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the

# register



Photo Courtesy of RYLEE BOTTORFF

## AN IMMIGRANT'S STORY

JAMES NGUYEN SHARES HIS STORY FROM FIGHTING IN VIETNAM, TO BECOMING A P.O.W., THEN A REFUGEE IN INDONESIA AND FINALLY A U.S CITIZEN

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL  
staff writer

Dense jungles, helicopters, Robin Williams and Jane Fonda. The Vietnam War, although decades past, still resonates in both military and cultural circles of today. Those who came back from the war returned to a different America than what they had left.

Although the country of South Vietnam may no longer be found on a map, its memory is still maintained by those who were born there and fought to protect it.

Central High School custodian James Nguyen is one of these men and women who fought for their country, suffered under their oppressive victors and escaped to a new country which they now call home.

Nguyen was born Thuc Ngoc Nguyen, in 1948 at the village of Vinh Phuc, in the Hung Yen Province of Vietnam, formerly the Republic of Vietnam. Several years later, in 1954 at the Geneva Accords, Vietnam was divided along the 17th Parallel separating the communist controlled north and the democratic south.

The signing of the Geneva Accords sparked what would

become a mass migration from the North to the South. Journalists have estimated that over two million people fled to the South to escape the tyranny of the communists. Conversely, only about 50,000 people went north, the majority of who were already members of the communist party.

The North resorted to threats and violence to stem the tide of people attempting to flee its iron collectivizing grip. Regardless, millions braved these dangerous, including Nguyen's fam-

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## Head security confirms students are "just as safe" with new security guards

BY JORDAN YOUNG  
co web editor

There were five, then four, then three, then finally two standing original OPS security guards on campus. The common question among students and staff this year became, "what happened to them?" Over the first semester and the beginning of the second semester, multiple guards have filled their places, left or returned. Although it may seem complicated, the whole situation is rather simple.

Over the last two years multiple security guards have left Central High School. This year, Jeff Andersen or "Grandpa" as many students called him left to work at an OPS middle school. When it comes to "Grandpa," the whole situation didn't necessarily go down the exact way he wished that it would. "He says that he sends his love, he's sorry, he ran out of time to say goodbye," said head security guard Ben Fletcher said. Obviously Central was in dire need of hired help.

"The security guard situation...has been in flux for a good part of the year," said Principal Ed Bennett.

Some positions have been filled permanently but others have only been held temporarily by a staff of guards that OPS provides for its schools. The district has a contract with Lionsgate Security, the businesses that provides the extra help. There are a few district substitutes' security guards. The district will often recruit fireman because of their odd shifts.

The result is this: multiple security guards at the school, some different, some are the same but regardless, multiple

guards have been at Central over a short period of time.

"We currently have three [permanent] OPS guards, but there are supposed to be five," said head security guard Fletcher.

There have been a total of 11 different security guards this year.

"Students don't like change," said Ben with a smile. "But they're just as safe. I've been asked that every day."

However on another level, Fletcher noted that because of some new security guards, issues with approachability come up.

"It changes so fast...kids don't get to know them," said Bennett.

"The best security personnel are the ones who like kids and who interact positively with kids...people who make kids feel safe," Bennett said. "Also the ones who are relatively active."

"Some days I think are better than others," said Bennett. "Overall I've been very pleased with the way the substitutes have come in....In fact I've had a number of security guards, even when they left they said, 'I love to be at Central the kids are awesome to me. Please have me back.'"

Where do these substitutes come from and how are they attained? After there is an opening or need, the process begins with a bid among security guards who want a job. Whoever has the most seniority and wants the job has first dibs on



ANN MILROY | The Register

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

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REILLY ▶

Tom Reilly joins the counseling department.

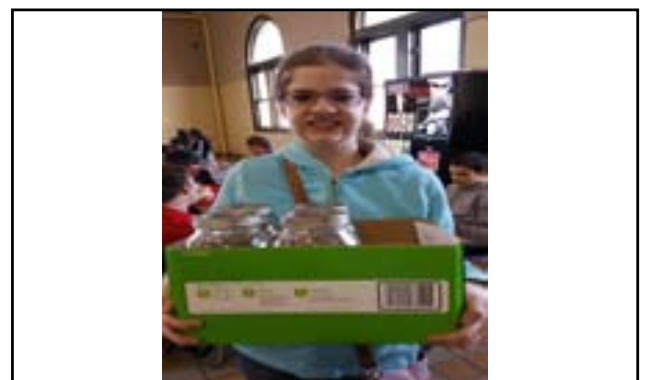
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MIDDLE SCHOOL ▶

Several parents and OPS officials examine consequences of reconstructing middle school grade ranges.

