about the topic. When it comes to this, we should be thinking about the benefits and fallbacks regarding people like Maynard and not ourselves.

Peoples' strong opposition, and only five states offering Death with Dignity, is causing unneeded stress on terminally ill patients who do not need it.

Making people in their conditions jump through unnecessary hoops is morally wrong in this situation. Those who have terminal illnesses have had enough unfortunate circumstances befall them with-

out having to deal with the issue of a ban on Death with Dignity.

If someone dear to you was terminally ill and wanted to turn to Death with Dignity, wouldn't you want them to be able to have that choice? It just seems illogical to punish those like Maynard with an opposition. This option may be one of the last choices that they are able to make for themselves. Who are we to take that away from them? Death with Dignity is something that we all hope we'll never have to use, but if the situation arises where it is needed the option should be available.

In an article that Maynard wrote before her death for CNN, she said, "When my suffering becomes too great, I can say to all those I love, 'I love you; come be by my side, and come say goodbye as I pass into whatever's next.'" Death with Dignity allows a sense of calm and peace for those who turn to it; one that shouldn't be denied.

Bill expected to help issue of childhood obesity; fails to do so

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food programs and breakfast programs are set up in different schools to give students that are unable to normally receive a meal the opportunity to do so.

The Healthy Kids Act also requires schools to be monitored every three years to make sure the school is following the standards requested by the USDA.

The ultimate goal of the Healthy Kids Act was to feed children who during school hours would not get enough to eat, while also battling the problem of childish obesity in the United States. The bill put in regulations that worked to try to solve both of the problems at the same time.

The problem within the United States is that children come from various backgrounds and the two issues previously listed are at the opposite ends of the spectrum of child health. However, the USDA aimed to tackle both issues with one bill.

Initially the bill appears effective: Students receive lunches that are healthier but also have enough quality so that students are putting healthy things in their body without leaving hungry. Although the bill contains important reprimands, it should be considered a failure because the bill does not serve its ultimate purpose.

Children who were well nourished are now hungry and those who were hungry before are now even hungrier.

The Healthy Kids Act lacks substantial basis because students do not become overweight from eating school lunches, they become overweight from a lack of exercise. Students now more than ever spend time in front of computer and television screens. A lack of activity is what has really been detrimental to the health of the students.

Another major flaw is that food being forced upon students will not always be eaten and the food is thrown away and benefits no one and ultimately costs the government and tax payers as a whole.

Naturally, as part of the increase in quality of food, the price of the food will increase. Most lunches have seen an increase of 10 to 15 cents. Although, the lunch prices do not hurt those on free lunches or the higher class students that can afford lunch, the lunch prices hurt the middle and lower middle class students in paying for lunch.

However, the major flaw in the act can be found within the portion sizing of meals.

According to general guidelines, teens between the ages of 14 and 18 years of age or high school students need extra calories because of growth spurts in these teenage muscle building years. 800 calorie lunches are not helpful to students who on average will need around 3000 calories daily.

If the USDA wants to work to solve the problems of child obesity and child hunger, major reformation needs to occur. The two bills need to be split; one bill should focus on getting kids active and living a healthy lifestyle while the other works to give students high calorie lunches that also give options and requirements to eat better.

Children who are overweight or even obese do not face the problems because of what they eat, the problems are brought about by the lack of activity from the children. So the law has tried to help kids who are unhealhty and failed. However, even more concerning, the bill has punished children who are adequately nourished.

Under current regulations lunches are smaller and more expensive and children are hungry, ultimately the Healthy Kids Act has left the majority of the population unhappy over a four year time period.

Quarantine prevents possible spread of Ebola

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-posed the quarantine on Hickox, which caused her to put up a fit.

Maine officials had no real scientific evidence that would support the reason why they imposed the quarantine on Hickox, which caused her to put up a fit.

As the events unfolded, support of Hickox waned out. Mayor Bill DeBlasio from New York said, "This hero is coming back from the front, having done the right thing, was treated with disrespect was treated with a sense that she had done something wrong when she hadn't...we owe her better than that."

Articles have even gone so far as to blame "mass fear" for the reason why the officials initiated the rule about the quarantine in the first place.

And they are probably right. The only problem was that the public didn't seem to notice and hate towards Hickox radiated.

What truly resonates about the entire situation is that the focus is on Hickox solely and not on the people of America. Sure, it's obvious that the nurse was brave and even heroic in that she would risk her own life to help others. It's even harsh to say that a nurse who sacrifices her time and health to help hundreds of unfortunate people shouldn't be so selfish.

But in a couple ways, her act was selfish. Many Americans were uninformed or only knew bits and pieces of the hysteria about Ebola

and to hear about a nurse who wouldn't comply for only 21 days to keep the rest of the country safe was enraging.

By that time, plane precautions were being activated, a couple nurses from Texas were diagnosed, others who had been diagnosed were healthy again and one man had died.

It was terrifying. There's no doubt that recollections of diseases from World War Z and Rise of the Planet of the Apes crept into the minds of many. If she put that into perspective, maybe she would have cooperated with officials.

No one was asking her to move out of the country, or to become an experiment under speculation for the rest of her life...it was only 21 days of basic solitude.

Maybe asking Hickox to quarantine herself was too much. In all sincerity, it wasn't fair to make her do something that invaded her privacy, her civil liberties and wasn't even backed up by scientific evidence but instead by fear. But to show Americans that everything was under control, that Ebola wouldn't spread, was extremely detrimental.

With the media blowing the stories up on television, social media and whatever other outputs, the government had to do something (plane precautions) to let people know everything was okay and that no, zombies would not be roaming the planet.

So to Hickox, we understand that you know deadly diseases, but the sacrifice of a 21 day quarantine to soothe the minds of Americans would have been much appreciated.

Tom Ford creates nontraditional lipstick line

BY TIA SPEARS
editor-in-chief

American fashion designer Tom Ford has caused quite the buzz upon announcing the launch of his lipstick line, "Lips & Boys," which released on Black Friday only, then will release again on Dec. 26.

The line, licensed by Estee Lauder, consists of 50 shades ranging from pigmented plums to nude browns, from various hues of red to unusual metallics. Each shade was named after influential men who have been or are currently in Ford's life and are sold for \$32 each.

The lipsticks are made from "rare and exotic" ingredients like soja see extract, chamomille flower oil and Brazillian murumuru butter. Ford wanted the lipsticks to be equally as creamy and soft as they were stunning in color. He is known for his attention to detail, which is further proven throughout the creation of this collection.

Besides using unusual ingredients and unique pigments, Ford emphasizes the individuality through the names of each lipstick. Ford feels that it's a sales tactic that will "amplify a woman's individuality while generating an insatiable desire to try more than one," according to Women's Wear Daily.

It is no new news that Ford is a fan of making flattering products for women, while flawlessly adding a masculine flavor into the mix. "Lips & Boys," evenly mixes those two aspects. It's the first lipstick collection of its kind which hints at a possible peak in sales and publicity for Ford, himself.

He told WWD that he expects his cosmetic business to reach a six billion dollar net worth, utilizing this collection as a catalyst in the process. Considering that MAC Cosmetics is a three billion dollar brand, he has taken confident and risk to the extreme.

The miniature sized lipsticks, perfect for clutch purses, will be priced at \$32. Some may think that is a little high on the spectrum,

but Tom Ford is a name that rolls of the tongues of various A-list celebrities and high end fashion entities.

Not until this launch has there been a highly anticipated collection of lipsticks containing 50 shades. There is an iconic factor within Ford's decision to have 50 shades that goes unparalleled by another name in the fashion industry, which is especially unique because he is a man.

In addition to the many reasons why "Lips & Boys" is already receiving monumental speculation, the contribution to e-Commerce it will make is moving the way consumers are purchasing items within the fashion industry.

Women's Wear Daily has covered this phenomenon before, but now that the holiday season has arrived, labels like Tom Ford are favoring e-Commerce more and more as each year passes.

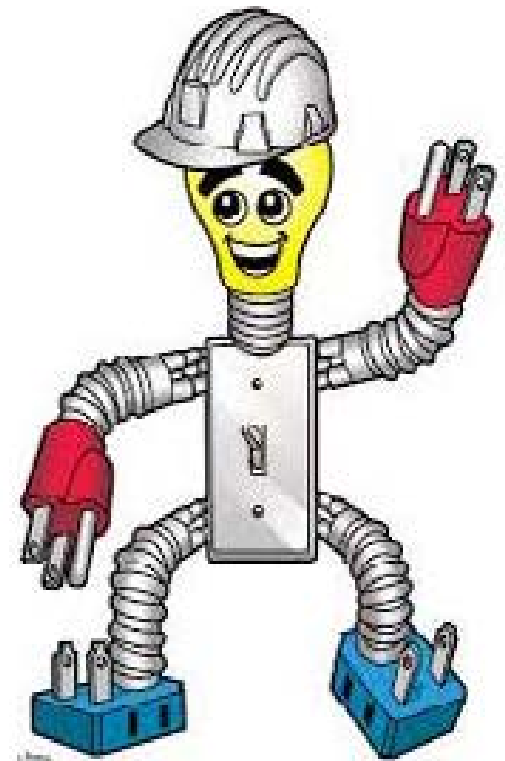
No longer are the consumers of major names in fashion physically walking on Rodeo Drive or Fifth Avenue—they're on the internet, phones, iPads and other electronic devices. It's considerably convenient and, by a large, more popular.

The people who are wearing the latest in fashion are most likely going to use the latest in technology as well. Ford realizes this and making the collection available online and expects the most revenue from e-Commerce transactions, following suit of other designers.

There is no doubt that the massive, innovative collection will fail on any spectrum of success. This is not Ford's first time embarking on a cosmetic journey. He actually featured colors from previous collections in "Lips & Boys."

Considering the premature publicity and individuality of the line, consumers (even those that haven't been loyal Tom Ford consumers in the past) will most likely buy at least one of the lipsticks. However, this is Christmas two times a year for most make-up gurus on YouTube and Instagram. With that being said, Ford's six billion dollar goals might be achievable much sooner than he expects.

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BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS
staff writer

A debate, which became an issue during late 2014, has resurfaced arguing whether or not terminally ill, elderly inmates, or inmates that are going to die soon should be allowed to be released from prison; this is also known as compassionate release.

These inmates should be allowed to be released under certain conditions.

The debate that surfaced in October of 2014 was about whether or not James Flowers, a 72-year-old man that was convicted for murder, could be released as he had served 50 years in a Massachusetts prison and was nearing his last months.

Other inmates were in similar situations and demanded to not be disregarded.

Many states allow, to some extent, compassionate release, but some states, such as Massachusetts, does not.

At an age anywhere ranging from 70 or older, and in the inmates' current state, it is impossible for them to do any damage or to commit the crime that got them into prison in the first place.

If they have served a prolonged sentence already, it is almost a certainty that they are remorseful for the crime they committed. They should be given the right to live out their last days in freedom and not locked up behind bars.

Conditions mentioned in the first paragraph would include various qualifications that the inmate would have to possess.

The inmate should have improved from when they were first brought to jail, shown signs of remorse and a change of attitude and disposition.

If the inmate has truly transformed into a being different from the criminal they were convicted as; their last days should be as peaceful as they can be.

If they have learned from their most likely ignorant mistakes, why should they continue to be punished? Yes, they will always be viewed as a criminal, but if sensible qualifications are met, then there is no reason to let them die in jail.

The Boston Globe supported compassionate release during the debate with terminally ill, Massachusetts inmates. They add on saying keeping such patients wastes surplus money. "Keeping such patients behind bars, even when they are minimally aware of their own condition, serves no rehabilitative or even punitive purpose. It's illogical and, on the practical level, unnecessarily costly," they said.

An opposing argument to this is that no matter the improvement, the inmate should pay for their actions, and that they are terminally ill and have not yet



MADISON ROWELL | Contributing Cartoonist

served their time in jail, that it is due that they die in jail. Or in other words, one who commits a crime so severe should spend their life in jail to their death.

This is true to a certain extent. Yes, what they did to get themselves locked up for that long was not honorable to any degree. However, when they committed this crime, they were probably young and ignorant or an older individual with ill-set motives and a fogged conscience.

By the time they have aged and spent time thinking of the choices they had made, they would probably be remorseful and deserving of some forgiveness.

As mentioned, terminally ill inmates, or inmates nearing death, can do no harm.

Let them live out the rest of their lives experiencing something they have been deprived of for their whole

life. The punishment already served is certainly the most severe (besides the death penalty.)

It will inevitably weigh on the inmate. On top of this, plethora amounts of money will be saved; money that would otherwise had been spent paying for the medical attention demanded by these terminally ill inmates.

A truly remorseful inmate should not be held to die thinking there is no good left in the world.

Allow them to die and hope that when they die they have done enough to compensate for their crimes that they have committed and not stand facing the negative aspect of their practiced religion.

According to The Boston Globe, incarceration shouldn't deprive inmates of basic needs, including good, compassionate care when they reach the end of life.

Apple's new method of pay will prove to be trustworthy, useful, despite security concerns

BY San Juana Paramo
staff writer

Apple is an ever innovative company; they've always been one step ahead of the game. Following the new release of the iPhone six, Apple launched Apple Pay, a defining moment in money technology.

iPhone users now have the opportunity to use their phone to make digital payments. Digital payments have grown in popularity and Apple already owns the market.

"The iPhone has near-field communication (NFC) capabilities that send wireless data securely over short ranges and a finger-print sensor that makes it easier to confirm the user's identity, and a widely adapted hardware platform with software to match," explains theweek.com.

The success is clear; a million credit cards were registered with Apple Pay in just hours of its launch. Bank of America, Chase and Citi have built on early adapters for the system.

It appears that Apple has already won over the competition. But victory is still far off. Apple has been under suspicion about their ability to control a high dense of payments. This has led to Apple Pay alternatives, but these alternatives won't decrease Apple Pay's popularity.

An alternative, Current C, has already been hacked. It was the first strike against mainstream mobile payments. If hackers were able to access Current C, how easy would it be to target Apple Pay?

In October Apple's iCloud system made headlines with the leak of private celebrity photos. It is still unclear who the hacker(s) was, but it made Apple a vulnerable target.

Apple Pay, the newest system, could have the potential of being a target.

Personal financial information could be stolen if hackers took the time to hack the system.

How secure are mobile payments? If personal photos were leaked online, couldn't the same be said for financial information?

Hackers are always on the lookout for ways to steal financial information; Apple Pay appears to make it easier for them.

Yet, Apple claims that they will not store any payment information on the devices or on Apple servers.

"We're not looking at it through the lens that most people do of wanting to know what you're buying, where you buy it at, how much you're spending and all these kinds of things," Apple CEO Timothy D. Cook said. "We could care less."

It's an innovate system, just what Apple is always striving for. But it still leaves some nerves on end.

What people don't understand is, that Apple Pay could be the most secure payment option in the market.

Year after year there have been cases of stolen credit cards, financial information stolen by hackers who've hacked into the stores system.

NFC capabilities are reliable, this new payment system could allow for the adaption of a chip-based security feature called EMV, for Europay, MasterCard and Visa. (nytimes.)

Hackers rely on the magnetic strips on credit cards, whereas EMV is more reliable than the magnetic strips.

This new system makes it harder for hackers to use a stolen number for other purchases or counterfeit credit cards.

It's understandable for the public to be wary of the service. The photo leak could be a main reason to not trust Apple's new system.

But in the long run, the new service makes it difficult for criminals to uses their information.

Apple has been a company always on the lookout for what would make their consumers lives easier, and this is just another example.

They have made it difficult for criminals to get their consumers personal information and they will not store personal information.

Apple Pay may be one of Apples most successful services that will prove those who doubt it.

"Do what you love" Millennial motto flawed; other's disdain justifiable



KELSEY THOMAS
WE'RE GETTING THERE

Some call it the worst generation in American history. Some call it the best thing to ever happen to this country.

Whichever way one chooses to look at it, it is clear that the Millennial generation, populated by those born between the 1980s and the early 2000s, are marked with distinct traits that set them apart from any other group in the country.

They are often criticized for an apparent incessant need to satisfy their own wants and pursue their own dreams. On the other hand, they are admired for their entrepreneurship, unpredictability and creativity. Unlike the generation that sprouted from the Baby Boom, or the children born out of the Great Depression, Millennials often refuse to work at a "mundane" desk job or conform to traditional beliefs. Though members of this generation are proudly unique individuals, one rule of life they all seem to follow is that there is none. One motto they share is, "Do what you love." The adage became popular in 2005 after Steve Jobs gave a commencement speech to Stanford's graduating class when he said, "I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do."

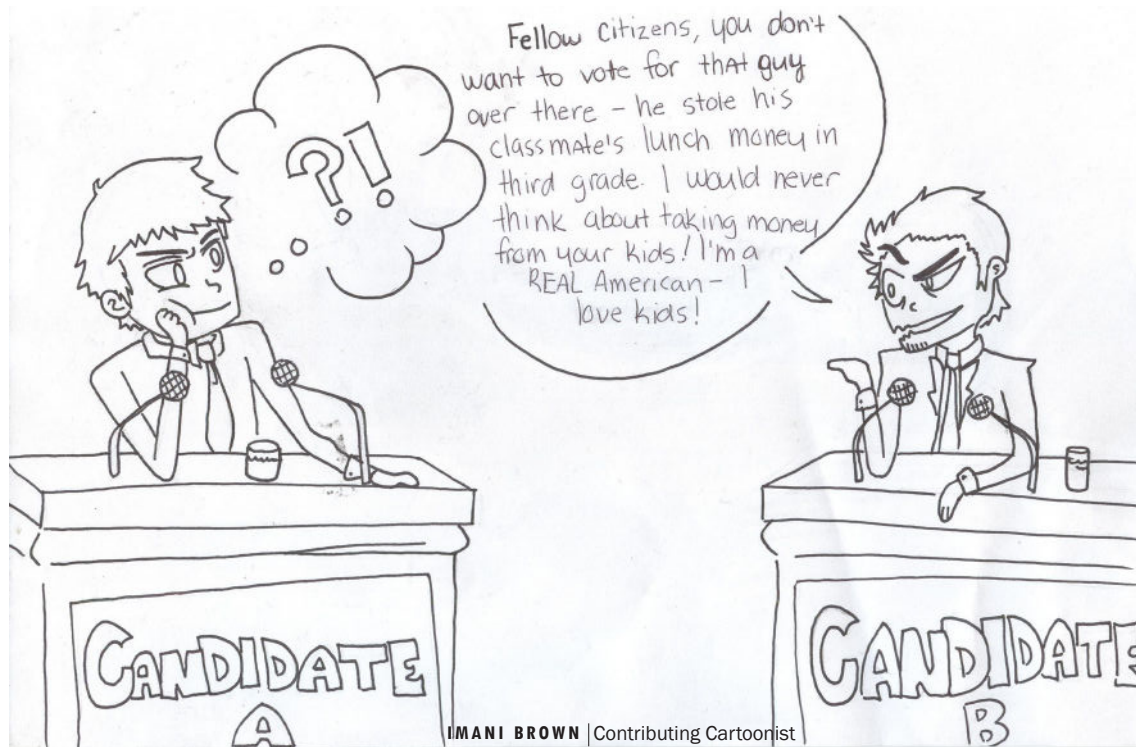
Such a saying is pretty in concept. It champions individualism and freedom of choice. It rejects any obligation to fulfill the world's expectations that one may feel pressured by.

Yet, the pithy saying has flaws. After hearing it, one can understand the argument that Millennials are entitled and selfish. What ever happened to honorable, but unlovable work? The statement that "great work can only come from work that you love" diminishes the deserved respect for employees such as garbage men, electricians or construction workers. Chances are most garbage men didn't grow up fantasizing about being in such a profession. Each of those jobs is necessary, and the public should recognize the importance of the people who fulfill these less-coveted roles.

"Do what you love" can also only apply to a select few. Unfortunately, choice is a privilege that not many people are given. Those who can do what they are passionate about must already have sufficient means to support themselves, and little responsibility to others. And oftentimes, doing what one is passionate about does not necessarily mean a steady income. You might have a passion for painting hermit crab shells, but it'd be impossible to support yourself or your family while pursuing this passion. This kind of unawareness towards reality is exactly what makes Millennials so disliked by other generations.

"Do what you love" isn't bad advice. One should always keep in mind what he or she is actually passionate about not only when they consider his or her career path, but in any situation. Yet, Millennials have to accept that sometimes you won't always receive the privilege to "do what you love."

Negative campaign tactics offer no positive outcomes



IMANI BROWN | Contributing Cartoonist

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ
staff writer

The controversy of negative political campaigning has gone on for years and years, spiking around election time. Still, the morality of these ads is consistently questioned by many critics. In many cases, participants fail to realize if their claims against their opponent are facts or not.

Although negative ads invade privacy, they can be very influential and raise many questions. Most people hate negative campaigns, but they pay attention to them.

There are several instances of wrong and unfair techniques used in negative campaigns. The most effective is producing advertisements that attack an opponent's record, personality or opinion. The two main types of campaigning are attack and contrast.

Attack advertisements focus on the negative features of their rival. There are no positives in the ad, whether it is about the candidate or the opponent. Attack ads typically identify risks that are associated with their challenger. Because these advertisements have no positive content, they have more power and potential to be influential in the act of changing voters' views.

Contrast ads contain information about the candidate and their opponent. The information provided about the candidate is positive, while the information about the opponent is negative. These types of advertisements compare and contrast the candidate with their rival. Due to the fact that contrast ads must contain positive information, they are often seen as less damaging than attack ads.

Foul tricks are also very frequent in negative political campaigning. Usually, these involve the leaking of detrimental information to the public. The material must be substantial enough to attract the media, however, if the truth is uncovered it could be severely damaging to the candidate.

Oftentimes, a campaign group will use outside organizations to launch attacks. These are said to come from a neutral source and if the claims turn out to be untrue, the attacking candidate will not be damaged if the links cannot be proven.

Another tactic is a push poll, which are disguised as telephone polls. They could ask a simple question such as "How would you react if Candidate E was revealed to abuse his two children?", which gives the untrue impression that Candidate E might abuse his kids. This

strategy is low profile and unprovable.

Negative campaigning is unfair and very distasteful. Negative campaigning means that whichever party has the most money and can afford to say the worst things about another wins and that is not right. A lot less respect should be given to a candidate that wins due to the fact that he uncovered a skeleton in the opponent's closet. You should win because of what you are going to do to improve the country around you, not because you made someone else look bad in order for you to be seen in a better light.

Advertisements that are negative towards other candidates should be banned. The negative campaigns are essentially bullying by older men and women. When parties do this, they create division between each other and lose focus on their goals.

Campaigns should not have to be negative to get their point across. In the 2012 presidential campaign, an ad titled "Hope to Hypocrisy" features Barack Obama contradicting what he said in the 2008 election. It pointed out all the things he said he was going to do, but didn't. In the first four years of his presidency, he got quite a lot done for the U.S. considering he was stuck with a primarily republican senate despite being a democratic president. This shows the sometimes half-truths depicted in negative ads.

In 2012, a democratic anti-Romney ad aired about a Missouri steel worker who lost his health insurance because Bain Capital shut down the plant he worked at. His wife dies from stage four cancer 22 days later, and he blames it all on Mitt Romney. The ad is using factual information in a false sense. He lost his job five years before Bain Capital was involved and his wife had private insurance until she was forced to leave her job due to an injury. The fact that Romney is successful and knows how to run a business does not have anything to do with his ability to run a country. Negative ads only feed America blatant lies about political candidates running for government positions.

Negative political campaigns are getting a lot of attention due to the lack of privacy being shown. According to ABC News, roughly 61% of the campaigns our president's political party sent out in the 2012 election were negative and were putting Mitt Romney down about several different issues.

It's time for our political candidates to stop worrying about their opponents, and focus on their own image instead.

Violent video games only encourage violence with less mature kids



ALEC ROME
WHEN IN ROME

First-person shooters and other more violent video games have become a staple for most of those who play video games. From Call of Duty to Counter Strike, millions of people around the world play and enjoy these types of video games. But does the content of these games affect people in general as much as we might think?

Millions play these types of games. Millions. Call of Duty: Modern Warfare 3 was the highest sold in the series, with 29 million copies. Even though that may not ever be reached again, the most recent game, Call of Duty: Ghosts sold 12.5 million, which shows that people still like these games.

More and more, children under the recommended age are allowed to play. Parents often wonder whether or not their children should be allowed to play these games. That is where this debate gets into a fine, fine line between maturity and age.

Most first-person shooters and other violent video games have an rating of M, or Mature, which has content suitable for ages 17 and up. However, one may find that children play these games anyway and some believe it to be misleading or detrimental to them.

The Sandy Hook shooting was a major tragedy and the killer was portrayed in the media as a person who was addicted to violent video games. Even though most believed he was addicted to games like Call of Duty and Grand Theft Auto, which may have affected his behavior, his game history was quite different. Dance Dance Revolution was his most frequent game played, between four to ten hours on the weekends according to the Connecticut state report filed on the case.

In the media, most chose to pick out the violent video game before this report came out as the reason for his behavior. They believed that violent video games may cause kids to go out and do these things and have violent thoughts. But, if kids know the difference between reality and the virtual world, we may not have this problem.

Some kids do know the difference between these two worlds. If they know the difference, it may be okay to allow them to play these games under the recommended age.

However, there is an age where kids seem to take a lot of things literally, and that is when this turns dangerous. When they know the difference between someone actually shooting you and you shooting five virtual men on a screen, they are less susceptible to do heinous acts.

Others believe that these games are a negative way to relieve stress and anxiety, like children are taking their aggression out on other people, or on a virtual person that cannot feel pain. Yes, this is a negative way of doing something, but the kids may not know the difference between worlds.

If they do, then it can be positive because they are getting rid of anger through a harmless television screen. So, the point is, if parents teach their children what is real and what is fake, then kids can not only play these games but enjoy these games as well.

So, whether you are an adult or a child, it is important to know that a 15 killstreak is fake, and the wars that countries fight every day are very real.

Even though the content and violence is very present, most enjoy it for fun and for a mix of strategy and skill based entertainment. Don't take it too seriously or literally, because it is just a game.

REALITY TV VS. REALITY:

teen moms

BY TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

According to the CDC, teen pregnancy rate reached an all-time high in 1990 with an estimated 116.9 per thousand and an all-time high birth rate of 61.8 births per thousand in 1991, gradually the rates dropped but then again in 2005 the birth rates started to increase. After 2009 the teen pregnancy rates started to decrease.

In December of 2009 the first episode of "Teen Mom" aired on MTV. This show was about four mothers, who appeared on "16 and Pregnant," which aired a couple months before in June. The show covered the daily lives mothers, juggling school, jobs and a kid at the same time. The audience of this show was directed toward teen ages 15-18. The show did not affect teens in a negative way but many teen pregnancies less appealing than what it seemed to be before this show aired. Before the show aired pregnancy was an event for mother and child, they connected during this time, little concern about the outside world. "Teen Mom" and "16 and Pregnant" brought the reality

of motherhood and the daily struggles.

Instead of filming the day to day needs of the child, MTV took a different angle to these shows and filmed the drama between the relationships of the mother and father, and other things going on in their lives. This made the audience think more about the struggles of being a teen parent and less about the glamour of having a baby and being broadcasted on television.

Watching teen moms go through their daily struggles may seem like a glamorous reality show because it's on television, but is that the case? No, if anything watching these teen moms struggle is a turn off switch for the female audience. No one wants to be on television for something pointless. These struggles didn't make being on television and having a baby cool; it declined the desire for a baby and made teens think twice about unprotected sex.

According to a CNN study, "16 and Pregnant" led to a 5.7 percent reduction in teen births in the 18 months after it premiered on television. This accounts for about one-third of the overall decline in teen births in the United States during the time period. The researchers of

this study were Melissa Kearney and Phillip Levine.

Kearney and Levine got their data by observing the search engines of Twitter and Google trends. The main objective of the study was to investigate whether the show influenced teens' interest in birth control usage or abortion and if it altered birth rates. They used data from Google Trends and Twitter to document changes in searches and tweets resulting from the show. They found that "16 and Pregnant" led to more searches and tweets regarding birth control and abortion, and led to a 5.7 percent reduction in teen births in the 18 months after the show was featured on television.

"Teen Mom" is a televised show that doesn't influence the baby making. It may seem like a bad show that gives teens the wrong message such as "having babies is cool." But in reality this show does the opposite and it seems intended to show teens that having the baby is not what is seeded. There is nothing glamorous or cool about this show. The show offers a different outlook on teen pregnancy and allows teens to observe the daily struggles of parenthood.

There was a **5.7%** reduction in teen pregnancies **just 18 months** after **aired on television**

source: The National Bureau of Economic Research, Jan. 2014



Only **40%** of teen mothers finish high school

source: National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy, May 2014

MTV is the most watched program on television for those between the ages of **12-19**

source: Parents Television Council, March 2004

3 in 10 girls in the US will get pregnant before the age of **20**



source: Planned Parenthood, March 2013

Parenthood is the leading reason why girls **drop out** of high school

source: Children's Services Council, 2014

Physical education classes deemed senseless due to unfairness, subjectivity

MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web editor

We've all had to take it. You know that horrible class? The one with all the kids in it that you would normally try to avoid on a regular day at school? Physical Education is a waste of time and should be taken out of the credit requirements at Central, or at least needs to be lessened as a requirement.

While it is plausible that students need to take a gym class to show how they're physically fit, there are other ways to get credit for being healthy and exercising than by taking a class at school. First off, gym class is stupid. You play silly games with your classmates and are graded on your participation. Then there are the fitness tests where one is graded on their physical fitness on unfair tests and scales. It's all very subjective. Then there are the people in the class. They come from all backgrounds and truly show how diverse Central is, but not necessarily in the best of ways.

For instance there have been many times that Physical Education teachers have needed to stop class to discipline these students. It's very annoying. These are also the kids that like to make racist and sexist jokes throughout the class. To young women it's very offensive and makes us not look forward to attending the class.

As far as the whole participation thing goes, it is (like previously stated) extremely subjective and based on one's athletic abilities. The boys that usually play a game or activity the whole entire time get higher marks, while others (who no one throws the ball to or includes in any way shape or form) are left the dull end of the stick. It's not fair, it's not equal and it is discriminatory. Why should we not let others participate that are sometimes equally as good as everyone else? It's favoritism and elitism at its finest. Sexism is also present here, as its mostly boys who are the ones getting the chance to actually partake in what is going on.

Fitness tests are even worse. You have to do a certain number of reps to get a certain grade. This is not a true way to measure one's fitness. Those that can't complete a certain number of reps get the bad end of the deal, leaving them feeling unconfident with themselves and their own abilities. We should be praised for our abilities, not put down for our inabilities. Thus, this is why fitness testing is so terrible in gym class.



ANN MILROY | The Register

Students in physical education class sit idly on the bleachers, choosing not to participate. There are various reasons for not participating in gym.

Also grading seems to be non uniform among the various different classes and teachers. One teacher might weight a certain grade more heavily than another teacher which leaves the student confused and at times even upset.

What it comes down to is that it really is not justifiable to make students complete four credits of Physical Education. Perhaps a so-

lution to completing the credit requirements could be an at home course, one that students could complete at their own leisure.

There are plenty of other ways one could spend their time in high school doing, Physical Education is just a waste of time. It causes students to feel bad about themselves, promotes those who are good at sports to succeed while leaving others in the background.

Fighter aircraft's technological significance unrealized, underappreciated

Following World War II, the United States of America emerged as the world's leading nation in terms of military development, innovation and technological evolution, knowing full and well that in order to preserve peace, the armed forces must always be ready for war. Throughout the Cold War, and continuing to this day, the technology of war has continued to evolve, with the U.S. evolving right along with it.

An example of this innovation is the Lockheed Martin F-22 Raptor. The Raptor, which holds the distinction of the most expensive fighter aircraft ever produced, entered into combat over Syria and Iraq as part of the wave of airstrikes designed to neutralize Islamic State supply lines and control centers. At last, the silver bullet of the U.S. military is put to the test and on display for the world to see. The F-22 began in 1981 started by the Air Force in hopes of creating an aircraft of unmatched performance to take on the next generation of Soviet technology. It was also planned to feature revolutionary technologies that would put the United States years ahead of any future adversaries.



CHOTEAU KAMMEL
CHO-TIME

After nearly a decade of fighting through bureaucratic red tape, the program reached its peak in 1991. At the time, the Air Force planned to purchase 650 of the planes however when production was terminated in 2011, only 187 of them had been purchased and delivered, with total program costs coming to a little over 60 billion dollars.

Since its inception, the F-22 has been criticized by many for its hefty price tag and program expenditures. However, those who criticize do not fully understand the technological significance that the F-22 carries with it.

The F-22 is classified as a Fifth Generation fighter. The hallmark of this advancement that traces its way back to the Wright Brothers, is stealth. Stealth is defined as the ability of an aircraft to conceal its location from hostile radars, infrared scanners and other means of detection.

No other country can field such an impressive aircraft, and even as Russia and China test their own Fifth Generation designs, the F-22 is receiving software upgrades that will allow it to be the premier air superiority fighter into the next several decades. One aspect of the

Raptor that has been hotly debated is its suitability for attacking ground targets. This skepticism is fair due to the Raptors weapons and innovations being geared towards air to air combat. However, on September 23, the F-22 helped quiet some of these aspersions by successfully attacking an Islamic State command and control bunker with laser guided bombs.

Finally, the F-22 is getting a chance to silence its critics. Based on its debut, it is well on its way to doing that. Perhaps it may also be an unintended show of force to others such as Russia and Iran, as neither country can hope to compete with U.S. air dominance. An example involving the Iranians occurred several years ago when an Iranian F-4 Phantom II attempted to intercept a U.S. drone running a surveillance mission in international air space. An F-22 was scrambled to interdict the Iranian, and rather than simply flying up and telling the pilot to leave, the Raptor used its stealth to fly under the Iranian without his knowledge, then suddenly appearing to his side, switching to his radio frequency and telling him "you really ought to go home." Indeed, the F-22 is a powerful tool, and it is an ideal time for it to be utilized in demonstrating the strength of the American military machine.

THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

EFFORTS TO COMBAT A NON-EXISTENT GAP CAUSES JADED PERSPECTIVE OF STUDENTS ACCORDING TO THEIR ETHNICITY

TIA SPEARS
editor-in-chief

“The Achievement Gap.”

It's what the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD) and the Education Commission of the States (ECS) define as the separation between minorities and white students due to the supposed ethnic backgrounds and socioeconomic statuses these students possess. The goal of these two organizations is to “close the gap” by creating changes within the educational systems in America for their success. Ironically, they're doing the exact opposite.

On ECS' website it says: “Research has identified a variety of factors that appear related to the achievement gap — students' racial and/or economic background, their parents' education level, their access to high-quality preschool instruction, school funding, peer influences, teachers' expectations, and curricular and instructional quality.”

This is to be shamed, not supported, solely due to the fact that these are not results from research, rather they are generalizations based on predispositions caused by America's stereotypical views alone. Also, there are no sources identified on the page that credit any specific, completed research. Therefore, it's plausible to confirm that they are only generalizations.

Aside from the questionable research, something more fundamental should be considered. Why is ethnicity combined with economic background and how is that a factor? Saying that the student is a “minority” inherently supports of the idea of white privilege. It is all a firm matter of perspective. If you believe that a student is a minority, you will automatically draw lines from the few students who do not excel academically to their ethnicity. How is it possible to help someone when you do not understand the source of their issues, especially if you think it's because of their ethnicity?

Truthfully, when people finally cease viewing others as an entity strictly derived from their ancestral decent, progression can be made. (That's the reason for the belittling idea of minorities anyway).

Subsequently, organizations, like the ASCD and the ECS, apparently work based on the belief that these students are at a disadvantage due to their ethnicity.

In addition to the flaws in what ECS supposed on its website, ethnicity is the smallest part of a person's entity. They list a number of other factors such as their parents' education level, their access to high-quality education and a number of other factors which are all independent of ethnic backgrounds.

Therefore, taking a skill or trait and basing on them being of a particular decent is ludicrous. It's fair to say that most people want race to be as minuscule of a factor as possible, yet their actions and words do not align with the desire. This is one of those instances.

In Sept. of 2014, the National Women's Law Center (NWLC) and NAACP Legal Defense presented a report that stated, “In sharp contrast to reports of the academic success of girls overall, African American girls are more likely than any other group of girls to get poor grades and be held back a grade.”

It's all very subjective and inconsistent. There are plenty of African American pupils who have accomplished amazing things or in other cases, are succeeding at an average level. Whether or not that is publicized is a debatable matter, however, it does happen and it is common most importantly. Deeming an educational gap between “minority” students and their peers is an idiotic justification that is alarming and by no means an act of “raising awareness.”

According to the released report, the NWLC Co-President, Maria D. Greenberger, suggested that these failing African American students (specifically females) are not supported by their educational system which is subjectivity to an extreme. She also blames the educational system for these particular students “falling between the cracks.” No educational system is designed to make “minority” students fail. Each student has the same opportunity, in any matter of ethnicity, so that is a very small-minded conclusion on behalf of Greenberger.