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CHANGE DRIVE ▶

IB holds Change Drive to raise money for girls' education in Afghanistan.

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# THE ZOO PROJECT

BIOLOGY TEACHER JEAN WHITTEN HAS CONTINUED TO SPONSOR AN AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR 18 YEARS



ANN MILROY | The Register

BY MICAH MARTIN  
staff writer

An after school program, for which Central partnered with the Henry Doorly Zoo, started on the Jan. 14 and will end on March 4. It was started in 1996, with the help of the biology teacher, Jean Whitten. Originally, the club started to help students by creating more options for their science fair projects, this program has evolved into an activity that gives students interested in biology a chance to get real-world experience with the things that real environmental scientists actually do. "It's an enrichment program to learn how scientists study animals, and a way to find out more," said Jean Whitten.

This year, around twenty students were chosen to have this opportunity, and they will go to the zoo about ten times to study the animal of their choice. The program does not offer behind-the-scenes projects, but it is instead an observation driven program where data is collected by the students every five minutes for an hour. These observations allow them to get to know their chosen animals by observing their behavior and mannerisms. For Aidan Maher, a freshmen participating in this program, having the opportunity to collect data outside of the classroom is one of the best aspects of this activity.

By applying scientific methodology to a real life experiences, anyone involved in this program is able to delve into the science of biology and its applications to the world. Because Central has this program in the winter, they are able to dodge the crowds of the general public,

which allows the observers to see the animals without too much interference. Also, because of the season, the animals are more active than they would be in warmer months, which also allows the students to see the animals in a more natural state.

For Maher, the chance to be able to apply a subject that she really likes to an experience outside of the school environment makes it all worthwhile. It also gives students an opportunity to see if the field of science is something that they want to pursue in the future. Due to the fact that the methods and tactics that they use are almost identical to those of environmental and zoo staff.

"Even though it is an abbreviated research project, we use the fundamental research procedures that they use at the zoo. The work that the students do is based on real science and the work environmental scientists do. I think that is very good for the students to see," said Whitten. This program may not be for everyone, but for those with an interest in biology it's a chance to participate in an intriguing real world experience.

Over the years, Whitten has thought about giving up the project for a year or two, but she has always found that there was someone who would inquire about it. It may be a lot of work for her to put together, but over the years she has found that the program allows for a place that gives students who might not be interested in other things a chance to become involved in a project that will interest them. And for students like Maher, it all about the "experience."

## Senior accepted into Naval Academy after years of hard work

BY NATALIE NEPPER  
executive editor

Shannon Dillman had been dreaming of this day for four years. Months of essay writing and testing had all led up to this very moment. Application after application she had filled out. Interview after interview she had attended. Physical training and mental examinations had taken their tolls on her body and brain. But yet, nothing had quite prepared her for this.

She pulled the envelope from the mailbox. Her hands shook. With uneasiness and excitement clouding the air, Dillman opened the wrapping, and then, she cried. Her acceptance to The United States Military Academy- a dream that once seemed so far away was finally at her fingertips.

"Oh my god, this is real," repeated over and over in her brain. Her mom was jumping up and down and all she could think about what was what the next four years would entail.

It all started around eighth grade, when Dillman was first exposed to The U.S. Air Force Academy, the sort of thing she hadn't even considered before. "Shortly after that I heard about the Naval Academy. My dad was in the Navy so I figured that would be the best branch to go into," Dillman explained. "I was sure that was something I was interested in."

After that, she was hooked on the idea of attending The U.S. Naval Academy. The campus hosted a STEM-based summer program for students entering their sophomore and junior years, and Dillman knew she had to apply. "The first year I applied, I didn't get in. I was super upset about it, but I got in the summer after sophomore year," she said.

Dillman described the experience as "super summer camp-y," the kind where students wear matching t-shirts as the "uniform" and tour museums and attend engineering workshops. But the summer encompassed just the right amount of fun that inspired her to apply for the Academy's "Summer Seminar," which she would attend just a few months before her senior year. Getting accepted into the seminar meant Dillman had passed the first round of applications into the Academy. "It's a lot more serious, you do physical training every morning, you have like real uniforms, and it wasn't just t-shirts," Dillman said. "They were a lot stricter and they definitely treated us like we were first year students."

A typical day during the week long seminar included physical training, breakfast, academic classes, lunch, more classes and physical activities, dinner, even more physical aspects, and an evening morale building get-together called "Blue and Gold."