Moreover, this report was used as the foundation for a journalistic competition that sent young journalists to go out and question African American female students about why or how the report is relevant to their situations.

Questions such as, “When you think ahead to college and after college, as an African American and as a female, how does your future look to you?” were asked. How more suggestive could you be? That is a leading question and any insightful, professional journalist wouldn't ask any question of that nature.

What should be highlighted is the fact that students of all ethnic backgrounds are not doing well. This is normal, yet since the goal is to increase academic success you have to look at the big picture. Just because a student is African American and failing, by whatever standards, doesn't mean they automatically earn more sympathy than a white student who isn't doing well. That's called racism.

A more reasonable form of classification is to categorize the students by economic status or school funding. That's less offensive and obviously more effective.

By no means is this a proposition to not classify a failing student by ethnicity in order to “forget” about non-white students. Rather, it is a proposition to not provide sympathy for students because they aren't succeeding as non-white students.

Unfortunately, the voice of one isn't enough to move this mountain blocking the picturesque idea of inclusiveness. That is only accomplished when ethnicity is set aside and matters are viewed through fresh, objective eyes. The hope is that any failing student either makes the decision to seek help or someone to provide them help without the request without considering their ethnicity.

A SPACE ODYSSEY

Should civilians be allowed to travel into space? After several test flights experienced different fates, the answer may not be so clear

BY KIRA HAWKINS
staff writer

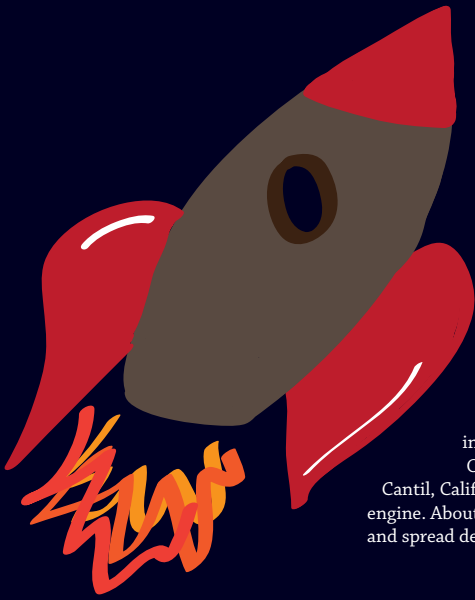
Space has always been the ultimate destination. For a long time, humans only viewed it as an unreachable, distant area.

But after a man walked on the moon and space technology advanced, the general public found themselves wanting to travel to space too.

NASA has declined several civilian requests to travel to space. But other private companies have tried and succeeded in pursuing the opportunity. Seven different people have paid to go to space for anywhere from eight to 15 days, paying \$20 to \$40 million.

After several people succeeded in going to space, there were two crashes in one week, seriously halting the commercial space industry.

On Oct. 31, the VSS Enterprise crashed in the Mojave Desert near Cantil, Calif. The flight was the craft's first in months, and it included a new engine. About eleven seconds into flight, the space plane violently broke apart and spread debris across the Earth for 35 miles.



Lockdown procedures unsafe in case of emergency, other methods better suited

Since the Columbine High School shooting on April 20, 1999, schools all around the country have implemented safety protocols that include lockdowns.

Done in the hopes of creating safer learning environments and giving a piece of mind to parents, students and teachers lockdowns, are practiced regularly, but people hope they'll never need to be used. Despite the good intentions behind these drills, I feel that they aren't the safest option if a situation of violence would arise.

From colleges to elementary schools cases of shooting in or around these institutions can be found throughout the United States, as well as, in our own community.

In instances when the shooter is in the surrounding area I do agree that locking down is a good option, but when the actual perpetrator is in the building I don't think that huddling in a corner with the lights off is going to change much.

Someone who's crazy enough to go into a school with a gun to

shoot some people aren't going to be deterred by something like a lockdown.

Even if they're insane enough to do something like this they aren't going to be fooled by their soon to be victims hiding in a dark classroom.

I don't care what's wrong with you, if you're going to a school to do something like this, you're not going to give up when you don't see someone right off the bat.

How hard is it to figure out that all of the people are hiding in the classrooms? The hallways are empty and so are the other public spaces, the lights are off, where could everyone be?

There are cars in the parking lot and it's a weekday, but I guess no one's here, so I'll just leave. Maybe people are hoping that this is what the shooter will

think, but I feel like it's a highly unlikely and improbable deduction. Instead of protecting the students and faculty I feel like the protocols of crowding into a specified corner is actually more dangerous. Sure, I get that you're supposed to be "hiding", but is it really

hiding if people know where you are? In truth, I feel that doing this is just making it easier for the shooter to injure or kill more people.

If everyone is crowded into a specific place, all the shooter has to do is shoot in a general direction, and they're sure to hit a couple of people.

Instead of being sitting ducks, I feel people should try to get out. The dash may be dangerous, but so is sitting in a room hoping that the shooter won't "find" you.

You can either run away from the danger or you can wait and hope that authorities come and stop the perpetrator before he or she makes it to you. Maybe it's just me, but I don't like those odds, especially if it's my life on the line.

If lockdowns weren't such common knowledge, and if they weren't so obvious they might work, but then again they wouldn't be lockdowns anymore either.

I understand that there aren't many options when situations of violence arise, but there has to be something better than what's currently being implemented.



MICAH MARTIN
EVERYDAY'S ANOTHER
CHANCE

Parenting styles, pressures of society cause children to mature too quickly

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

It's happening at an earlier and earlier age. These days, kids are learning what adults would be shocked to hear about years previous.

In a recent study conducted by Dr. Timothy Jay, modern children are exposed to vile language from various outlets, including TV, the Internet and especially public property.

The psychologist from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts found that children begin to incorporate swear words into the vocabulary as early as the age of six.

Jay's research found that between the ages of one and two, boys recognize an average of six expletives, while girls know up to eight.

The psychologist's data becomes even bleaker. In their sixth year, Jay's male subjects comprehended 34 profanities, while girls were aware of 21.

This speaks to a deplorable trend in society. The increase of kids learning these phrases was largely unheard of even 10 years ago.

Now, American youth with knowledge of expletives is becoming mainstream, and that is bad news for parents, teachers and the general public hoping to keep kids innocent throughout their childhood.

According to the Daily Mail, the amount of children aged one to 12 having knowledge of and using inappropriate words in their vocabulary is not much lower than the statistics for adults.

The Daily Mail recorded 3,190 utterances from adults in comparison with 1,187 offensive phrases from children, with boys using swear words more than girls.

The findings are saddening.

Children should not have any sort of understanding of what

these words mean and how they can be used to put down others.

They should be acting their age, yet understanding of such awful language is getting in the way of that privilege. It's no wonder there are so many parents out there who are appalled when their child drops the F-bomb.

No matter what some may believe, pre-teen Americans are definitely susceptible to accelerated aging in their intellectual knowledge and abilities.

According to research from Dartmouth Medical School, more than 2.5 million children ages 10 to 14 watch R-rated movies.

To make matters worse, violent films such as Blade, Hollow Man and Bride of Chucky have claimed their highest child audiences to date- as many as 7.8 million, including an estimated 1 million 10-year-olds.

The data becomes even graver. According to the Dartmouth survey, more than one in three children said their parents let them watch R-rated movies "sometimes" or "all the time".

There are numerous polls that also point to children being forced out of their innocence too early in life.

More than ever, it is becoming all too easy for preteens to pick up offensive behavior in their everyday surroundings.

Theaters are admitting children under 17 to R-rated movies as long as they are with an adult. Even worse, researchers have found that ratings must specifically warn that these gory movies "should not be seen by young adolescents" for the cinemas to turn away underage kids. Preteens receive cell phones at increasingly young ages and there are various parents who allow their children to have Facebook accounts before the age of 13.

These cases show that with children having access to more information, they are being influenced by what is going on around

them and are consequentially maturing too quickly. Media and (supposedly) responsible adult influences seem to believe the knowledge of subjects such as expletives and R-rated films are appropriate for children.

This could not be farther from the truth. The cycle will only worsen as children are taught at younger ages what should be strictly adult knowledge.

If leaders within American society don't do something to stop this trend, who knows how far the innocence of children will descend?

There is a way to avoid this pitfall in America's youth. It all starts with parents. It is possible to keep kids acting their age without sheltering or babying them.

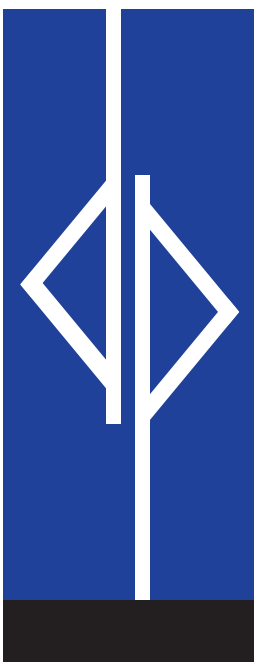
Avoiding the trend of kids being pushed to grow up too soon begins with encouraging them to play outside instead of on a tablet, watching The Lion King instead of Paranormal Activity.

Adults should always strive to set the proper example, and that does not consist of using vulgar words in front of an impressionable five-year-old.

Obviously, parents can't control what their children are exposed to in the actions of other people.

But, by setting a few guidelines while allowing kids to have fun acceptable for their age range, parents, schools and the community can work together to curve the latest statistics of childhood innocence.

If adults would be more aware of their example to preteens, then children could be children again, blissfully ignorant to what should be in store for them years down the road.



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arts & entertainment

front & CENTER

BY TIA SPEARS
editor in chief

Since the age of five, senior Christina Remijio has been drifting across hundreds of stages in her dance shoes.

"Dance is my getaway. I have such a passion for it because it makes me happy," Remijio said.

Shannon Barnhart was the primary studio Remijio attended to perfect the fundamentals she uses today. "When I started out, I started with the basics like tap, jazz and ballet," she said. "Now I'm getting more into [strict] ballet classes, hip hop and competitions."

At age 10, Remijio started competing which boosted her confidence and introduced her to even more styles of dancing. "Once competition started that was like the climax of [dance] being different," said Remijio.

Although Remijio has over a decade of dance experience under her belt, she is open about her troubles perfecting certain skills. "Hip hop was really hard for me at first. My studio wasn't really good at hip

hop, but we had some really good teachers," she said.

One of those teachers is Miss Gennean Scott, whom Remijio "loves the most." "Ms. Jeaneen has been one of my teachers since I was 5. She was always the hardest on us... she always pushed me to do better," she said.

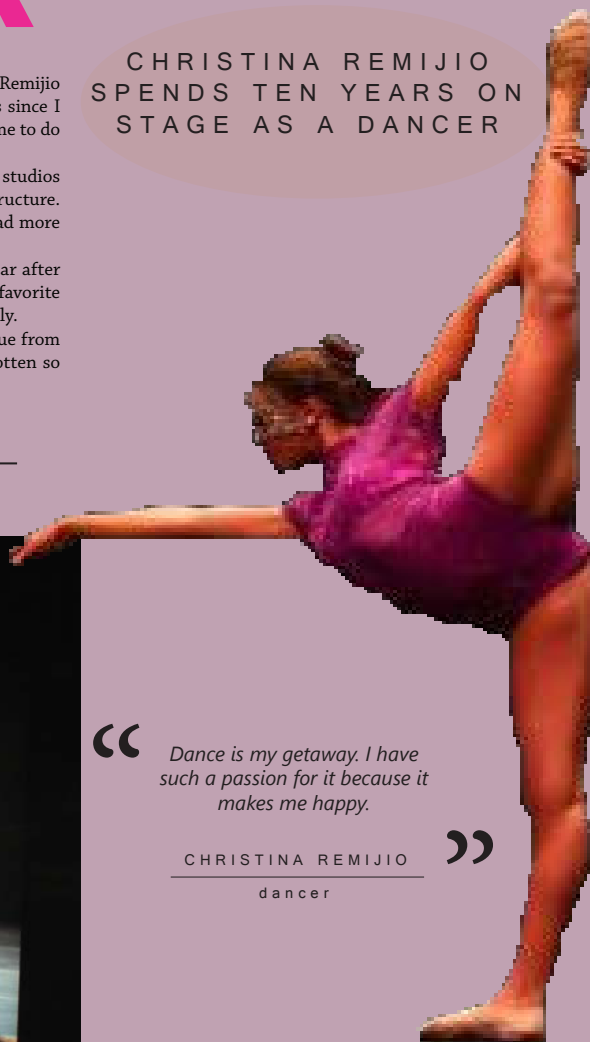
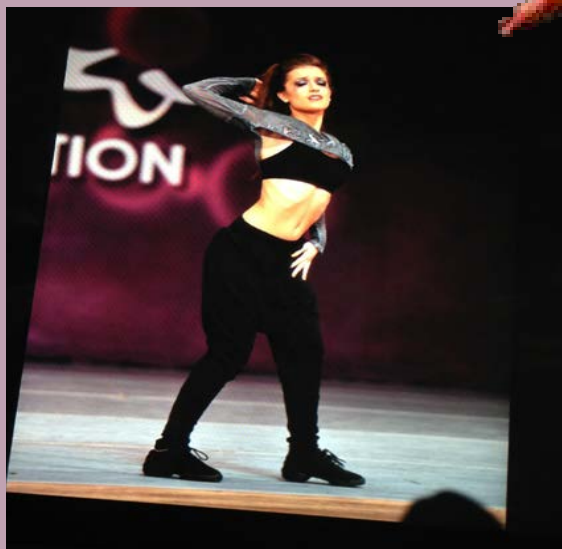
As time progressed, Remijio saw that there were a lot of studios who were "way better" due to multiple types of dance and structure. "It's not that I thought we were bad, but it's just that they had more technique and more structured dance," she said.

Remijio felt that their individual studio was repetitive year after year. Thus, she began doing private lessons with Scott, her favorite dance instructor, which would change her outlook permanently.

"I was always a good performer, I just never had technique from a teacher," she said. "Within a year of being with her, I've gotten so much better. She made me really good."

CONTINUE TO 'DANCER' ON
PAGE 14

CHRISTINA REMIJIO
SPENDS TEN YEARS ON
STAGE AS A DANCER



“ Dance is my getaway. I have such a passion for it because it makes me happy. ”

CHRISTINA REMIJIO
dancer

Left: Christina Remijio (left) performs a routine at a competition with another dancer. Right: Remijio performs a solo hip hop performance.

PHOTO COURTESY OF |Christina Remijio

Pop artist, Andy Warhol, inspires In Living Color exhibit at Joslyn Art Museum

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO
staff writer

Andy Warhol once famously said, "I like boring things," but there is nothing boring about Joslyn's newest exhibition, "In Living Color: Andy Warhol and Contemporary Printmaking." From the collections of Jordan D. Schnitzer and His Family Foundation, the Joslyn brings an epic show of the works of pop art master Andy Warhol and various other printmaking artists.

Warhol became the leading figure of American Pop Art, a genre that began in the late 1950s in reaction to Abstract Expressionism. Pop artists began to realize that art was no longer about the individual. Instead they down played the role of originality in art and gravitated towards mechanical means of producing art, such as screen printing. Pop artists began to shift their focus on color, the "boring things" Warhol saw came to life through his excessive use of color.

The exhibition is a vivid array of colors; it highlights artists, who like Warhol invest in the power of color. Arranged in five categories that encompass three decades of Warhol's work, the show examines his work and puts them in conversation with those of his contemporaries.

"In Living Color" features some of Warhol's most iconic prints, from the portraits of Marilyn Monroe and Mao Zedong, to his vibrant camouflage series and his controversial "Electric Chair" series.

Warhol uses a range of potent colors to dramatically alter Monroe and Zedong making them inhuman and extravagant. It was his fascination with the cult of personality that is clearly seen throughout his provocative representation of figures in pop culture.

His extensive uses of color on the images that appear to be mundane, making the viewer question the role of color. In his "Electric

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PAGE 14



ANN MILROY | The Register

The In Living Color exhibit is open for free to the public. The colorful exhibit comprised of many pieces will last until Jan. 11, 2015.

Relay provides O-Club members community involvement opportunities

TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

On Saturday, Oct 11th, seven students volunteered with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at Elmwood Park in the market to market relay.

The seven students that participated in the market to market relay include Clair Bexten, Hannah DePriest, Taylor Gunter, Choe Madigan, Charity Perkins, Elise Saniuk and Maddie Shafer.

"As athletes it's nice to get the members involved in athletic related opportunities in the community.

Likewise, the market to market run supports a worthy cause that

goes beyond the athletic ability," said Renshaw.

The students were wearing orange vest and carrying glow wands to show runners where they were supposed to go on a certain portion of the course.

It was 4:30 in the morning and dark, so the volunteers used the glow sticks to lead the way. Teams of runners went from the Old Market in Omaha to the Haymarket in Lincoln. "The students were placed around different parts of Elmwood Park so the runners knew that layout of the course," said Renshaw.

Each month O-club has a meeting to discuss upcoming community involvement opportunities. So far there has only been one group volunteering opportunity a month.

The mission of the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society (LLS) is to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease and myeloma and improve the quality of life of patients and their families who suffer from these sicknesses.

To achieve their mission LLS is dedicated to funding lifesaving blood cancer research around the world and provides free information and support services. According to lls.org, the key priority for LLS is, "The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society helps blood cancer patients' live better, longer lives." They are the world's largest nonprofit

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GOT BURGERS? ▶

PAGE 15

The Register reviews four of Omaha's burger places to declare the best and the worst.



QUARTET ▶

PAGE 16

Members of the String Quartet tell The Register how they are preparing for their upcoming events and performances.



YARN BOMBING ▶

PAGE 17

New knitted creations add vibrancy to bland neighborhoods.

“ My foster mom said that on the first recital I did, ‘I knew you were born to dance.’ ”

CHRISTINA REMIJIO
dancer

DANCE for peace

SENIOR CHRISTINA REMIJIO USES DANCE AS A DISTRACTION FROM TRIBULATIONS



PHOTO COURTESY OF | Christina Remijio

Top: Remijio performs a solo. Bottom: Demonstrating flexibility, Christina Remijio does a backbend.

CONTINUE FROM “DANCER”
FROM PAGE 13

Although Remijio has been on stage since the age of five, she did not start competing until age 10 after these private dance lessons with her instructor, Jeaneen, began.

She now attends a studio Jeaneen recently opened called, I Am Dance, where she met Justin Bennett, a local Omaha performer. “We happened to be practicing at the same time... then I started dancing with him a lot,” she said.

In the summer, Remijio and Bennett performed together in several different events. “The first performance we ever did together was the Webbie Concert,” she said.

They also competed in the Omega Talent Show where she won \$250.

Bennett was a member of a dance crew called the Rubix Crew. The group orchestrated dance workshops as well that Remijio attended. There, she focused on perfecting her skills with breakdancing, movement, rhythm and footwork.

In addition to attending dance workshops, the KAR convention is one Remijio attended all day and learned techniques from different choreographers who traveled around the world.

Throughout her significant progression, there is one motivating force-- her past. “[My mom] was really bad on drugs, men and gang and violence... [my siblings and I] lived with her on and off,” she said.

Remijio’s mother was adopted and became gave birth to her at the age of 18. She then asked her adoptive parents to have custody of Remijio due to her lifestyle.

“She was really like on and off and out of my life a lot,” Remijio said.

It was Remijio’s foster mother who put her in dance. “I think my foster mom said that on the first recital I did, ‘I knew you were just born to dance,’” she said. However, the weight of her emotional issues was one that would drive her even closer to her talent.

“[My family] always knew dance was my gateway out of my emotions,” said Remijio. “I have such a passion for it because it makes me happy... I wasn’t really happy as a kid.”

Her family encourages her to stick with it. Financially and morally, Remijio’s family is present and eager to watch her progression and would like to see her major in Performing Arts.

Remijio also has an interest in engineering. “I really want to pursue a career in dance, but when you start off you’re always broke,” she said. “I really want to open my own studio one day, but I need to have money to do that so I try to think of a job to start off with for a few years.”

She plans to either one day make it big by chance or become an engineer and save her money to bring all of her performing arts aspirations to life.

No matter the case, Christina will continue to attend her dancing workshops and has her hands on a new project. “In the past I’ve been posting a lot of videos,” she said. “It’s pretty easy to get a lot of Instagram followers so I thought I needed to start posting stuff on YouTube.” There she plans to grow a larger fan base beyond her family and friends.

Joslyn Art Museum opens exhibit dedicated to founder of pop art

CONTINUE FROM “ANDY” FROM PAGE 13

“Chair” series, Warhol presents various prints of the same images all in different colors. The ten images feature an energetic palette; bring colors like neon yellow and pink that are often associated with joy are contrasted with colors that are harsh such as crimson. It leads one to question the conflicted feelings we have towards topics like the death penalty.

All the works in the exhibition stand out, strategically placed on a white wall, the exhibition as a whole is composed of only color. The bright almost irritating colors manage to work well, easily flowing from print to print and artist to artist.

Though the exhibition focuses on Warhol and his work, the museum did a respectable job of complementing Warhol by displaying other artists whose work resonates that of his. Together artists like Mary Heilmann, Josef Albers, John Baldeesari and Keith Haring manage to tell a story of experimentation, emotion, experience, subversion and attitude.

As a whole it serves to challenge our view on contemporary life. How consumerism plays an important role in our lives and how it has also changed the meaning of art. That is highlighted by Warhol’s portraits of Marilyn Monroe and Mao Zedong as well as his “Western” Series depicting “Cowboys and Indians.”

The only artist who really mimics Warhol’s style is John Baldeesari. His “Cliche” Series is composed of photographs that speak to stereotypes attached to three different ethnic groups- North American Indians, Eskimos and Japanese. Like Warhol’s “Marilyns,” the prints call attention to our collective imagination to distort the identity of others.

Baldeesari’s prints were the only ones associated with Warhol’s style. Other artists only complemented him and had no other connection other than color with Warhol. Though the main purpose was color, I would have rather wanted to focus on other aspects like screen printing which is what Warhol is most known for. For the museum to have included other artists who dwelled in screen printing would have been welcomed. The only thing missing was Warhol’s Campbell Soup Cans, but it is understandable why they didn’t include them. Overall the exhibition was remarkable.



ANN MILROY | The Register

A banner advertising the “In Loving Color” exhibit hangs outside of the Joslyn Art Museum.

Relay presents community involvement opportunities for O-Club members

CONTINUE FROM “RELAY” FROM PAGE 13

health organization.

The market to market relay is the only point to point ultra-marathon in Nebraska, taking runners from the Old Market to the Haymarket and the relay is 50k.

It starts at sunset and gives the runners beautiful scenery while allowing them to watch the sunset and run while also helping to support LLS.

O-Club went out to and volunteered to maintain their status apart of the club.

Not only did they volunteer to maintain their status but they also contributed a helping hand to their community.

O-Club, the club for well-rounded members who maintain a specific GPA, maintain their varsity letter status in their sport and also completes volunteer hours during the school year.

“The O-club recognizes students who are exceptional student athletes and leaders within the school. Members must be nominated by a coach in order to be invited to O-club as a member,” said Jessica Renshaw, O-Club’s supervisor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF | O-Club

Left: Charity Perkins, Hannah DePriest, Chris Pospisil and Taylor Gunter take a group selfie. Right: Chloe Madigan and Claire Bexten



BY TIA SPEARS
editor-in-chief

On a typical afternoon, Bronco's is flooded with those seeking an inexpensive, traditional lunch. Those who drop in after taking a right onto Leavenworth can testify that Bronco's lives up to its quick and fast reputation earned within the Omaha community. However, the efficiency doesn't add up to the quality. This negative correlation earns Bronco's a 3 out of 10 rating.

Before even entering the building, there's an oddly placed menu on the top of the building. "Home of the famous Big Bronco," it says. On the menu is the Big Bronco, a traditional hamburger or cheeseburger, Fishwich, Pony Burger, pork tenderloin, Frankfurters and fried chicken. Yes, fried chicken.

On top of having to walk up to the sign to read it, you have to look even closer to see a very vague description of each under the menu items.

As a first timer, when you walk inside there are a few rather untraditional features considering the "traditional" vibe exuded from Bronco's. Firstly, there is a very narrow entry way. To the left are four adjacent booths and to the right is the ordering counter. Even if you could sit down to enjoy your meal considering the amount of seats available, you still wouldn't be comfortable because those waiting for their food are literally a foot away from where you're eating.

Upon arriving at Bronco's, it is expected that any burger on the menu is going to be the juiciest, cheesiest and most filling burger ever and that's simply not the case. I ordered the Pony Burger after much contemplation. The Big Bronco looked very



BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

Omaha has a variety of cuisine and cooking styles. However, most notably found in Omaha, and Nebraska as a whole, is the highly regarded beef product, commonly served in the form of steaks or hamburgers. Restaurants from downtown Omaha to more suburban locations in Millard and Papillion all possess their own notable burger locations.

One restaurant venturing away from the competition is Goldbergs in Dundee. Located off 50th and Dodge Street, the restaurant is well known for its burgers and beer and sports one of the best family-orientated restaurants not only in midtown, but in all of Omaha.

Nestled in the heart of Dundee, Goldbergs serves an assortment of items on its simplistic but effective menu. Goldbergs is a family owned restaurant that many consider to be a prime part of the Dundee neighborhood.

Within the restaurant there are paintings of historic Dundee and even a mural on the wall. For those who live in Dundee or are associated with the neighborhood, Goldbergs can often be used as a meeting place. With competition from many highly rated restaurants within Dundee, Goldbergs has done more than hold their own over the years.

Upon arriving at Goldbergs, I was greeted by a charming hostess who directed my friends and me to the last available table in the restaurant. Throughout the restaurant tables and booths of four are commonly used with a few larger tables. Parking located behind the restaurant serves guests, while at the front of the restaurant there is a patio with small tables and chairs.

Bustling with a positive atmosphere, Goldbergs gave off a great aura immediately upon entering. The table was set and



BY NATALIE NEPPER
executive editor

Louie M's Burger Lust is the traditional burger joint that everyone seems to love- no wait, cheap meals and an experience worth the trip.

Located near 16th and Martha, this small restaurant is tucked away among the brick buildings of South Omaha. Parking is along the side and back of the place, but still easily wheelchair accessible. The neighboring building has elaborate graffiti that invites oncoming traffic to pull in and grab a burger next door.

When you first enter Louie M's, it's clear that you'll want to stay. Comfortable booths slide against the brick walls. Wooden tables scatter the space in the middle of the room, and provide more seating for the array of customers.

Neon signs and newspaper clippings dating back to the 1800's decorate the room and provide for a more inviting experience. The waiters are casual and friendly, and they never let you see the bottom of your glass.

There is also a separate seating area for the diner portion of Louie M's. Their breakfast menu includes everything from homemade cinnamon rolls to breakfast burritos. Louie M's does a great job of incorporating traditional American dishes and that

bronco's

rating: 3/10

large in the picture and I doubted that I could stomach three buns, two patties and toppings stacked that high.

The Pony Burger was \$3.28 and a large fry was \$2.39. I was accompanied by someone who had a cheeseburger for \$1.63. The total cost of our lunch was eight bucks, which I was generally pleased with. Nonetheless, that pleasure was largely overshadowed by the dissatisfaction felt after actually eating the cheap meal.

The fries... The greasy, soggy, unsalted fries. As many ingredients as it was lacking, I have no idea why a large fry was \$2.39. The taste is absolutely despicable and the burger didn't make up for it at all.

The Pony Burger has cheese, Bronco sauce, lettuce and tomato. The Bronco sauce drowned the hamburger, the lettuce and the tomato. If you were to dunk the burger into a tube of Bronco sauce and stick it back on the bun dripping sauce, you'd have the equivalent to what the burger tasted like. The bun couldn't even survive the amount of Bronco sauce it had absorbed. It was thin, the lettuce was soggy and the tomato might as well shouldn't have been there anyway. The funniest thing about it is, it's described on the exterior menu as, "It's the beefier burger." After eating the Pony Burger and comparing it to "beefy," it's a joke.

There are a number of other things on the menu. Chicken salad, pies, Laredo fries, onion rings and a list of toppings you can add to each burger. Suppose you were to add bacon to your burger, or pickles or onions. Perhaps then you could be satisfied. Other than that, going to Bronco's is going to be the cheapest, most low quality experience you ever have.

The only thing I left appreciating about Bronco's was the little cowboy on the sign outside.

goldbergs

rating: 8/10

the restaurant held a strong homey feeling. Those familiar with Dundee would be hard pressed to not recognize either the staff or other customers because many who frequent the restaurant, the common base of customers adds to the family-like atmosphere.

Overall, service was friendly and the waiters and waitresses were timely in helping guests. The waiter who served me was polite and was focused entirely on providing customers with the best experience possible. The waiter kept on top of our table without being pesky.

The restaurant is relatively small but space is used effectively so that customers do not feel cramped. The restrooms were clean and orderly and overall the restaurant gave a warm cozy feeling while also providing guests with the reassurance that everything was clean and up to date.

Goldbergs serves traditional American favorites and also serves drinks from a bar. I went for an early dinner so although the restaurant was filled, the bar had only a few patrons who multiplied as the night went on. I went with a party of four and the group ordered three burgers with pretzel buns and one chicken sandwich blue cheese.

I find it important to note that the waiter was helpful and willing to accommodate to the request of blue cheese which was not normally a part of the menu and helpful with any questions about the menu. For my course I had a burger on a pretzel bun with curly fries on the side. I had requested that my burger be cooked well done and the burger came out perfectly.

I didn't find anything wrong with the food and the group was thoroughly satisfied with the experience.

Goldbergs is an American restaurant that I have frequented for years and will continue to frequent for the tasty burgers, family like atmosphere, and excellent service.

louie m's

rating: 9.5/10

extra Spanish flavor found all around South Omaha.

At first, I was unsure about Louie M's lunch and dinner menus because I'm not a burger kind of girl, and I don't care for Mexican food either. My eyes scanned guacamole burgers, classic Reuben's, pastas and pizzas galore. But I wasn't in the mood for anything fancy. I managed to settle with a plain hamburger, probably the simplest item on the menu.

I wasn't expecting much- maybe a small burger and fries, with a cold drink to wash it down.

Instead, I was greeted with a hamburger the size of my face, clearly impossible to eat without two hands. Lettuce and onions twice the size of my palms were laid next to the meal. Finger sized fries filled the white space of my plate. The biggest onion ring I've ever seen was squished between two crispy buns and a burger I couldn't wait to sink my teeth into.

Like I said, I'm not one for meat, but Louie M's burgers did not disappoint. The perfect balance of sweet and savory, I felt like I was eating heaven on a bun.

The only thing that was missing was the tomato. Less onion, more tomato. But other than that, I had no complaints.

Next time, I think I'll order something a little more adventurous and maybe a dessert too. Louie M's Burger Lust is the perfect place for a classic meal.

got beef?

Omaha is known for its delicious steak. But if you're looking for a cheaper, beefy meal that won't break the bank, take a look at the Metro's most popular burger joints.



dinker's

rating: 10/10

BY KELSEY THOMAS
executive editor

In Omaha, and all of the Midwest, competition between restaurants and bars for the title of "best burger" is fierce. This part of the nation is known for its high quality beef products.

Yet, I feel confident in stating that Dinker's restaurant and bar, located on South 29th St is home to the best burgers in Omaha.

There are those meals that one never tires of, and Dinker's cheeseburgers are one of mine. Every time I think about it, it always sounds appealing. I regularly crave their cheeseburgers.

When one eats at Dinker's, he or she gets a gourmet burger without the price, the haughty atmosphere or the fancy presentation.

One can taste the quality of the products used when he or she bites into their burger; the bun is fresh, and the beef is of the highest quality possible. It's hard to believe that such an astonishingly good meal comes from the completely open, tiny kitchen that Dinker's has.

While the classic hamburgers are phenomenal on their own, Dinker's also offers many specialty burgers. The "Haystack" burger features cheese, honey smoked ham, a fried egg and bacon. The "Hat Trick" burger is topped with barbecue sauce, buttermilk ranch, bacon and cheese.

Dinker's is located off of the interstate, providing easy access to downtown Omaha for an event or game. Though leaving Dinker's to watch a game is unnecessary, as there are over a dozen flat screen televisions with games of every sport playing.

Dinker's has been a rock in their ever-changing neighborhood since it opened in 1965. Dinker's began with one motto, "cold beer, good friends and friendly service." The emphasis on a feeling of community feeling is still prevalent at the restaurant today.

The atmosphere at Dinker's is diverse and loud, yet welcoming. Sitting in the bar/restaurant conjures images of family gatherings- comprised of quietly conversing grandparents, drunken aunts and young kids. If you are looking for a peaceful place to eat in on a weekend night, this isn't the place for you. But the hustle and bustle is never annoying. For some reason, the chaos is enjoyable and entertaining.

Many other people and organizations recognize Dinker's as an outstanding establishment. In 2012, the World-Herald set out on a mission to declare the best burger in Omaha. After trying over twenty bars, grills and restaurants, they chose Dinker's as the obvious winner. In the same year, Midwest Living magazine selected Dinker's as one of the best places to get a burger in the Midwest.

Out of the hundreds of restaurants in Omaha, Dinker's is the only one that I have visited that produces a good meal every time. Each time that I go out for a cheeseburger, I faithfully return to Dinker's.

the STRING QUARTET

FOUR MUSICIANS, THREE INSTRUMENTS,
ONE SOUND

MADDIE HAYKO
staff writer

After a successful performance last year in the 100th annual Road Show, the String Quartet is back at it with the help of Brad Rauch, who orchestrates the quartet.

This year there are three returning members of the quartet: sophomores Morgan Bennett, Trevor Peterson and Isaiah Butler. Junior Jonathan Helmberger, a viola player, is the only new member to the quartet.

The quartet is practicing new pieces for the year. At times, the group is met with the challenge of organizing practices without the aid of a teacher.

"To plan practices we usually group message each other to set up times, and we have been trying to organize a practice at someone's house but so far all of our practices have been here at school," said Peterson. Perhaps with a little help, the quartet would be able to quickly get practices organized.

"A teacher sometimes helps us get organized but I get help from other peers and I practice regularly on my own," said Helmberger.

Even though most of the quartet consists of returning members, they all had to re-audition for their spot. There ended up being little competition during the audition process. "Not many people auditioned for string quartet, most of them are not interested or afraid of us," said Peterson.

After auditions, Rauch selected the group which included two violinists, a cellist and a violist. Even though there wasn't much competition to be a part of the String Quartet they will still be challenged to do their best throughout the year. Bennett, Peterson and Butler were more than well prepared.

"Isaiah, Trevor and I take private lessons and we are

part of the Omaha Area Youth Orchestra," said Bennett.

All of these musicians have a passion that they want to continue to share with the rest of Central. Each member agrees that being in the quartet will help them play better in their other music classes. "I look forward to meeting with the other string players and getting to play lots of cool pieces," said Bennett.

The other members also have things they are looking forward to while involved in this quartet and they all have their reasons for getting involved.

"I wanted to be involved in this because chamber music is different from what you can learn in a small group," said Peterson.

For musicians, it is nice to work with people who share the same love for music as they do.

This year will be different for the members, as they begin to perform at concerts outside of Central.

"People request us to play at events. Sometimes we play at the Joslyn and not just our own school concerts," said Peterson.

They also won't be playing alone at each performance; sometimes they will be joined by the CHS Singers, the Bell Choir and Bell Canto.

"I believe we will audition for Road Show. We also perform at numerous events like hall of fame," said Helmberger.

But even though there are all these events they get to perform at, they still have to balance homework and after school practices.

"It is hard with having IB classes on top of it but it is very rewarding getting to play in a small group like this," said Helmberger.

Though they still need time to prepare for upcoming performances, the talented set of musicians are ready to show off their skills.

After two years in May, Road Show returns to February performance

ALEC ROME
staff writer

The Road Show is a huge piece of Central's identity. It has a rich history that is engrained in the fibers which have helped to make Central so unique.

A large portion of students, staff and alumni have participated in the event. Others go and see the show live, and this year it will happen earlier than the last two years. The 101st Road Show will take place Feb. 19-21.

The Road Show is one of the three major productions that the drama department puts on annually. "The last two years RS has been the first week of May to better accommodate the alumni... especially the 100th RS since we had alumni performing," said drama director Scott Mead.

Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey said the show is almost always in January or February.

The production shows a wide variety of talent not only in the performing arts, but also in anything else one could think imagine. Auditions are open to any student. Alumni also participate in the Road Show annually.

Scott Mead has been involved in the event for four years, since he be-

“ The Road Show is an important part in the fabric of the culture of Central High School. ”

SCOTT MEAD
drama director

came the drama teacher at Central. In his opinion, the Road Show, "is an important part of the fabric of the culture of Central High School." Many people have seen this event, and it has still stayed relevant to Central for this long.

"The fact that it has been going on for this long and that we have been able to sustain it this long I think really helps to show how important it is to the culture of Central," Mead said. For him, it has been a different experience and a different show for him based on the scale of the event.

He has done talent shows before, but never at a scale such as the Road Show, which could be one of the reasons why it is so popular.

His most memorable moment in his first four years was being involved in the 100th year. They were able to get a grant to help with the funding that year and to help add some "spectacle" to the event.