Additionally, they had formations throughout the day for general role call and command following activities. For Dillman, the most exciting parts of the summer and in the years to come will be the team aspects. She described the general "family vibe" as a massive reason why she wanted to attend The Academy in the first place.

"I'm looking forward to really bonding as a team throughout the year. They don't make it easy," Dillman said with a laugh. "You have to rely on each other to boost each other up so you can get through it mentally, and also help out and encourage each other to get through it physically."

Plus, the school year will bring academic challenges for Dillman, and for others within her "company," which are essentially in competition with the 30 other companies in the Academy. The companies are also broken down into smaller units, and although Dillman isn't one hundred percent sure how the division works, she's looking forward to getting to know her squad members.

After the physical testing during the summer seminar, and a medical examination back in Omaha, Dillman just had to complete her nominations and interviews. She ultimately had to interview four times, once for each of the nominations and then with a representative from the academy.

But when all the paper work was sent in and the forms were all complete, Dillman had to play the waiting game. Her chances of getting in? A little less than her chances of getting into Princeton.

"It's like, what? Like six percent or something? That's what I've heard." Dillman said with a laugh. In her opinion, simply applying is what makes it so hard. "Many people start their applications and then get scared or don't get their nominations or just choose not to go," she explained. And to Dillman, Ivy League schools and the Academy have their obvious differences, even though both are tough to get accepted to. "It's not academically anything like an Ivy League. It's still a good school and it's still ranked nationally," Dillman said. "But it's the physical aspect of it that makes it hard to get into. Everyone in an Ivy League could do the same academically, but it's the physical and leadership aspects that make it as hard as an Ivy League."

Her four years at The United State Naval Academy will prepare her for years of service to the Navy after graduation. Plus, she'll have obtained her degree in math, which will offer endless opportunities if she ever discontinues her service to the Navy. But until then, Dillman's just trying to be of aid to anyone who needs it.

"Helping people should be a general goal of everyone." Dillman said with a smile. "How can I best help people? I figured I could be in the military and serve the whole country."



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## Science teacher transitions into counselor mode, fills vacant position



ANN MILROY | The Register

Tom Reilly checks student schedules in his new office. Reilly grew up in Omaha and graduated from Ralston High School.

BY JULI OBERLANDER  
staff writer

Multi-talented is one word that would describe Tom Reilly, Central's newest counselor. Following the departure of Doug Stansberry earlier this school year, Room 130 was in need of a new college counselor. As Reilly was taking counseling classes at UNO, that made him the man for the job.

"I was a special education teacher for 6 years at Central, but they hired me at the change of the semesters," Reilly said. "I work with juniors getting ready for college, the ACT and

test prep courses. I also help them with organizing visits for colleges they may be interested in." Prior to teaching special education, Reilly worked as a substitute teacher for two years, dividing his time between Central and various other schools. The counselor grew up in Omaha and graduated from Ralston High School, but he has a special appreciation for the institution where he currently works. "I have enjoyed my time at Central," the counselor said. "I wouldn't want to teach or work anywhere else if given the choice. Central is a special place."

Despite his passion for education, Reilly did not originally

wish to go into the field. "I went into college majoring in civil engineering, and decided I didn't want to be an engineer," Reilly said. "I wanted to be a counselor, but I needed at least two years of teaching, so I got my education degree."

After graduating from UNL, Reilly pursued a master's degree in special education from UNO. This, he believes, has prepared him for the variety of students he has worked with over the years. "I like working with students outside of the teaching part and helping them problem solve," Reilly said. "Just seeing their growth both academically and personally and knowing I had a small part in helping them do that inspires me as an educator." Reilly also believes he has grown through his experiences with Central students. "I have become more confident in finding info, but also knowing that I don't have to have all the answers, that I can find them later," the educator said.

Reilly gives most of that credit to the students he's mentored through Central's special education program.

"I worked in the resource program of special education, the ones you wouldn't know had problems," Reilly said. "I enjoyed helping them in a few areas, such as with math."

The counselor's work ethic is evident in his personal life, as well. "I like to run. I do half-marathons and marathons," Reilly said. "I've got two daughters that occupy most of my time. One is three and a half and the other is two and a half weeks. Sleep is a hobby that I wish I had more of." The educator also enjoys going to the UNL's annual Alumni Band Night, where he relives his days playing tuba in the band at Nebraska football games.

Even though he and his wife (whom he met in marching band) went to Ralston, Reilly is leaving the choice of school up to his daughters. "I would be proud if they decided to attend Central," he said.

## Swim-a-thon results in major benefits for the swim team

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS  
staff writer

Usually the stands are filled with crowds cheering for the athletes to finish before their competition. Rivals go head-to-head in the water right below the eyes of the on looking families, friends and fans of the swimmers.