Due to the scheduling of the performing arts department, the staff had to move things around a little bit. The show is planned to be in February, with auditions to take place in January.

The last two years the event was held in May, so having the event earlier certainly changes things around. Mead hopes that this does not affect the level of talent and the amount of entrants they get.

He also hopes that it will bring out new people and people who have performed before, along with those who have not made it in years past.

Mead believes that this event has become so popular due to the fact that "it showcases the creativity, imagination and talent of the students at Central. Central is a great place and this can be an opportunity to show that to the community, and to the world."

National Novel Writing Month

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

Angel Decker always looks forward to one time of year in particular.

November, the month of crisp air, Thanksgiving and most importantly, National Novel Writing Month, or as people who participate in it affectionately call it, NaNoWriMo.

NaNoWriMo is a motivating challenge for aspiring authors around the world.

Created by Chris Baty in 1999, the Internet-based group began with just 21 participants in the San Francisco Bay area.

Since then, it has expanded into an arena for writers to simply type out their stories without worrying about revision. Some attempt to reach a goal of writing 50,000 words lasting from midnight October 31 to midnight November 30, and others use NaNoWriMo as a method to get their novel published, as Sara Gruen notably accomplished in 2006.

NaNoWriMo has played a large role in the life of Decker, Central's head of the attendance office. Since 2004, she has entered her novels in the November event, to be read and commented on by other writers, both amateur and professional.

Through NaNoWriMo she has also been a member of various local writing groups including the Omaha Writers' League (O.W.L.), a collection of writers who encourage each other in reaching their "NaNo" goals.

"As far as writing a novel goes, it's been everything," Decker said. "The energy that's created knowing everyone is working for the same goal is amazing. You know you aren't suffering alone with people encouraging you to keep going."

NaNoWriMo has not only allowed Decker to meet

other aspiring writers from the Omaha area, but has also been a motivating factor for her novel completion dreams.

Decker believes NaNo has been the main reason for her improvement as an author.

"I was a 'one day' novelist, as in 'one day' I'll write a book," Decker said. "It turns off your inner editor and get past the first paragraph. NaNo has taught me to not try to be perfect right off, but just enjoy writing."

The interactivity of the NaNoWriMo website is also something Decker enjoys about the event.

"I enjoy word wars with my friends, seeing who can write the most words in one hour," Decker said.

'Word wars and coffee' are what come to mind when Decker thinks of NaNo, two of her favorite parts of the November effort.

Decker is part of a large network of Omahans who cite NaNo as a crucial element of their writing process.

"NaNo has changed the way I think about writing," said Jordan Johnson, who is entering her novel in for NaNoWriMo 2014. "I thought I knew a lot about it, but I have got a lot to learn, and that's a good thing."

NaNoWriMo is renowned for putting on pressure for writers to get their works out there. For Johnson, it's just a matter of who's up for the challenge.

"So far, I have zero words written," Johnson said. "It can be frustrating but it also drives you to push on even if you are feeling uninspired."

Decker also thrives on the NaNo process, regardless of her yearly results.

"My main goal is to finish at the last minute of the last day," Decker said. "My real goal is to actually try to get a book published. I got to talk to the founder and he made me promise to send my novel in, so it's very possible."

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yarn BOMBING

KNITTED CREATIONS
BEGIN TO DOT
URBAN LANDSCAPES

BY REGAN SIEMS
contributing writer

Artist Maranda Allbritten was inspired by a rising trend called “yarn bombing” to create pieces of artwork that show off the thousands of intricate designs that can be made with just two sticks and some string.

An exhibit of Allbritten’s pieces entitled “The Yarn Girl” was featured in the Joslyn Art Museum in 2011.

Though several examples of yarn bombing have dotted Omaha in the past few years, Personal Threads Boutique, a yarn shop located at 86th and Cass street, has not really had an increase in sales or any yarn bomber wannabes come through. The boutique sells a variety of wools and yarns to be worn, while graffiti knitters want something that will hold up in the elements.

One employee at Personal Threads is aware of a lot of people that are into this type of art. “It’s a taboo thing, I can’t say who they are, nor do I believe they want to be named,” the employee said.

The urban knitters in Omaha have completed projects around the area like yarning the Benson bike lock areas. They have stayed there and not been cut down, other than the one time due to updating the looks.

Another employee at the shop, discussed her opinions on the subject. “It really just takes a good pair of scissors to get rid of it, and it is not hurting anything. It is just art, but should be done responsibly,” she said.

She stated that technically it could be considered a form of graffiti because it is private property, and most yarn bombers do not ask for permission to do it. She does state that since she is a yarn person, she finds it in-

triguing and a unique way to express political statements or to add a pop of color in bland neighborhood.

Hayley admitted that it is a great way to bring attention to the knitting community and express opinions in a safe colorful way.

Larger cities have been known to have yarn covering trees, bikes, railings, and many more interesting objects. These patterns can go from wrapping yarn around a tree to get a block of color to knitting intricate patterns in blankets and sewing them around the objects.

Yarn bombing is a better way to adding color and personality to a city when compared to graffiti. The yarn also allows expression in a cleaner way, providing joy and inspiration to all who view it.



Omaha resident scores position as editor for blockbuster ‘Annabelle’

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS
staff writer

When horror movie “Annabelle” first appeared in theaters on Oct. 3, it grossed over 35 million dollars. Everyone rushed to theaters to see the film featuring a possessed doll that made a small family’s life a living nightmare.

The film’s editor Tom Elkins is not from Omaha, but is currently a resident of Omaha. He found himself taking more than the average amount of flights out of this small town to other bigger cities, such as Los Angeles, to do a very important job; a job that linked “Annabelle” to our city.

This opportunity was made possible for Elkins due to his past work in previous films. “A few years ago I edited a movie called ‘The Haunting in Connecticut,’ which was pretty successful. A producer on ‘Annabelle’ heard about my work on that film and thought I was the right guy to edit ‘Annabelle,’” Elkins said. The idea of film editing came to him when he was very young. As a child, Elkins took interest in how movies were produced.

“I’ve been working in film production my whole life, even when I was a kid, making little movies. I learned as much from those little movies as I do from the big projects I work on now,” Elkins said.

As a child, Elkins was drawn to watching and even making scary movies. Not the gory movies, but rather the eerie movies. This passion has driven Elkins to assist with producing scary films now.

Elkins also loves comedies, but currently scary movies offer Elkins the best opportunities. On top of editing movies, Elkins has also

produced commercials, worked as an assistant on comedy and action films and has even directed a movie. “The Big Lebowski,” “Wanted,” “The DaVinci Code,” “The Haunting in Connecticut 1 and 2,” now “Annabelle” and dozens of other films have had Elkins on their production team. “I honestly learn something new on every project I work on,” Elkins said.

However intriguing this project may seem, it also had its draw-

“Never stop chasing your dreams. In life, truly, anything is possible when you dream big, work hard and never take no for an answer.”

TOM ELKINS

Film editor
native to Omaha

backs. Sometimes Elkins is able to work on editing movies here in Omaha, but he often had to fly out to California, and other states and even countries, to work on this project, which meant that he had to leave his family behind. This is common with all the projects he works on. Elkins said it was difficult on the family, but they did find ways to accommodate for it.

Sometimes Elkins brought his family along with him on various trips. “They enjoyed experiencing cool, new places. And usually at the end of a project there is a nice, long break, so I get the chance to relax

and enjoy my family and Omaha. We love it here and don’t plan on moving to LA anytime soon,” Elkins said.

Focusing on the production of “Annabelle” specifically, Elkins found working with his fellow crewmembers as his favorite part of this production. Noting that the movie was a hit also helped Elkins’ experience.

“[It was a good experience] working with great people who really understand what it takes to make a good, scary movie. The creative collaboration really is invigorating and super fun. And the most rewarding thing of all is watching the movie with an audience on opening night in Omaha,” Elkins said.

One can only imagine the pure satisfaction acquired with watching your work come together on the big screen in front of countless peers and strangers. It makes all of the hard work worth it.

For the future, Elkins sees several possible projects brewing. New movies usually start in January or February. Currently, Elkins is working on a psychological thriller, which he is working on until Christmas.

After this, Elkins looks forwards to some downtime. Elkins made his childhood dream come true, and is an example of someone who paved their own pathway.

“I feel very lucky to be doing what I love, living in the city I love with my family,” Elkins said, “Never stop chasing your dreams. In life, truly, anything is possible when you dream big, work hard and never take no for an answer.”

Teenagers take celebrity devotion to new level with “fangirling” trend

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

Trends are just like waves. They ebb and flow, in a vicious cycle that can take months to maybe decades to come full circle. One trend that follows this simile almost to the letter is male music artists causing lots of screaming and/or joyous young ladies.

It began with Elvis Presley and Paul McCartney and continues to this day with artists like Justin Bieber, Taylor Swift and One Direction.

The only difference between the fans then and the fans now, is that there is an entirely new category and name for those who take their fanhood a little farther than others. This is the world of the fan girl.

Sophomore Claire Lavender is a member of this small but growing group. Since February of 2012, she has been fan girling Taylor Swift. She says, “This is rather embarrassing but I have a [Twitter] fan account that I use to talk about her.” It is through social media that she is able to communicate and interact with her fellow fan girls; many of whom she has met live all over the world. She adds, “They’re my best friends and they’re the only people who understand my obsession especially since my school friends and family think it’s weird and annoying.”

Another member of the fan girl sorority is junior Nora Stamp. Since 2011, she has fangirlled One Direction and more recently the Australian pop/punk band Five Seconds of Summer. Like Lavender, she administrates a fan Twitter page dedicated to her obsessions. She has met fellow fans all across the country, “It’s a lot easier than meeting other people because you automatically connect,” Stamp said.

She has already met Five Seconds of Summer and hopes to meet One Direction at one of the four concerts she will be going to this summer as she takes part in a One Direction road trip with several other fan girls.

The band is oftentimes likened to Justin Bieber. However, many One Direction fans are not fond of the comparison.

Right next to Stamp cheering for One Direction and Five Seconds of Summer is junior Aniya Greene. Beginning in 2011, Greene has been following One Direction and since a year or so ago also Five Seconds of Summer.

Her Twitter fan account has almost 15,000 retweets and as she says, it “super casual.” Just like Lavender and Stamp, she utilizes social media to connect with her fellow fan girls. She even has the



Left: Taylor Swift tweets a photo of sophomore Claire Lavender and her friend holding her new album, 1989. Right: Juniors Nora Stamp and Aniya Greene hold newly released CD from band Five Seconds of Summer.



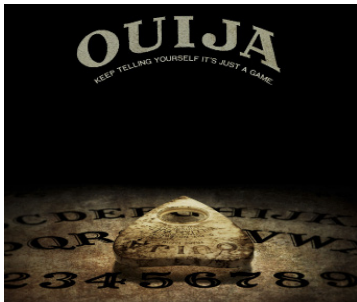
phone numbers of a few of the girls she has met, many of whom live in countries all over the world including “Ally from Albania.” Greene is also accompanying Stamp on their four One Direction concert trek across the United States.

As celebrity stardom and gossip continues to grow and social media continues to expand, it is fairly obvious that fan girling isn’t going anywhere, and with the constant evolution of society and means of communication, the next big trend could really be anyone’s guess.



MICAH MARTIN | staff writer

movie



Ouija

director: **Stiles White**

rating: 5 out of 10

Amateur scare tactics distract audience from unique plotline

If you're looking for an average movie with some cheap thrills, the new horror picture *Ouija* is for you. The plot of this movie seemed to be a fresh idea when compared to other recent films in its genre, but nothing about it really set it apart from the rest.

Due to its overall mediocrity it deserves a five out of ten.

Ouija is majorly based off of the Hasbro game, and in many ways has the feel of an advertisement.

It may not have been the greatest movie, but it was a genius work of marketing.

This film is centered around two high school-aged girls, Laine and Debbie, who have grown up as best friends. It begins with a flashback of the two playing around with *Ouija* board believing that it's all just a game.

They later learn that it is far from that, but by then it is too late.

After Debbie's supposed suicide Laine refuses to accept what happened and instead convinces her group of friends to help her contact Debbie through the board.

As one would expect, things don't turn out quite like the group imagined. After Laine's friends use the board they start dying off one by one.

However, instead of going to someone for help they continue to turn to the one thing that got them

into trouble in the first place. They soon discover that the Debbie's house has a horrible history, and are forced to try and stop the evil that resides there before all of them wind up dead.

Ouija's plotline may have had potential, but director, Stiles White's, choice of filming recycled stereotypical means of scaring.

This was exceptionally disappointing due to the fact that White is known for his work on the movies, "The Sixth Sense" and "Interview with the Vampire". Compared to those other movies, *Ouija* is a far cry from his best work.

The classic flickering light pop-outs, screaming ghosts and loud, abrupt noises were all staples in this film. I get that there may not be a lot to work with when it comes to scaring methods, but the movie didn't have to be so predictable.

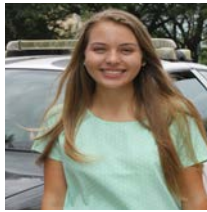
In fact, if it hadn't been, *Ouija* would have been a lot closer to what it was hyped up to be.

On top of this, its underdeveloped characters made it hard to relate, and ultimately took away from the feeling of horror and suspense.

Sure, you didn't want the characters to die, but if they did it really wasn't that heart wrenching of an event.

Ten extra minutes for character building would have done this movie some good. Spotty characters in horror movies, like *Ouija*, are really getting tiresome. Solid leads in this genre would really help to strengthen it, just because the characters are haunted or marked for death doesn't make it okay for them to be extremely flighty.

Ouija may not have been this year's best horror film, but it certainly had its decent moments. Its basis on the Hasbro game gives it a different spin, creating an overall mediocre film, which in this day and age is doing pretty good for a film in its genre.



JULIA BIELEWICZ | staff writer

restaurant



Jaipur

location: **10922 Elm Street**

rating: 8 out of 10

Indian cuisine slightly pricey, fitting for food service, quality

Jaipur Brewing Company has much to offer: an extensive menu, an upscale yet relaxed atmosphere, a patio, kind employees and waiters and a beautiful mural that covers the walls on the inside of the restaurant. Not to mention, they also double as a brewery.

All of the brewing process takes place directly on location. Their alcohol is created to compliment the Indian cuisine. The drinks that are served are fresh because they are made with all natural ingredients.

Jaipur is on the higher end of cost for Indian restaurants of their kind. Most of their main courses range from \$15- \$20. Sharing entrees is a reasonable option if you are not too hungry or if you want to get several little dishes for the price you are paying. Their menu is easy to navigate due to the divisions such as "Seafood Entrees", "Vegetarian Specials" and "Thali". *Jaipur* offers fresh menu items featuring signature rice and seafood dishes that they are known for.

The first item I ordered was a mango lassi. A lassi is a popular and traditional yogurt-based drink from Bangladesh, India and Pakistan. It was refreshing and sweet. The next item I tried was a one of the variations of paratha that you are offered. Paratha is a type flatbread that originated in India. All three options start with plain buttered paratha, and I ordered the kind stuffed with spicy, diced shrimp. It had an expected kick of flavor, but it was a very good first

dish.

With each entrée you order, you are given the choice of a complimentary soup or salad. I tried their signature soup, mulligatawny. Mulligatawny is a traditional, curry-flavored soup. It can be made several different ways. Some contain rice or noodles, some are made vegetarian, some have a meat base and some use yogurt instead of cream. The variation at *Jaipur* is made of pureed lentils, flavored with several spices: cumin, turmeric, and curry. It is garnished with rice and coriander. Mulligatawny is one of my favorite soups for fall and I was very satisfied with *Jaipur*'s variation.

My first entrée was called malai kofta. I was served four dumplings filled with a traditional Indian cheese, kofta. The dumplings were stuffed with green herbs and simmered in a curry sauce. I was given a side of jasmine rice since I was given an overabundance of curry sauce. On the menu, this dish was starred and said that it was recommended for all ages due to mild flavor. I was very surprised with the consistency and taste of everything.

Lastly I had navratan biryani. I was served large bowl of yellow rice with mixed vegetables, cashews, and raisins. The flavor was sweet yet savory and very enjoyable. It was packed with vegetables like cauliflower, peas, and edamame. This was my favorite dish of the night and I highly recommend it.

Jaipur was a very satisfying experience. The service was friendly and convenient. I was served fairly quickly and staff was constantly asking how my meal was. When I arrived it was nearly vacant, but by 7 o'clock, it was completely full. I would recommend this restaurant for anyone who is interested in trying something new.



JORDAN YOUNG | web editor

restaurant



Bulldog Burgers

location: **11811 Fort St.**

rating: out of 10

Variety of menu items gives burger lovers incentive to try other options

It's a small place that accommodates a menu with big taste.

Bulldog Burgers on 11811 Fort Street is a fairly new restaurant, first opened in 2012 by Omaha Native Chuck Pratt.

It will surely stand the test of time with its delicious food and unique atmospheric flare.

Upon first walking into the burger spot on Fort Street, a deliciously intoxicating aroma escapes the restaurant and floods the nose.

Despite its small size, the area has an open feel due to the exposed kitchen. There is an almost "at home feel" because of its quirky décor.

Checked table cloths and a spot designated for the names of customers' dogs add a special touch.

Tables and booths are spread out accordingly and a wall on the far side of the room is plastered with the menu and its many food choices.

Although there are the options of juicy chicken tenders, hot dogs and chicken tender sandwiches, what customers come for and what Bulldog prides themselves in, is their 100% all natural burgers, the crowning jewel.

And that's what customers should expect to taste.

Within the first bite, burger lovers can instantly taste the freshness of the beef and its pleasant seasoning. Not only is it delicious, but this "crowning jewel" is what separates Bulldog from other burger joints around the Metro area.

Aside from the classic "Bulldog Burger," there is The Breakfast Burger, The Citrus Burger, The Steakhouse Burger and The Ranch BLT Burger—all distinctive choices that aren't custom to many other places in Omaha.

The Breakfast Burger is topped with a fried egg, chorizo sausage patty, a zesty chipotle ancho sauce and cheese.

The citrus burger has caramelized pineapple ring placed on top of the bun, jerk sauce, lettuce, bacon and cheese.

The Steakhouse Burger has sautéed mushrooms and onion scattered on the top and finished with bourbon BBQ sauce and cheese. The ranch BLT Burger is piled with bacon, lettuce, tomato, ketchup & ranch.

In addition to specialty sandwiches, there is an option for a build your own burger for the pickier customer.

But besides the burger, is its infamous accomplice: the side. It can either enhance or bog down a well-crafted burger, and in Bulldog's case, it greatly enhances.

There is the option of either handmade chips, fries waffle fries, fried smoked Gouda mac & cheese bites, onion rings, sweet potato fries and the seasonal offer of chili.