However, a recent event resulted in crowds rooting for everyone; in this special event everyone was cheered on to win, and consequently, everyone was a winner.

Recently, the Central swim teams, both boys and girls, hosted a swim-a-thon. Not necessarily a competition, swimmers were able to help raise money to go toward necessities for the team.

A swim-a-thon is where swimmers get pledged by a sponsor who donates a certain amount per lap.

French teacher Sara Danielson is one of the head coaches for the swim team and was also one of the sponsors.

"I pledged 25 cents per lap for a swimmer and he swam 100 laps, so I donated \$25," Danielson said.

This event took place on Jan. 29 at Norris Middle School and was held for both junior varsity and varsity members.

Countless swimmers had their own personal goals for the event, but united under the same attitude towards the turn

out of the event.

Harry Griggs, a freshman on the junior varsity team, swam 40 laps.

"For most swimmers, [they swam] around 20-70 25s (or laps). Personally, I wish I swam at a slower pace," Griggs said.

Griggs was happy he could be a part of this experience.

Jared Givens, a senior on junior varsity, was also very happy to have been a part of this experience. Givens swam a total of 48 laps.

"The swim-a-thon was very fun," Givens said. "The only thing is that it was very tiring."

Other swimmers admitted the same, saying that the experience was for a good cause and a fun event to participate in. It was definitely a change in pace for the swimmers who are used to the competition they face at regular meets.

This was not the first time Central participated in a swim-a-thon. The previous coach hosted a swim-a-thon as well.

Danielson hopes that this meet is not their last, and that the swim team will continue to try and host more swim-a-thons.

Overall, the outcome to this event exceeded the goals Danielson had set for the team.

"We did fantastic. As a team, we swam 3,987 lap, which is 62.3 miles and 99,651 yards. Our goals were to raise money

to buy new swim equipment so that junior varsity can have our old equipment along with raising funds for a touch pad system," Danielson said.

Due to this event, the swim team now has new equipment that will help better the team.

Without this event, the swim team would not have had the funds to provide these benefits to the team.

However, there are improvements that could have been made to further help benefit the outcome of this event.

"We could have advertised a little bit more for the event," Danielson said.

Overall, though, this event went very well. Danielson assisted with hosting an event that brought the team together.

"It was a great experience. We had parents come count laps for the swimmers and then had a pizza party after for all the swimmers and their families," Danielson said.

Anything that brings a team together is worth the hard work that was put into hosting the event, and this was surely no exception.

For future swim-a-thons, advertisement will surely be focused on more and will hopefully result in an even better turn-out than the swim team had at this year's swim-a-thon.

## Women's Fund of Omaha promotes teen wellness with new project

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN  
web editor

The Adolescent Health Project of the Women's Fund of Omaha is aimed to promote sexual health and wellness among adolescents in the greater Omaha area.

On Jan. 23 a press release was announced to show what the project was all about. An alumna of Central High School, Brenda J. Council is the project's coordinator.

"By the time high school is over, around half of area teenagers will have engaged in sexual intercourse.

Omaha has some of the highest sexually transmitted disease rates in the nation and youth ages 15-24 make up approximately fifty percent of the cases," this according to the Adolescent Health Project's press release.

A study that was led by Melissa Tibbits from the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Public Health that was done in the fall of 2014 showed that youth are excessively affected by teen pregnancies and STDs.

Tibbits and her team of researchers also discovered that the issues that contribute to the high STD rates and teen pregnancy consist of teens limited knowledge about the diseases themselves, anxiety and denial about risks of engaging in sexual activity, and lack of safe sex.

"The consequences of STDs or teen pregnancy can be significant," said Council in the press release sent out by the Women's Fund of Omaha.

The Women's Fund of Omaha has teamed up with the Sherwood Foundation, the United Way of the Midlands,

Douglas County Health Department, Nebraska Department of Education, Nebraska Methodist Health System,

and the UNMC to bring this project about to the general public.

Four priorities of the Adolescent Health Project are to "advocate for medically-accurate, age-appropriate comprehensive sexuality education in all middle and high schools utilizing the Working to Institutionalize Sex Ed approach; Build Capacity for STD testing and treatment among clinical providers; Launch a cutting-edge media campaign that is informed by teens, aimed at teens and tested by teens to increase awareness, promote safe sex practices and STD testing; Increase access to long-acting reversible contraception."

Billboards can be seen around the Omaha area with information regarding the health project to get teens to know the truth about what can happen to them if they are not careful when becoming involved in such activities.

The Women's Fund is already working toward establishing a new sexual education program that they hope will be starting in the OPS school district in the 2015-2016 school year.

"The Women's Fund of Omaha's bi-annual community survey has consistently shown sexual literacy and teen pregnancy, along with poverty, as key issues facing girls in the community," this according to the Adolescent Health Project's press release.

The project hopes to help young women to become informed.



Photo Courtesy of BRENDA COUNCIL  
One of the advertisements promoting sexual health created by the Women's Fund of Omaha.

# Night custodian leaves troubled country for U.S.



Photo Courtesy of RYLEE BOTTORFF

Nguyen feels very welcome in the United States. After fleeing communist Vietnam, he has found happiness here in Omaha.

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ily, who left their property and farms in order to obtain freedom.

During this time Nguyen describes the communist North as "thuggish" and "ignorant."

They regularly violated, essentially, all existing human rights and wanted merely to revolt for higher living standards while actually destroying them. "You can say to support them, but you can't speak against them," he said.

Initially, Nguyen and his family settled in Bien Hoa Province, where they received strong support from both the United States and South Vietnamese governments as well as various international volunteer agencies.

They worked very hard during those early days, going to school half days and returning home to work with their parents in the fields for the other half. "Although life [was] tough, our family had freedom," he added.

In 1963, Ngo Dinh Diem, the elected president of the Republic of Vietnam, and two of his brothers were assassinated by military officers. The coup involved both members of the South Vietnamese military seeking power as allegedly members of the U.S. government.

Following this act of violence, uncertainty began to spread throughout the country, providing opportunity for a communist offensive in the south. Nguyen explained that the coup had weakened the government to such an extent that the last years of South Vietnam's democracy were filled with power struggles.

Between 1963 and 1968, what became known as the Vietnam War, escalated at a rapid pace. U.S. forces were no longer relegated to an observatory capacity and had evolved into a full on combat force, engaging in open warfare.

During this time there had traditionally been a lull in the fighting during the celebration of Tet, the Vietnamese New Year. However, in 1968, the north had no such intentions of keeping this agreement.

North Vietnamese communists took advantage of the ceasefire, attempting to take over the south whole scale. Although they failed, what is known as the Tet Offensive, led to the slaughter of both southern military and civilian personnel, including over "5,000 people in the city of Hue," he said.

The Tet Offensive and the ensuing assaults by the North led to the South Vietnamese government ordering the mobilization of all men 20 to 40 years old.

Nguyen was 20 years old at the time, and therefore he had

to join the army. However, if a man was educated and had a degree, he could go to officer's training school.

"I was eligible to go to officer's [training school] and was trained at the Thu Duc Military Training School," Nguyen said. His courses there were accelerated from 12 months to nine in order to meet the demands of the war, and he graduated in 1969, sixth out of a class of 68.

Nguyen was pressed into service almost immediately after his graduation. "During seven years in the army, I was wounded three times while fighting the Communist forces. I also received several medals for fighting or work that I did during the military time," he said. Nguyen's final rank and posting was that of captain as the chief of operations and training of the battalion located in Long Khanh Province.

On April 30, 1975, Saigon, the South Vietnamese capital, fell to the communists. With this, the subjugation of the rest of the nation was quick to follow.

The new communist government ordered that all former South Vietnamese officials and military officers were to report to camps in order to learn the new policy. They were told it would take only 10 days to a month. "They lied to us," Nguyen said.

"I was a prisoner in several "re-education camps" in Long Khanh Province and Thanh Hoa district of Nghe An Province for over six years without trial or charges," he added.

After his release from the prisons, Nguyen was put on probation, being closely monitored by the police, not being allowed to leave the locality without permission.

"The authorities still considered me a dangerous person. I felt that I was the bottom of society. To be allowed to leave the local, I repeatedly lied to the police that I wanted to visit relatives in other provinces or cities," he said. In fact, he was looking for a way to get out of communist Vietnam.

In 1982, Nguyen attempted to flee, but was arrested and imprisoned once more, this time for a two year sentence. "After my release in 1984, I tried to leave several times and then finally escaped Vietnam by boat to Indonesia.

I was a refugee in Galang, Indonesia for almost a year and came to the U.S. in 1986."

Nguyen began to build a new life once more. He said that it was not entirely difficult for him, "Because I just did what [my] family did years ago. The only difference is that in 1954, I moved to South Vietnam with my parents for freedom, but this time I emigrated alone," he added.

"I, myself thank the people and the U.S. government [as they] have welcomed and given me a free life and kindness in this country, which I will never forget in my life," he said.