If you want dessert bulldog continues its theme with the options of puppy chow and weekly dessert specials, which provides a cute touch to the overall atmosphere of the restaurant.

As much as Bulldog is delicious, it is slightly pricey, the only recognizable downside about the restaurant.

In addition, Bulldog is open Monday through Sunday. On Monday, its open from 4 pm to 9 pm and from Tuesday to Saturday it is open from 11 am to 9 pm.

Bulldog is also open on Sundays from 12pm to 8 pm.

For game watchers and sport-junkies, Bulldog would be a great place to accommodate customers' many needs, especially for events like Monday Night Football and College Game Day.

Besides being a place for adults, Bulldog acquires a family friendly tone, which makes it the perfect place for everyone to enjoy themselves.

Despite the slightly expensive menu, Bulldog's atmosphere and fresh food makes it a restaurant to howl for.



MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN | co-web editor

movie



Skeleton Twins

director: **Craig Johnson**

rating: 8 out of 10

Film intensified through humor, imperative life lessons about love

Skeleton Twins is a film directed by Craig Johnson. It's a movie about relationships, the human condition and most of all what it's really like to love and care for another individual.

The film stars Kristen Wiig and Bill Hader, who are most famous for their days on *Saturday Night Live*. Wiig and Hader play a set of twins who haven't seen or talked to each other for over ten years, but on the day that Milo is admitted to hospital for attempted suicide, the twins are reunited.

The name *Skeleton Twins* comes from the dolls that the two twins were given to by their late father as children. The two even have matching tattoos of skeletons. This is a meaningful symbol of their true unconditional love for one another even though they have been apart for so long.

Wiig plays Maggie Dean, a troubled woman in a less than perfect marriage, is also contemplating suicide when she gets the call that her brother Milo (Hader) has attempted to commit suicide, leaving a note that reads "To whom it may concern: See ya later :)"

Milo, who is now living in Los Angeles and working on becoming an actor, is then coaxed to return to his hometown in New York with his estranged sister, a place that he was so ready to forget about entirely.

Upon returning he is reminded of his past, which we learn is a dark one.

Milo's past is one filled without acceptance, and one with many hardships seemingly difficult for a young person to face.

Maggie is similar in that aspect, which is coincidental because they are twins. She, too has faced hardships in her life, which we learn about later on in the film.

What the two have in common is their upbringing and the things they've experienced together, making them a strong set of characters to have as the leads in the movie.

At first we see the strain on the relationship of the two, but slowly throughout the course of the movie we see them start to rebuild their relationship helping to remind us that family is indeed forever.

There is a bond that ties them together, one that never can be broken even by not seeing each other for ten years.

That's what is so great about this film. It shows the realness of people's lives. It's free from that Hollywood, happy ending, the everything going to be happy mentality.

Real pain, real struggles that everyone goes through is put to light through the eyes of these two siblings and in their different, yet similar lives.

Milo is gay and very unsure of himself, while his twin sister is straight and in a marriage that is unfulfilling to her.

We the viewers are reminded of those times when everything seemed like the end of the world, but really it was just something that we were going through at the time that sucked.

It shows the strength it takes for those to just get out of bed in the morning. That we should realize the struggles that those with problems big and small face. But, most of all the strength to admit one's own faults in their own life.

This movie was very engaging, intense and as expected quite funny.

Hader and Wiig used their SNL background in a new way creating two very different characters from the usual ones they are known for, while still utilizing their skills in entertaining and comedy.

It's a film anyone can relate to because it's real and raw, showing the internal and external conflict in people's lives. It also proves the point that nothing is ever as it seems.

sports

DESTINATION: COLLEGE

THREE SENIORS MAKE THEIR FINAL DECISIONS

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO
staff writer

Elexis Martinez - Northwest Missouri State

Starting her basketball career playing for a YMCA team, senior Elexis Martinez continued on throughout high school and now is committed to play for Northwest Missouri State.

"It just happened to be my best friend's dad who coached the team," Martinez said. "I kept playing for YMCA; my dad was my coach once."

Martinez continued to play for club teams, such as Omaha Heat, Team Retro and with Central's club team during the summer.

Martinez went on to play for Nathan Hale Middle School and eventually found herself playing on Central's court. "I was excited to play, of course [there was] pressure of trying out," Martinez said. "You have to work hard. My main goal was to make varsity my freshman year."

Not only did Martinez make varsity her freshman year, she found herself a spot on the varsity team all four years of high school.

It was when Martinez played with Team Retro that recruitment coaches began looking at her. "What you basically do is, you're in a gym and you are playing in front 200-300 college coaches," Martinez said. "It's pretty much a show case."

Martinez caught the attention of Northwest Missouri's assistant coach in the summer while she was playing in Ames, Iowa.

"I was playing basketball in Ames in the summer and the assistant coach saw me play," Martinez said. "I wasn't aware of that until the second time, he gave me a call and told me that he was looking at me and told the head coach."

Out of a pool of colleges, Martinez was drawn to Northwest Missouri State because of the passion the coaches had for her playing for their team. The help of her parents and a college visit were the factors that finalized her decision.

CONTINUE TO 'THREE' ON PAGE 20



DIANA CASTILLO | The O-Book

Elexis Martinez, Chris Pospisil and Megan Gamble proudly accept offers to the colleges in which they will continue their athletic experiences.

NO BO?

HUSKER FOOTBALL FACES AN ABRUPT CHANGE UPON THE FIRING OF HEAD COACH, BO PELINI

BY ALEC ROME
staff writer

A decision that practically no Husker fan expected. Athletic Director, Shawn Eichorst, made a choice that could change the course of Nebraska football.

Bo Pelini was fired from the head coaching job he has rightfully succeeded in for the past seven years. However, Nebraska has decided to "head in a different direction" and fire a coach with a 67-27 record, along with seven consecutive nine-win seasons, a feat that has only happened by one other current coach, Nick Saban of Alabama, the number one team in college football.

This seemed to have all started when Nebraska lost to an impressive Wisconsin 59-24. Before that game, Nebraska was 8-1, at the top of the Big Ten West, and its only loss to Michigan State, a top 10 team at the time. Ameer Abdullah was injured, and the overall performance in a pivotal game such as Wisconsin was not reflective of the potential of the Cornhusker depth chart.

The following week, Nebraska lost to Minnesota on a fumble; otherwise De'Mornay Pierson-El would have walked into the end-

zone for a likely game-winning touchdown. In reality, Nebraska was now 8-3 heading into the Iowa game. Some around college football believe that Pelini's coaching tenure at Nebraska ended at the end of the Minnesota game.

At the end of the regular season, Pelini and the Huskers were once again 9-3.

Sure, Nebraska fans may have been fed up with a team that could not take the next step toward becoming a relevant team again. But certainly, the decision to fire a coach that had the confidence of the players and the confidence of most Husker fans was not very popular on the morning of November 30.

Eichorst stated that "we [Nebraska] did win a bunch of games; but we didn't win the games that mattered the most. I think we gave Coach [Pelini] ample time, ample resources and ample support to get that done. Now we are headed in a different direction." Nothing that Eichorst said is incorrect, but his decision seemed a little hasty for all of the circumstances.

Nebraska was headed into a bowl game, just getting out of an overtime win against Nebraska's archrival, Iowa. If the university wanted to fire Pelini anyway, they should have waited until after the

bowl game to make a program-changing decision such as firing their head coach.

Also, Pelini was, you guessed it, 9-3. Not 0-12, not even 6-6, the team was 9-3. Pelini also had approximately \$7.9 million dollars left on his contract that was extended at the end of last season. Back at that time, Eichorst stated that he was "not really close" to firing Bo Pelini last season. So, another solid 9-3 season suddenly caused that to change?

Nebraska has lost many of the games that have mattered toward playing championship football, as Eichorst stated. Two years ago, Nebraska was in the Big Ten championship game against Wisconsin. They did lose in a blowout 70-31, but it was championship football, as Eichorst described. The team does have potential and made it to a Big Ten championship under Bo Pelini.

Eichorst's decision was partially justified. Nebraska has not won a conference championship since 1999, and the program is hungry for a conference championship.

CONTINUE TO 'BO' ON PAGE 20

Varsity softball places second in District tournament against Marian, Westside

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN
web editor

The girls varsity softball team played at districts on Oct. 9 and Oct. 10. The team placed second overall, beating Omaha Marian. Assistant Coach Mallory Mohr, a Family and Consumer Science teacher, said she was impressed with how it all played out, even though they didn't secure a first place win over all the other teams.

Districts were set up into seeds, and teams were seeded according to their wildcard points she said.

"Districts are then played on a double-elimination basis, the top team advancing to the state tournament," said Mohr.

She also said that the team was able to prepare for the competition by being able to play some of the teams earlier on in the softball season, giving them a heads up almost on their playing styles and other things.

"Fortunately we were able to play Westside previously in the sea-

son and had an idea of their offensive capabilities and defensive weaknesses," said Mohr. She also knew that Marian was going to be a tough team to win against.

"The only way we could be a threat to both of those teams was to tighten up our defense and work on getting our bats to come alive at the right times," said Mohr.

Mohr, of course, hoped they would take home first place, but even so she was happy to see her team play well and most of all have fun. "The girls did a lot of great things on the field and a few key players had hits when we needed them most," said Mohr.

Kailey Meyer pitched for the team and Mohr said she, "did a great job." Taylor Corbaley also helped the team to secure their second win over Westside. "It was fun to see the girls fight against a little adversity to win games," said Mohr.

Although the season is over at the OPS level, that doesn't mean that it's over for any of the other girls involved.

Mohr said that the majority of the girls who play on varsity soft-

ball also play on other select teams.

They compete in tournaments with their teams and try to help on their own skills and abilities. Mohr said that the girls "will then start their seasons again in January or February."

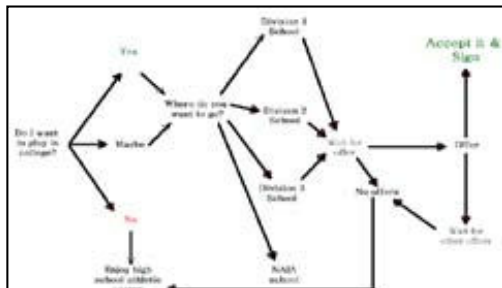
Softball has become an all-year-round sport."

Mohr and the other coaches were proud of the way things turned out, even if they didn't turn out the way they had hoped for.

"The coaching staff and I were impressed with how the girls competed in the tournament. We also feel we were capable of better defense at times and wish our bats came alive at better times. That's how the games go though," said Mohr.

During the tournament the girls played against Westside and Marian. The bracket was set up in a way where the team had to play the other team twice, where they eliminated Westside from the

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PROCESS PAGE 21

The Register simplifies the process of playing sports at the college level.



JAY HARRIS PAGE 22

SportsCenter Correspondent shares journalistic tidbits of advice as keynote speaker at student journalism conference.



HUDL PAGE 23

UNL students create a program designed to benefit coaches and athletes.

ON TO THE NEXT LEVEL



megan
GAMBLE



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"I choose Northwest Missouri State because of how passionate the coach was about me playing there," Martinez said. "When I went on the tour and I saw the campus, I just fell in love with everything about it." The college also has the areas of study Martinez would like to major in.

During her visit, Martinez was able to play open gym with the girls on the team. "The head coach hadn't seen me play before. When I went down there, I played open gym with his girls it was he [who] offered me the full ride scholarship."

Coaching staff at Northwest Missouri State saw that Martinez fit right into the team, it made Martinez feel "wanted" and that allowed her to see that Northwest Missouri was a right fit for her.

Chris Pospisil - South Dakota State

Chris Pospisil began swimming at the age of seven and continued to swim for the YMCA for seventh through ninth grade. "Freshman year through senior year I've swam at Central," Pospisil said.

It may have been a given for Pospisil to attend Central. Both of his parents and his older sister Maddie attended Central. It was also a given that he would end up on Central's swim team. "My sister was on the swim team and the coach knew me," Pospisil said. "He wanted me to swim."

South Dakota State has the academic program that Pospisil was looking for as well as giving him the opportunity to be a part of their swim team.

"I just really like the atmosphere of the college," Pospisil said. "A lot of flattery," Pospisil said about the recruitment process. "But a lot of honesty. Swimming doesn't have a lot of scholarships; they're very honest about that." It wasn't difficult to get recruited, but getting started was difficult. "Getting started was hard, getting your name out there, then after that the process begins."

Pospisil's parents were very supportive. His coach and club coach



elexis
MARTINEZ



were very supportive as well. "They [coaches] said South Dakota was very good for the academics that I wanted and that it's a program that I will be able to excel," Pospisil said.

Out of a few other colleges it was South Dakota State's atmosphere that attracted Pospisil. "It was a very homey feel," Pospisil said. "The swim team is like a family as opposed to just a team."

On his recruitment trip, Pospisil was able to stay in the dorms and interact with other swimmers. "It was a lot of fun. They are really fun to be around," Pospisil said. However, he didn't get to join the team in the pool. "You're not allowed to swim with them, so I haven't swam with them yet."

Pospisil is ready for the college atmosphere and ready to be a college athlete. "Central is not an outstanding swim program. Although it is up and coming, it's not exactly the best in the state," Pospisil said. "I'm looking forward to going to a school with a lot of really good swimmers."

Hard work and dedication are skills that Pospisil learned while at Central and he hopes to carry over to college. He advises future swimmers to have a lot of fun so they don't lose their love for the sport. "Make sure you don't get burned out. Make sure that you remember to have fun because the worst thing you can do is not love your sport anymore and dread coming to practice."

Megan Gamble - North Dakota State

Playing basketball since the second grade, senior Megan Gamble continued playing until eventually finding herself on Central's team and now she is committed to play basketball for North Dakota State. Gamble has been playing basketball for at least 10 years and it was all due in part because of her sister. "I started because my sister, whose three years older than me, played and a lot of family members have played," Gamble said. "So it just trickled down. I've been playing ever since, never taking a summer off."

Gamble played for the YMCA during second through fourth grade, once on her dad's YMCA team and then solely on the YMCA's girls team. "Ever since the eighth grade I've played on a different team every single summer," Gamble said.



chris
POSPISIL



Gamble always knew that she would play at a high school level. "When I was younger I always got told that I was really good," Gamble said. "Being that my sister was on the team, she always had an idea of everything that was going on and I knew that the team was really good so coming in as a freshman I didn't expect to play very much."

Gamble knew that she would be on the varsity team, having been told by the coach at the time. Gamble did in fact make varsity, and she was part of the varsity team all four years. She was part of Coach Tom Lee's team which won state.

It was a given that Gamble would attend Central, not just for the sport but all because her sister attended the school.

Throwing around ideas about colleges with her mom, it was Gambles' ultimate decision to attend North Dakota State. "I just kind of knew from the beginning that that was where I wanted to go," Gamble said.

North Dakota State, being a Division I college and Gamble's love for the campus and people were what lead to her decision. "The coaches are what really made me want to go there," Gamble said. "I loved all of them from the time I went up there."

"I think that I got pretty lucky," Gamble said about the recruitment process. "Being on a different team every summer would be hard for a coach to continue to keep up with you. Me having a different coach every single year was pretty hard."

This last year was when Gamble began to get recruited. "This last year was when I got most of my interest," Gamble said. "I didn't really try as hard as most people do but I ended up getting my scholarship. It all worked out." Gamble has had the opportunity to interact with the other girls on the team, though she isn't able to play with them just yet. "The girls on the team, I know I can get along with all the girls on the team," Gamble said.

Gamble knew that North Dakota State was the right fit for her and is excited about attending. She will miss being able to know people right away like it has been at Central, but she is more than ready for the college atmosphere and being able to play a sport she really loves at the collegiate level.

Success at districts leaves team proud, hopeful for future

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competition and were beaten by Marian twice.

As opposed to prior seasons, Mohr believes that the team as a whole has continued to improve and build upon their skills.

"I think overall we have continued to have better seasons than previously the last couple years. It's been fun to see the girls grow and excel from season to season and become better as a whole because of the chemistry," said Mohr.

Looking ahead, Mohr will try to improve the way the team works with the help of head coach Ryan Neel and the rest of the coaching staff. Mohr said, "Coach Neel and myself are looking forward to the off-season to work on some of the holes in our lineups. We are proud of what the team accomplished and look forward to an even better season next year. That's all we want is to keep getting better and grow both offensively and defensively. Our chemistry is there and as girls begin to step up and grow as individual players things will start clicking more as a team and how we play together."

Husker head coach, Bo Pelini, fired after seven years

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Although with the way Eichorst described the high expectations of Nebraska, it made it seem as if the university was constantly expecting a national championship.

The Big Ten conference as a whole is somewhat lackluster compared to the other four Power Five conferences. How would Nebraska expect to compete at a national level if the Big Ten is not playing at a high level. The other four conferences are playing at an overall higher level than the Big Ten.

The SEC has been represented in the national championship for the last eight seasons, winning seven out of those eight. Yet Nebraska seems to continue to point the finger at Pelini, instead of looking at not only the lack of NFL-bound high school recruits that come to Nebraska, but also how many choose to go to actual powerhouse programs such as Alabama, Florida State, etc. Nebraska is not a powerhouse program in college football. That ended back in 1999.

Nebraska did not win the games that it needed to in order to become a powerhouse program.

Bo Pelini was their best chance they have had since Tom Osborne to become a powerhouse. Pelini was still fired.

Pelini should have been given one more year to prove his worth to the university. Nebraska did have the resources in players with high-potential, but there are not enough in order to reach the next level.

This is an issue that is not only Pelini's fault, but it is also the

university's fault. They have not done enough to entice recruits to play at Nebraska, not only because of the recruiters that they have, but also the unrealistic expectations that they place on the players and the staff to win.

There are only five major conference champions every year, and only one national champion. The odds are not in the favor of Nebraska playing championship football every year.

As for the future of the program, the fact that they do place such unreasonable expectations on the football team may make it difficult for a quality head coach to want to come to the program. Scott Frost is a former Nebraska quarterback, and quite honestly the Huskers' best chance at keeping alive a program that is in danger of falling into shambles.

Scott Frost is responsible for one of the most successful offenses in college football at Oregon, and it is time to bring in a coach that is not defensive-minded. Bo Pelini was the defensive coordinator of LSU before he was brought to the program in 2007.

Now, we have a chance to focus on something that Nebraska has needed to since Pelini started. Developing a skilled quarterback that can lead an offense to a championship of some sort.

Pelini's firing was certainly somewhat justified, yet very hasty. However, the decision has been made, and now is the time to move forward and look toward preserving the future of Nebraska football.