# Students expected to benefit from new changes in security

CONTINUED FROM 'SECURITY  
GUARDS' ON PAGE 1

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DR. BENNETT

Central High Principal

even when they left they said, 'I love to be at Central the kids are awesome to me. Please have me back.'"

Where do these substitutes come from and how are they attained? After there is an opening or need, the process begins with a bid among security guards who want a job. Whoever has the most seniority and wants the job has first dibs on choosing the job. Afterwards there is a process of interviewing and the guard is chosen.

Among the five permanent guards at Central, Matt Wagner comes from Burke and the first female security guard in a while, Cathy Glusmann, comes from the Papillion Police Department.

The new perspective of both the security guards as well as their expertise will benefit the school, especially Glusmann's.

"It'd be nice to have a female because some girls and some boys too might connect with her in a way that they wouldn't necessarily with the male security," said Bennett.

With not only the expertise of Glusmann but the other new guards entering the building, students and faculty will benefit from their permanent presence in the months to come.

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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](mailto:hillary.blayney@ops.org) or come to room 029 to discuss your idea.

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

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

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

The Register has won multiple NSPA Pacemakers, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA, and has been awarded the Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA for its overall work.

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# Concordia Language Villages welcomes students to immersion camp

BY MADELINE HAYKO  
staff writer

The Concordia Language Camp has been a camp that Central language students have been participating in for seven years and the language department plans to continue this tradition so students can practice their studied language skills outside the classroom environment. This year Ms. Meyer, the language department head, is the main person in charge of getting students ready to go on this trip to Minnesota. Several teachers went to this camp as well as students, like Ms. Boeka and Ms. Phillips attended with Spanish and Ms. Danielson went with French.

This camp is very diverse when it comes to different languages and during the camp there are several activities that students participate in.

"Students participate in Mini-sessions revolving around the theme of the weekend, (this year the German language was "Fairy Tales") standard camp activities that are offered are hiking, crafts, games, songs. Students are encouraged to speak the language as much as possible and all communication from camp staff is also in the foreign language. All meals served are as authentic as possible," said Meyer.

For students at Central there are three different languages that are represented in the camp: Spanish, French and German. There are other languages at the camp but from Central the only students that can go are Spanish, French and German students. But not just any student can go to the camp; teachers have certain requirements.

"Students are invited by teachers based on classroom behavior, participation and attitude. More students are invited than we have room for, so after the original meeting, it is on a first come-first serve basis," said Meyer.

For this camp in Minnesota it is mainly language students from the Midwest but there is a two week summer program there that is attended by students from all around the world.

One of the students that went to this weekend camp was Abby Petrick and she loved her weekend experience with other language students.

"I wanted to go to the camp in the first place because I wanted to further my Spanish speaking skills. I had heard from many people that it is always a great experience," said Petrick.

The camp's main purpose is to help language students become more familiar with the language, for Petrick it definitely helped in that way.

"I learned many new Spanish phrases and many new things about Spanish speaking countries. I also learned that it is a ton of effort to try and translate a foreign language then respond in that same language," said Petrick.

During this weekend, the immersion process that the



Photo Courtesy of JULIA HALONEN

The Concordia Language Villages Spanish campers gathered around in the snowy Minnesota site for a group photo.

students went through meant they had to speak their second language the whole time at camp.

"It was very hard to speak a different language the whole time. Especially the first night when I wasn't used to speaking in Spanish yet. If I said anything in English, the counselors encouraged me to translate it into Spanish," said Petrick.

Petrick also met some new friends at this camp.

"During many activities I got to know a few people. I also got to know my "family" - The staff at the camp separated everyone into smaller groups called families. These were the people that we ate with and spent a lot of time with. I didn't know anyone from my family before the camp because they were all from other states. But by the end I knew all of them fairly well," said Petrick.

The thing that Petrick enjoyed most about this camp was the environment, and how authentic and comfortable it was.

"All of the staff was very encouraging and helped in any way they could. Also, all of the campers were very helpful if someone didn't know how to respond back to a staff member. It was overall a very friendly environment," said Petrick.

For students who are planning on attending this camp in the future must be very interested in their second language and they must be ready to learn.

Petrick said, "It is a very different and fun way to enhance your speaking abilities. It is just a new experience and I think that everyone should have that at least once in their life."

## Changes to middle, elementary school grade levels expected to come



ANN MILROY | The Register

Beveridge Magnet is just one of the many OPS middle schools that may be affected if the grade ranges change.

BY KELSEY THOMAS  
executive editor

After concerns were raised by several local parents and OPS school board members, it is possible that elementary and middle schools in the metro area will undergo a large reconfiguration soon.

The plan is to consider changing all middle schools to include grades six through eight, rather than the typical seventh and eighth grade program that most OPS schools follow. Some schools already have systems that go beyond seventh and eighth grade, though; King Science Magnet offers sixth through eighth, and Buffett, among other schools, offers fifth through eighth.

If the new concept was put in place, only King Science Magnet and Marrs Magnet would remain as fifth through eighth grade schools. The remaining ten OPS middle schools would follow the new system.

Three meetings, open to the public, including parents, current students, and teachers, have taken place to discuss the proposal. The first occurred on Feb. 10 at South High, the next occurred at North on Feb. 12, and the third and final meeting took place at Burke High on Feb. 17.

At all three meetings, many parents and school board members were very vocal about their opinions about the pro-

posed new system.

The first meeting was supposed to have taken place in late Jan., but school board members felt that parents needed more time to consider the options and think over the possible consequences, both positive and negative, before a public forum meeting was held.

If the plan were to go through, the schools would go through a transitional period of several years before it changed completely.

As the new OPS bond comes into play, and more money is available for the schools, there is also a possibility of several new middle schools being built.

If new middle schools were to be begun, it is likely they would be located in northwestern and southern Omaha, where population of schools has had the most growth.

Even the high schools have considered branching out and constructing new buildings due to overcrowding. South High especially has experienced the growth of classrooms, raising concerns of parents, staff, and students alike.

The situation is similar in middle schools as well. The opinions of school officials has differed greatly during public forum discussions.

It is clear that the diverging opinions go beyond concerned parents or teachers, it reaches up to the school board. Whichever way the middle school decision ends, many will be satisfied, while many will be upset. The process will continue to unfold as groups discuss their opinions, and a decision is reached.

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# Engineer advocates for seatbelt use after sons' fatal accident

BY TIA SPEARS  
editor-in-chief

"Be smart, stay safe." These are Head Engineer Debra Bolas' words of advice to young drivers. Nov. 30, 2014 was the day her step son's and Central alumnus, Eric Poole, and his brother Nate Poole died in a rollover crash.

A typical day at work here quickly turned around at noon for Bolas. "I was here at school when my husband came and got me and said, 'I don't know how to tell you this, but Eric and Nate were killed in a car crash,'" Bolas said.

This accident is estimated to have occurred between 3:30 and 5 a.m., when both men were headed eastbound on Highway 6 between Oakland and Atlantic Iowa. It was reported that the vehicle went through a fence, rolled three times and hit another fence before coming to a stop. Pottawattamie County deputies found the vehicle in a ditch where the two men were ejected from the vehicle and pronounced deceased upon arrival.

"My husband, Alan, found out through his brother because the police could not find out any information on Eric, he had just relocated to Atlantic Iowa for a promotion with his job at Hy-Vee," Bolas said. Eric was 30 years old when he passed away.

He leaves behind his fiancé, Ashley Bowser who lived in Atlantic Iowa at the time of the accident with Bolas' step-daughter Alissa. Nate was 19 years and lived with Bolas and her husband.

"We had to call [our] oldest daughter, Jessica, who lives in Oregon and tell her the news along with Laura Bolas the boy's mother," Bolas said. "Both of my step-daughters [were] pregnant at the time and Jessica was due in two weeks. Eric and Nate were loving uncle's, too, soon to have five nephews and one niece.

The tragedy that struck the Bolas' family did not go by as a typical crash report by any means. Channel 7 News did a feature on traffic accidents, highlighting the fatal crash of Bolas' step-sons. Eric and Nate's photo were featured as well as a statement by his fiancé.

Unfortunately, Jessica Bolas' family vehicle was in poor condition. Thus, they had no way of efficiently travelling in order to return for the funerals and she was not able to fly because it was too close to her due date. Subsequently, she opened up a Go Fund Me account with the goal of raising \$3,000 needed to ensure that their vehicle could function proficiently. The account was opened up to Facebook friends in the hopes that they would share with their friends and in turn have success

throughout the donation process.

"One of my step-son's friends, Ricky, from California donated the price of his plane ticket so my step-daughter could get here. We sent him something that belonged to Eric to thank him," Bolas stated.

The account was opened on Nov 30th and so far has raised \$2,280 which was enough to fix the vehicle and make it back home. "It's been difficult... Much gratitude to all of you, for your thoughts, your prayers, and your contributions!" was the last comment left on the Go Fund Me account by Jessica made two months ago.

While the family is back together, Bolas would like to become involved in promoting the importance of wearing seat belts, except she now has another problem on her hands. "I have a tumor the size of a softball on my right ovary," Bolas said. Currently, her battle with her health and her emotions are the source of tribulations in her life.