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paige
BY TIA SPEARS
editor in chief

MUHAMMED

It's difficult to remember any monumental Central girls basketball moment without picturing the petite, varsity point guard, Paige Muhammad.

The 2013 alumnae doesn't go a day without reminiscing on her high school basketball experience, now as a starting point guard on her college basketball team. She often compares maturity and skill level as a college student versus her high school personification.

"Basketball high school Paige wasn't really confident at first, but Coach [Tom] Lee had faith in me and he pushed me really hard," Muhammed said. "College Paige came in confident and focused. I lead my team to the best of my ability."

Her current college experience at Central Community College has been one of a positive nature. Muhammed is an elementary education major and is prospected to graduate with her Associates degree in 2017. However, the perks for her are all within the college life.

"The classes are easier for me because Central High School prepared me," she said. "I love how the classes aren't directly behind one another. I get extra time to study before classes or to nap."

Athletically, she feels that she has matured and is taking basketball more seriously to a considerable degree. "My college experience is way more competitive. We have more games, [earlier] practices and requirements," she said.

She cherishes how her high school basketball team remained unified through the genuine love for the sport and family-like bond they created, despite what level they played on. Muhammed's current team hasn't quite reached that point yet.

"We aren't as close as my high school team, but we are actually getting there," she said. "I can't wait until further along in the season... we will be like family and we will make noise this season."

Her senior year on the varsity girls basketball team incited her to be a leader. Muhammed felt as if she was a role model for the rest of her teammates.

"I would tell the seniors that they need to work on their fundamentals and that [will] get them a long way in their college career. They are already good [and] really athletic," she said.

Muhammed still communicates with some of the other players that were on her team and wishes to cheer them on at their games.

Aside from her teammates, her coach-player relationship with Coach Lee was fortified through Muhammed's progression and Lee's coaching mechanisms.

"He really pushed me to be the player I am now. My coach now is an excellent coach, too," she said. "They both believe in me and I will keep working hard to make them proud."

Ultimately, Muhammed believes that they are effective coaches in different areas.

She believes that Lee was a lot more "fearful" than her current coach. She still has an open communication with Lee, especially when she comes home.

The two work on solidifying her fundamentals in order for her to reach her prime.

Another difference lies in an extracurricular activity she tried her freshman year of college.

"I was a cheerleader. I loved it, but it was too much for me to do," Muhammed said. "I played basketball, [and was on] the dance team, cheer team and I had to keep my grades up." She did enjoy her experience cheerleading, but agrees that she's doing just fine without having to keep up with that involvement too.

Besides the athletic part of her college experience, Muhammed feels that she has matured and is achieving much higher things. "High school Paige was a childish kid. Now, I am a sophomore and my grades are good. I go to study hall four hours a week to keep my grades [up]"

She expects to graduate with a higher GPA than what she obtained in high school and is working to balance out leisure activities with academic endeavors.

Central alumnae continue to shine, just the same way they did when they were walking the halls.

Amara Meeks, who graduated last year, is one of those eagles. She continues to represent Central in a positive light.

Last year, Meeks was on the varsity volleyball team and received a scholarship to play in college. Meeks accepted and is now currently attending Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Neb. for volleyball.

The transition has not been all that easy. "What I miss most about Central is all of the friends I made and seeing them every day," Meeks said.

She is taking everything that she had learned, academically and athletically, and is using it to better herself and acquire more knowledge in addition.

Even though Meeks is just starting out as a freshman, she has already noticed stark differences between high school and college.

"College is more independent compared to high school. How you perform is based on your decisions," Meeks said. "Your parents do not get called if you do not show up. The teachers just consider it as wasting your own money."

However, once students get used to the change, it is not as overpowering.

"I would say that after you get to college it is not so tough once you balance the studying and fun. Also, it is good to find the right group of people to hang out with that still will help to keep you on track in school," Meeks said.

The differences continue with comparing college volleyball to the volleyball she had been used to for the past four years.

"Volleyball is at a much faster pace with girls who are taller than what I was used to in high school," Meeks said.

However, Meeks has taken on this challenge of playing at a new level. She has bettered herself as a player.

To do this, Meeks trains frequently. Central volleyball's weight training was more summer based, but now weight training is more common throughout the season.

"The biggest challenge was the lifting weights," Meeks said. "I felt like a football player when I first started out but it is helping my game tremendously."

ly."

The other adaption Meeks had to make was familiarizing herself with her new teammates and coach. So far, Meeks has established a positive relationship with those around her.

"[My coach] is fun and we get along well. We are starting to build a pretty good relationship so far," Meeks said.

One of the most promising things about this opportunity Meeks has received by going to this college is the potential of Southeast's volleyball team.

This year, Meeks expresses her team's ability to be able to compete in nationals this year, which is huge at the college level.

"With teamwork, I feel as if we have a big chance of going to nationals and having a winning record," Meeks said.

Students should keep an eye out for Meeks and her participation in Southeast's volleyball program.

Meeks continues to model good citizenship in demonstrating to students that with the right mindset, anything is possible.

With Meeks' assistance, their team could go to nationals. Students can take away from this that what they do now will have direct relationship with what will happen in their future.

By Meeks taking the right steps, both academically and athletically in high school, she enabled herself to be in this position. Without the help from her coaches and teachers from Central, she may not have been offered this opportunity that proves to be promising and altogether an opportunity for Meeks to grow and develop further.

Coach Jodi Brown was her varsity coach, and developed her as a player. "Something she taught me was how to be a team leader on and off the court," Meeks said, adding on to the assistance her new coach has offered her.

For athletes who wish to compete at this college level, Meeks advises "to stay mentally strong because the higher level of playing is just as much of a mental game as it is physical."

amara

MEEKS

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS
staff writer

Girls cross country team finishes season surpassing expectations

BY MICAH MARTIN
staff writer

This year's girls cross country team exceeded expectations, and by the end of the season they had finished second at Metro, placed as District A3 runner-ups and qualified as a team for State.

These accomplishments alone surprised many teams and people. The girls unforgettable season ended with the team's fourth place finish at State, making this their highest finish in a number of years. The hard work and dedication that the team put into this season allowed them to finish at the top.

Cross country is long distance running over varied terrain, which may seem like a simple task, but the 5k runs that these teams participate in definitely push athletes to the edge.

"The hardest part of cross country is when you're in the middle of the race, when you feel like you're dying and when you can't breathe. That's really when you have to push through it," said Madison Craig, a sophomore on varsity.

The competitive nature of the sport calls for endurance and preparation, which is why conditioning is key.

The girls team started practicing in June and met three to four

times a week, to prepare themselves mentally and physically for the coming season. This readiness is critically important to success, and is one of the many things that allowed the girls team to finish their season so well. Coach Trent Lodge's encouragement for the girls to get their summer miles in helped them to bond with one another, as well as, to become dedicated to their sport.

The bond which the teammates shared and the satisfactions of finishing a race and improving, is what kept many of the girls motivated throughout the season.

Despite minor setbacks at the beginning of the season the team was able to pull through, and accomplish things that they hadn't been able to do before. They realized just how far they had come after learning of their results at Metro.

Going into that competition they were ranked tenth by the coaches choosing, but the team didn't agree with that.

Their goal was to prove everyone wrong, so they went out and ran with all they had.

"Coach came over to us with a look on his face like uh oh, we didn't do very good, but then he said, 'You guys really surprised some people today. You guys got second place.' We beat teams we'd never beat before like Omaha South, Millard South and Millard West," said Craig.

By taking their sport seriously, the girls team was able to prove that all it takes to get better is heart and dedication.

Their success at the meets and strong finishes happened because they were willing to put in the time.

For sophomore Brianni Jones, cross country provided her with a challenging and fun way to compete. Not only was this a way for student athletes to become involved, it was a chance for them to learn values that will help them later on in life.

Through this sport Jones found that sometimes, no matter how hard it is, you just have to keep going, instead of giving up. These lessons are why cross country is both mentally and physically beneficial for Jones.

The team's coach was also satisfied with the season as a whole.

"Going to the state meet as a team was our whole goal at the beginning of the season and we did it," said coach Trent Lodge. "They finished well, and I just couldn't be more proud or happy for them. The hard work that they put in over the summer and throughout the season paid off."

Professional athletes should be more grateful for salaries, show loyalty

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

We all know the big name athletes out there. The ones that are so indispensable, they are recognized even by those Americans who don't pay much attention, if any, to sports.

This is common among many athletes. For example, a star football player comes out of college and is drafted by one of the lowest-achieving teams in the NFL. He builds up his renown in the league, stays with the troubled team for the length of his contract and then leaves a particular organization for one more balanced in talent and experience.

While I can understand an in-demand athlete wanting to play for a more championship-caliber team, I can't condone a skilled athlete leaving a hole in a competitive sports team simply because another team offers him/her more money.

This scenario sadly occurs more often than not. For example, following the St. Louis Cardinals' 2011 World Series win, Albert Pujols, the Cardinals' first baseman who was essential to the depth

of the team, signed a 10-year, \$254 million deal with the Los Angeles Angels.

This was after the Cardinals offered Pujols a 10-year, \$210 million deal, which he rejected. All because of the money, like he wasn't making more than enough already.

It is obvious that professional sports teams value their players and give all they have to satisfy their needs. If a prestigious athlete wants more money, it is all too easy for him/her to have numerous attractive contracts to choose from. If a team wants a star player to stay with them, they have to make their offer better than the others. This means increasing their salary by the millions, or else risk losing that player to another team.

Unfortunately, this raising of the salary cap can bring issues to an organization. Often times, a team will still lose out on some of their valuable athletes, forced to decrease their pay in order to keep the ones they consider vital to their roster.

I can see the argument that this levels the playing field in a league. Either make your deal more enticing than the others, or kiss the athlete

goodbye. However, this scenario happens every year, from the NFL to the NHL, MLB to the NBA. With the constancy of expiring contracts and salary adjustments, an organization almost constantly has to make some adjustment in money management or deal with alterations in the team dynamic.

For organizations, this can be exhausting. Their players already make more money than most of us will make in a lifetime. For example, James Harden of the Houston Rockets is guaranteed an annual average salary of \$14,693,906. As the highest-paid player in the NBA, Kobe Bryant makes close to twice that amount at \$23,500,000.

These players are not hurting for money. Therefore, the only explanation for their willingness to leave behind a respectable organization that looks after every little detail of their careers is greed. They want more money, and when their executives can't provide it, they move elsewhere.

I believe that the way money controls every action of some athletes' careers is pathetic. If they would just be content with their salary, organizations would be in less of a bind to persuade them to

stay. Other players would not have to take pay cuts in order to satisfy the demands of their teammates, like Tom Brady famously did in 2012.

I do condemn those athletes who sign with another team due to personal reasons, such as problems with a coach or the desire to be with family. However, I do protest those players who choose a different team because earning \$25,000,000 a year is obviously much more acceptable than a \$23,000,000 salary.

If other athletes would mirror the example of Brady, we wouldn't have to hear about the latest turmoil in an organization's budget. We wouldn't have to mourn our favorite athlete signing with another team, or roll our eyes at those lobbying for an addition to their multiple millions.

Professional sports these days all revolve around the materialism and greed of their players, keeling to their every demand and complaint. However, if athletes could be more grateful for the opportunity given to them and appreciate the salary their executives are able to offer, then sports would have one less issue to deal with.

With basketball in his blood, guard ready to embrace new coach's style

BY JACK DOODY
staff writer

Not many athletes have the chance to play a varsity sport during their freshman year.

Roman Behrens is a freshman guard on Central's varsity basketball team. After playing throughout his life for a variety of teams, Behrens has is looking forward to the high school level. He prefers to play point guard, but can also play shooting guard.

Behrens played in middle school while attending Lewis and Clark and now the former Trailblazer currently plays for PowerPlay outside of school. He has played basketball on teams since the age of four and was originally introduced to the game by his grandfather (Richard) and father (Eric) who both had lengthy coaching spells at Central.

Behrens says that being the son and grandson of two former coaches does not affect his position on the team. Instead of playing for his father, he will be playing for a new coach. "I have known Coach

[Ben] Holling for a really long time and have a ton of respect for him as a coach." Behrens has played on a wide range of teams for a variety of coaches, but his first introduction to basketball came through practicing with his dad.

Behrens aspires to be like other notable professional guards like John Stockton, Steve Nash and Mark Price. He also has been compared by friends and teammates to Minnesota Timberwolves guard Ricky Rubio. Behrens admires the players because they have a pass first mentality that makes them productive guards.

Behrens has many strengths. "The best part of my game would have to be my shooting and I hope that gets me on the floor this year." However, Behrens understands that as a freshman he will have some more difficulties than some of the upperclassmen. Primarily, he knows that he will have to try to beat out upperclassmen for minutes and will have to make up for a lack of experience.

Since Behrens has played he has received a wide range of accomplishments. "My greatest success so far would probably be some of the

games my team has won at a national level. I really take pride in what we have done."

Behrens wants to continue his success at Central and is optimistic about team's chances this year. Central will have to play top ranked teams from within Nebraska similar to previous years and he sees some obvious competition.

"There are a lot of good teams this year. Bellevue West, South, Burke, Prep, and Norfolk are going to be the toughest games." However, Behrens also said "at Central we should make our goal to win state. We have done it before and we have the right group of players to do it again."

Behrens believes Central will have to work hard and embrace Hollins' philosophy, and that Central will have some mistakes but feels that ultimately the season will turn out how they want.

BY JULI OBERLANDER
staff writer

When Jay Harris was offered a job with ESPN, it wasn't one he pictured himself doing for the next 11 years of his journalism career.

Since 1984, Harris had been working in a variety of areas in the field. His latest job was as a news anchor with WPGH-TV in Pittsburgh before he received the phone call from ESPN.

"In 2003 I sent a tape to ESPN," said Harris. "I guess they liked it because they asked me to audition for a job. I did it and had some fun with it. They offered me the job but I said no because I liked news reporting. I had never done sports, but the third time persistence paid off. I said yes."

Journalism had always been his field of interest, but it took some time for Harris to see a correlation between news and sports reporting.

"It took me about a year to adjust to working at ESPN," said Harris. "But once you get in it, you pick up things. It's still news. You're still telling stories, just sports ones."

Now, with more than 20 years of experience in television and radio work, Harris is considered by many as an expert in the field of broadcast journalism. Among other distinctions, the reporter contributed to Sports Center's Emmy Award-winning work in 2004 and 2005.

A recipient of the Silver World Medal from the New York Festival Awards among others, the ESPN anchor cites one particular time on the job as the most memorable.

"I think the proudest moment of my career was when my parents got to hear me on the radio," said Harris. "They finally understood what I was working for when they heard and later saw me doing what I love."

A graduate of Old Dominion University, Harris was selected to be the key note speaker for the college's 100th commencement ceremony in 2004.

"That was kind of surreal that they would think that highly enough to ask me to speak as they send the students out into the world," said Harris.

Yet, with all the honors associated with his name, the journalist has one goal: to be the best journalist he can be.

"Every day I try to get better," said Harris. "I never like to say I've made it. I always like to feel like I can do better the next show."

One part of his job that the Virginia native loves especially is the element of flexibility.

"There's pressure in trying to pick the right stories, yet I can talk about anything," said Harris. "There's also a fun factor. Even when you feel you could have done better, it's always fun."

Through his time with various media corporations, Harris has learned much about the process.

"To really be a well-rounded journalist, you start from the ground up," said Harris. "That kind of stuff makes you. It gives you the foundation you need to be a credible journalist."

As the Sports Center correspondent has built up a resumé in broadcast journalism, he has had the opportunity to explore his passion of reporting and to impart that wisdom to the next generation of aspiring journalists along the way.

"As much as you can, maintain your enthusiasm for what you do," said Harris. "You will have assignments, bosses and co-workers that test you. Just keep practicing your craft."

jay HARRIS

SPORTSCENTER CO-HOST SHARES
EXPERIENCE WITH YOUNG JOURNALISTS



PHOTO COURTESY OF |Megan Sloan

ESPN anchor Jay Harris smiles at a crowd of students at the Journalism Education Association Conference on Friday, Nov. 7. "Every day I try to get better. I never like to say I've made it. I always like to feel like I can do better the next show," said Harris.

Uniforms should be included in OPS bond, not from fundraising monies

BY ALEC ROME
staff writer

Most of us have seen people selling candy and other goods to fundraise for their uniforms for their particular sport. However, should they have to fundraise for their own uniform?

The OPS bond was passed during the recent election that will cost taxpayers \$421 million dollars, but yet none of that covers something as simple as athletic uniforms across the district.

Why not add something like uniforms so that athletes don't need to have another task on their plate to go along with conditioning and training.

For instance, let's say that a school's soccer uniform costs 100 dollars. A typical soccer team has 11 players, usually five substitutes and about four to six reserve players.

There are varsity, JV and freshman teams. So, with the amount of players we have stated, that would make around 60-66 players per high school.

Say in the district, there are ten soccer programs. If you do the math, that would make a grand total for this example to be about \$60,000 dollars.

That sounds like a lot, but that amount is only around 0.0142% of the cost of the OPS bond. Now, the cost of the uniform may not be entirely accurate, but shouldn't have there been money allocated to cover a small cost (comparatively) to some of the other things that taxpayers put their money toward?

If a uniform were to cost that much, that would seem to be too much to fundraise for one student to try and raise. You may be able to fundraise as a program, but if you were to not have enough money at the end of the fundraising period, then one would have to decide who does and does not get their uniforms.

There have also been cases in which the uniforms of the JV and lower athletic levels have lower quality uniforms, which is also something very strange.

Sure, varsity could have some sort of special insignia showing that they are the best that school has to offer, but no matter what the skill level or financial standing, all players should have the same look on their uniforms.

Different looking uniforms due to financial problems should not occur in a district where a huge bond was just passed.

Going back to the question at hand, how could athletic programs fundraise if they were forced to get their own uniforms?

Food seems to be the best option, due to the appetites of teenagers, but because of the price at which you are asking for, you would be fighting a losing battle.

Not many would want to spend their own money on some sort of small item that they could most likely do without, such as beads or keychains.

These things would be fine to support a more local or global cause as cancer or domestic violence, but due to the place that athletics have in culture today, there should be more importance brought on as to the financial standings of schools.

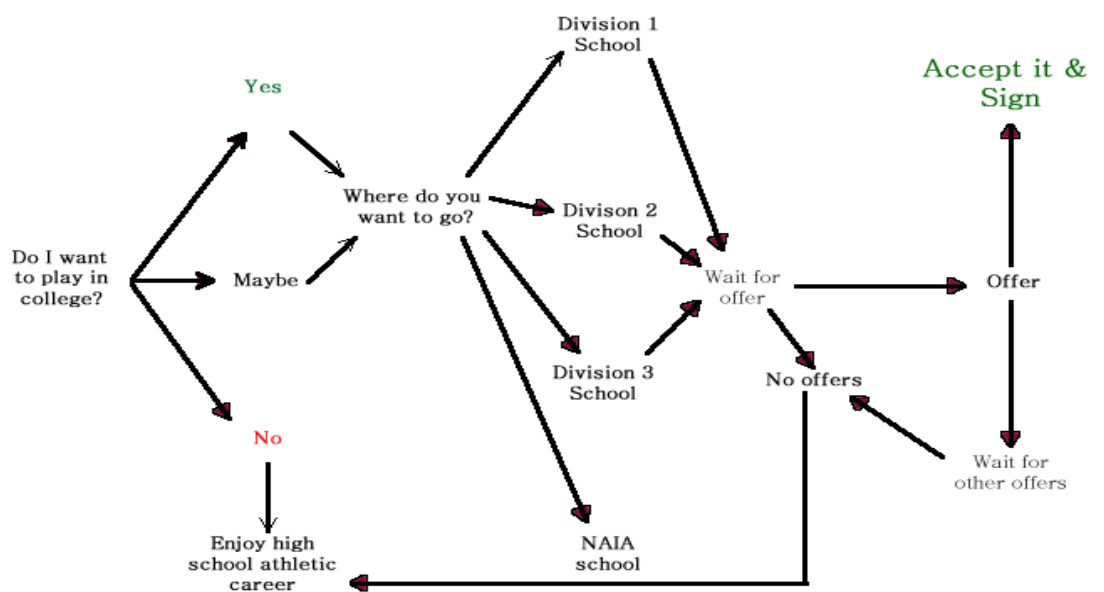
Athletics can play a major role as to the reputation of a high school, because they could be nurturing a future world superstar.

If the costs of uniforms could be fully covered by some sort of fundraising, that would be absolutely fine.

But with an ever-changing culture that feeds on sporting events, more money should be allocated to allow athletes to focus on the reason why they play their particular sport; the love of the game.

recruitment PROCESS

CLEARING UP CONFUSION



BY JORDAN YOUNG
co-web editor

No easy algebra equation exists to solve the recruitment problem for high school athletes...unfortunately. However, rather than a problem, recruitment is a diverse and sometimes complicated process that factors in chance, talent and hard work.

For Central High senior athletes Meghan Gamble and Chris Pospisil, the recruiting process was mastered, as both will play for Division I sports programs next fall. Gamble will play basketball at North Dakota State University and Pospisil will swim at the University of South Dakota.

"I played [basketball] since second grade," said Gamble. "[I] knew pretty much since then that I was going to play college basketball."

The same wasn't so for Pospisil, whose thoughts began gravitating toward college swimming during his sophomore year after he placed at state. "I realized that I wasn't awful," he said nonchalantly.

For the thousands of other athletes across the country, this is where their future begins as well: deciding which path to take at the fork in the road.

Gamble and Pospisil demonstrate two very different stages in an athlete's career to make that decision. Either way, once the conclusion is made to pursue a collegiate team, athletes need to initiate the process to be in the best position possible to follow their dreams.

The initial decision branches off into the thousands of choices an athlete has to decide where to attend school and they begin to shrink when athletes consider at what level they want to play at. NCAA Division I, Division II, Division III or NAIA. For all the levels, rules are the name of the game. NCAA Division I requires that coaches can have no official contact with athletes until September of their junior year.

Even more important are the different periods: contact period, evaluation period, quiet period and dead period.

Each period provides limitations on how much contact college coaches and high school athletes can have with one another. The contact period refers to the period in which college coaches can have face-to-face contact with athletes or their parents, watch them compete, visit their high schools or call them.

Evaluation period allows college coaches all the privileges of the

contact period except for the face-to-face contact; and the quiet and dead periods are essentially the same and do not allow any contact except for writing and calling athletes.

Rules become even finer depending on the sport itself as well.

In Gamble and Pospisil's case, both were adamant on Division I teams, but each came about their outcomes in very different ways.

"[I] never really knew what the rules were," said Gamble. "I never contacted coaches first, [but] I was never scared to talk to them."

Gamble's process began to pick up steam the summer of her junior year. The team she played for (separate from her high school team at Central) was extremely competitive and was stacked with Division I prospects and became one of the top ten teams in the country, giving her immense exposure.

In turn, the following summer Gamble's team split apart and she had to play for a different team that wasn't as successful. But she knew to reach her goal that "it had to be done."

Therefore, Gamble figured, "It's not always about who you play for...but how you play." Still driven, Gamble worked hard, received numerous offers from schools and eventually had to deal with the difficult yet exhilarating feeling of "waiting for them to offer."

Unlike Gamble, Pospisil took an alternative route. He diligently filled out questionnaires that colleges provided on their sports websites. His recognition also came from swimming on his club team Swim Omaha and from placing in state his sophomore year.

For him, most schools had not seen him swim, so coaches watched him at high school meets and it eventually paid off.

"When I first talked to South Dakota, it was affirming that it was real," he said. "It wasn't just a dream, but a reality."

With the five visits that the NCAA allows student-athletes, Pospisil used only one to travel to University of South Dakota, and instantly fell in love.

Both athletes validate that recruitment is not only possible, but also attainable. Deciding, pursuing, becoming noticed and communicating is key and for most is not something that comes to its own conclusion with the drop of a hat.

So get to it athletes. Pursue and then enjoy. Because the one constant in the recruitment madness equation is the reward: having fun, even though the results may vary.

SAME HOUSEHOLD, SIMILAR PASSIONS:
TWO SIBLINGS SHARE LOVE FOR SPORT

kailey & blaine MEYER

BY TRENAY NEWSOME
staff writer

At the age of six, senior Blaine Meyer began playing baseball. In his early years he played with Keystone Little League.

Meyer started playing with the varsity team during junior year and will continue playing baseball once the season starts. He plays second base and outfield.

"My favorite thing about baseball is the team aspect and chemistry," said Meyer. Baseball is a very demanding team sport.

Playing two positions can be demanding, but Meyer takes it with stride.

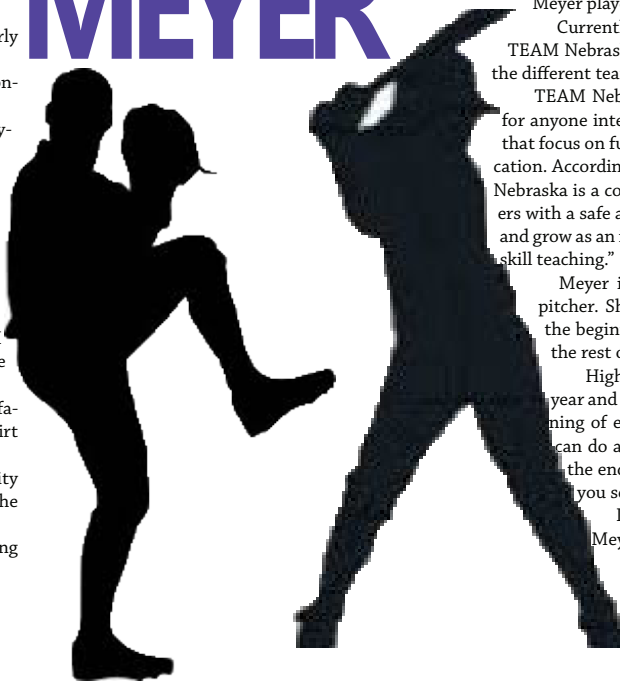
"I play these positions because they needed to be filled and they were my favorite. I like second base because all the action is in the middle of the field and it's easy to make nice plays, but I also like outfield because its laidback, fun and low pressured," said Meyer.

More than once, he has made a great play at the plate. However, an in-field home run is one of his most memorable experiences. Once, while batting Meyer struck the ball, then he took off like a ball of fury and ran across the bases. "I didn't hit the ball out of the park so I was hustling across the field and ran a home run, it was exhilarating," said Meyer.

Winning state freshman year gave Meyer an "incredible feeling." His favorite moment while playing baseball was when Cameron Nunez took off his shirt to dance in the rain during a dance battle against the opposing team.

He plans to finish the year out strong. He has been looking into the University of Nebraska schools as possible colleges to attend. However, he doesn't think he will continue his baseball career in college.

Meyer believes baseball teaches players about more life skills than just playing the game. "Baseball is usually a really good experience all around."



Ever since the age of eight, Kailey Meyer has played softball. Before playing for TEAM Nebraska and Central, Meyer played with Keystone Little League.

Currently, if she isn't playing for Central, she's playing for TEAM Nebraska. "My favorite thing about softball is playing on all the different teams throughout the year," said Meyer.

TEAM Nebraska is a nationally respected softball organization for anyone interested in softball. Their main focus is to build teams that focus on fundamentals, teamwork, pride, respect and communication. According to their website their mission statement is, "TEAM Nebraska is a competitive youth softball program that provides players with a safe and positive environment to excel as a softball athlete and grow as an individual through quality softball instruction and life skill teaching."

Meyer is a sophomore and plays on the varsity team as a pitcher. She plays all year round. Meyer pitches for Central at the beginning of the school year and with TEAM Nebraska for the rest of the year.

High School softball starts at the beginning of each school year and ends in mid-October. "It's pretty exciting at the beginning of each year because the freshman get to see what they can do and what they are capable of," said Meyer. "It's sad at the end because all the seniors leave and that's the last time you see them and play with them."

Last year, which was her first year playing at Central, Meyer made the varsity team and played first base.

Meyer plans to continue softball throughout high school and wishes to pursue it in college, but she is still a sophomore and has not quite started looking into colleges.

Sophomore shows heavy commitment on varsity swimming team

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ
staff writer

Noah Rhoades was one of few last year to be a freshman on the varsity swim team. He explains his allegiance to the sport as well as what it took to improve his skills. Swimming at Central takes a lot of time as well as a lot of strength.

Rhoades says that it takes a lot of commitment and dedication to be part of the varsity team.

"I've been swimming for four years, but nothing compares to the devotion that this sport requires. It is a lot of morning practice. Waking up at 4 a.m. and walking into practice just to make an impression. As well as showing up and swimming through all kinds of sickness and spending a lot of time in the pool," he said.

Rhoades says that he had swim practice eight times a week last year. It was once after school for two hours as well as an hour on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings. He says that afternoon practice was always more difficult since morning practice is mainly endurance training.

Rhoades says that practice routines vary a lot between difficulty and agility.

"It's a lot of different sets. The coaches try to work us into it and then get us into more and more. They mix in speed sets and endurance

sets. We work on technique quite a bit and those are some of the more tedious sets. If you ask most of the people in the pool it's a lot of looking at the clock and wondering when we can get out and go home to eat," he said.

He says that the swim team is very close and constantly spends time together, not just in the pool.

Rhoades says that he feels the swim team is closer than any other. The team talks outside of swimming. He says that they meet up and do things like going out to eat or going to concerts on the weekends.

Rhoades said that the previous coaches really meant a lot to him and others on the team. Rhoades enjoyed the coaching aspect as well as the personal bond that came with the team and the coaches.

"Last year it was really great. We called our coach Mike (McGuire). It was not as if he was some teacher taking the job for the money. He was a guy who honestly cared about his team and wanted us to do well because he loved us. And when someone puts in the time and energy like Mike did for us, you cannot help but love them. Also, Coach Z (Samantha Zickefoose) was really good at working with the social aspect of the team and she really helped us connect."

Rhoades says there is some uncertainty about what this year holds. "This year we have new coaches and we are not all really sure how to feel about them yet especially after Mike and Z. Being changed is a hard adjustment especially for the seniors. But I have confidence in

them. It is just going to take them a while to figure out how to connect with us and help us excel as well as create that bond," he said.

He said that swimming is hard at times, especially on his own health. But he tends to be more productive since swimming fills up most of his time.

"Being on the team is hard at times. Especially when someone on the team gets sick. It just is passed around for the rest of the season. In addition, swimming does affect my grades, but in a positive way. When I know I have less time to waste I spend more time trying to get things done in the limited amount of time I have to do them," he says.

Rhoades said that his favorite thing about swimming is the people he's met. Although JV and Varsity don't interact much they're still one family.

His favorite thing about being on the swim team is the people he's met. Rhoades thinks that the JV and varsity teams get along pretty well even with the little interaction that they have. They support each other a lot.

Swimming is taken very seriously at Central and requires a lot of focus towards the sport. Although, it comes with many rewards and many new friends, Rhoades looks forward to this upcoming winter sport and the joy it brings him to be a part of a team such as this one.

Professional athletes "checking out" of games, unacceptable



MICAH MARTIN
EVERYDAY'S ANOTHER
CHANCE

You know that moment when you're watching a professional sports game and the horrible playing becomes painful? Not only is this hard to watch, especially if your team is the one playing poorly, but it is truly unacceptable. Professional athletes are literally paid to play their sport, and if they can't do that to the best of their ability no matter who they are playing, there's a problem.

Despite how rare of an occurrence this should be, sports fans see it all the time. This can happen in all sports from football to hockey, but that doesn't make it right. A perfect example of this recently occurred in the NFL game between the Chicago Bears and the Green Bay Packers. By the end of the game the Bears players were so "checked out" that even their opponents couldn't ignore it. It's tough to keep your spirits high when you're playing a team that's better than you. However, that doesn't mean that you just give up, especially if playing a sport is your job. Not only is this upsetting for fans, but it is embarrassing for the players.

Some teams are better than others, but that shouldn't be an excuse to quit. The challenge of playing a team that matches or surpasses your own skill should be used as a tool for improvement. There's no better way to improve than competing against someone that is better than yourself. This way they can expose your weaknesses; which allows you to strengthen as a whole. It's better to persevere and lose with dignity than to just give up. This should be a general rule of thumb for everyone, but when it comes to professional athletes it should be considered highly.

Considering the millions of dollars that some of these athletes make, this shouldn't be too much to ask. Whatever your job is you should do it well, and it should be no different for them. In other fields of work you don't give up when your competition is beating you, you work harder so that you can hold your own next time. This should also be true in athletics, and even more so than some other things.

The feeling of defeat that players get when they're losing should push them to try harder instead of to give up. Just like everyone else, they don't deserve to be paid an outrageously high wage if they don't live up to their fullest potential.

Not only is it painful for me to watch teams that have given up, it is also unsettling. Those players are role models, and when they quit because they face people that are better than them it's instilling that same tendency in those that look up to them. Not only are they hindering themselves by doing this, but they are hindering others as well.



hudl

we help coaches and
athletes WIN.

NEBRASKA BASED WEBSITE DESIGNED FOR
ATHLETIC IMPROVEMENT

BY KELSEY THOMAS
executive editor

Nebraska-native company Hudl has one motto, "We help coaches and athletes win."

Hudl was founded in 2006 by three lovers of both sports and technology. The men that founded the company were students at University of Nebraska at Lincoln, who were all enrolled in a course called entrepreneurship. The boys approached then head coach Bill Callahan, and asked him what new technology would be useful to the team. After listening to Callahan's suggestions, Hudl was formed.

The company is still based in Lincoln, Neb., and on the Hudl website the co-founders state, "Some might question why we choose to stay in the Midwest rather than migrate to the coasts, but we like the idea of keeping the best talent here."

Their system offers support in many different aspects of sports recruiting and improvement. They offer video editing and analysis services, which seek to accomplish several goals. Hudl wants to help coaches understand their team and help athletes know themselves and the sport they play better. In addition, they want to provide recruiters with easy means to access highlight reels and player profiles.

The co-founders urge that too much time and effort was spent by coaches on "burning DVD copies of game film and distributing phone-book sized paper playbooks to every single athlete on the team." With their system, coaches can draw and store plays online in secure, pass-

word-protected pages accessible only by team members.

Thousands of teams have taken advantage of Hudl's technology. Central is one such school. Both the boys basketball and football team, coached by Ben Holling and Jay Ball respectively, take advantage of the program. The teams have been using Hudl for over five years. The coaches have all been very happy with the program.

"We don't use anything else. We don't need anything else," Ball said.

The film serves several purposes. It goes out in highlight reels to scouts at colleges, and to other high schools. Football teams often-times send out videos of their playing, so that teams may watch and observe when it comes time for them to play each other.

Sports sharing technology has greatly affected high school sports, mostly for the better.

"Technology in general has made it a lot easier as a coach. Kids can make their own highlight tapes, so if a college requests that they can kick out film and it'll automatically go out. It's certainly made my job a lot easier, and it gives more exposure to the kids," Ball said.

Hudl is a Nebraska-based company aimed at redefining sports at every level. Ball said, "The people at Hudl are continuing to improve all the time."

Experienced candidate granted head soccer coach position

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL
staff writer

Born in Mexicali, Mexico, Jose Vargas began his journey into the world of soccer at a young age. "The passion started when I was about four years old, and by five I was playing [soccer]," Vargas said. Moving to the United States in 1996, he played four years of soccer at Bryan High School, when he said, "Central was one of the more competitive schools."

Following high school, Vargas attended Bellevue University, where he earned his bachelor's degree in sports management, while also playing for the mens soccer team. Upon graduation, Vargas began a coaching career that has so far spanned 15 years and teams at various levels of ability. Currently, he coaches three Gretna Soccer Club teams as well as being the technical director for boys and girls U15-U19 teams.

He is also certified by the National Soccer Coaches of America with a National Diploma as well as an Advanced National Diploma. Only adding to his list of qualifications, he maintains a United States Soccer Federation National Youth and National D License.

Vargas is always on the look out for great talent in his players. "You have to have the love for the game. You have to have commitment and you have to work hard." Along with working hard, Vargas also believes that in order to be the best, one must play the best.

He also encouraged any prospective or current players to begin working to get in soccer shape. "Without conditioning, we can't com-

pete. You always have to be ready to give 110%," he added.

Different coaches have different methods. Some are defensive and passive, others are aggressive and always on the defense. Vargas however, takes a more academic approach to the game. He plays what he coins, "finesse soccer."

This entails ball control, precise movements and most importantly, connecting passes. "Make the other team chase you," he said. This scholarly approach to the game, has found many a success in Vargas's previous coaching experiences.

Vargas also has a highly qualified assistant coach, Casey Denton, sociology and geography teacher. Denton has played or coached soccer for 22 years, and returns for her second year as the varsity girls assistant coach. He said of her, "She is an incredible person, and is going to bring a lot to the table."

As Vargas looks forward to the upcoming season, he sees room for improvement, as well as a lot of promising young players and potential as a team. "Central could possibly be one of the greatest soccer threats," he noted.

To do this, he said he needs all the players to condition and find their passion for the game, so that they can compete with the likes of Millard and Bellevue. "Every game is important to me, but South will most likely be our rival."

He said of the team, "We're young, and hungrier than ever for victory. They want to win."

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