The message she leaves the community with is, "Wear your seat belts and pay attention to the road... Parents should not have to bury their children. This all could have been prevented."

## Q & A

THE REGISTER SITS DOWN WITH EDUARDO SUAREZ, CENTRAL'S BILINGUAL LIASON AND GIRLS' SOCCER COACH

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ  
staff writer

### Where did you grow up and what was it like?

I grew up on a small farm about half an hour away from any cities. The farm was called Yellow Rose. It was a great place to grow up because you felt free. You were able to wander around and not have any of the worries that you would have here in a city.

### Do you have any siblings? Are you still close to them?

I'm the youngest child out of seven. We are all extremely close to [one another.] We spend every holiday together and also have dinner together on Sundays. Our mother and father live in Mexico while the rest of us live in Omaha. Although, our entire family does get together in Omaha twice a year.

### Where did you go to high school, what was it like?

I went to Omaha South. It was extremely different for me since there were so many students and I wasn't used to the size of the school. Overall, I got to do something I loved since I had the opportunity to play soccer for South.

### Where did you go to college and what was it like for you?

I went to Bellevue University. By that time, I was used

to being around lots of people and going to a relatively large school. College was better than high school for me since I got a full ride to play soccer for the university.

### Are you married? What is your daughter like?

I am not married yet. Although, I have a wonderful seven year old daughter named Adyanna who has the best smile in the world. She's a lot like me, her father. She's outgoing, extremely friendly, and loves to dance and sing. She is always polite and greets everyone, says please and thank you, and says goodbye with a kiss.

### What drew you to work at Central?

Since I was young, I have always wanted to work with kids. It's easy for me because I'm patient and it is a gateway to help me reach my goals and become a counselor/athletic director.

### When did you start playing soccer and when did your professional career progress?

I started to play soccer in seventh grade. I knew my professional career was progressing when I made the Varsity Soccer team at South and became a four year letter winner during my high school era.

### Do you enjoy coaching? What are your relationships with your players like?

Coaching is a great experience, I extremely enjoy it. It is a passion of mine, I can't explain how good it feels. My relationships with my players are very friendly and outgoing but at the same time very professional.

### What are your plans for the future?

My plans for the future are to continue coaching. I plan to take Central to state and winning the championship. Profession wise, I would like to continue to work on my degree and become a counselor and help students in that way. I would also like to find my significant other and god willing have two more kids.

### Do you have a lot of friends? What do you do in your free time?

I have a lot of acquaintances but very few friends. In my personal time, I try to spend it with my family as much as I can. I currently play for three soccer teams which takes up a majority of my time.

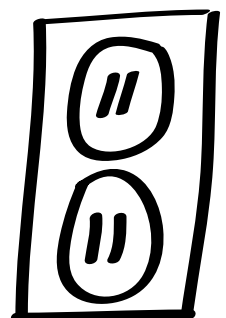
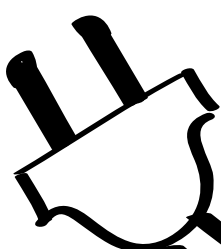
### If you could give one piece of advice to high schoolers, what would it be?

If I could give one piece of advice to high schoolers it would be to make sure you're taking the right steps to be able to reach your goals.

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## IB hosts “Change War” to help girls’ education in Afghanistan

BY ALEC ROME  
staff writer

An IB fundraiser took place for the program throughout the week of January 26. It helped raise money to fund girls’ education in Afghanistan.

The issue has always been important to giving education to a economically challenged part of the world, especially with the increased terror threats in the Middle East. The idea for the drive was a “Change War” between each of the grades was created by the students of the project.

“They were trying to come up with a way to involve more of the school, making it easier for homeroom teachers, because they were considering a Change War between the homerooms,” said Tracey Menten, one of the supervisors for this project and others in the past such as the Book Drive for the same cause earlier this school year. “But that always ends up being a lot of work for the teachers, so they were really trying to take it on themselves,” said Menten.

The drive fell short of its intended goal of \$800. However, the fundraiser still took in over \$600, which will positively contribute to their cause.

The money will go toward funding the education of two girls for a year. Two students, Emma Kalkowski-Farrand and Krystal Kozawa Lopez, contributed the most to the project.

The success of this drive differs completely to some of the previous drives by the current committee of students. An issue such as the one being addressed by the committee has always been an issue, but it becomes hard in an age of social media to keep people’s attention on one specific subject.

“It’s hard to keep people here on that issue. If you’re in Afghanistan it is really easy, but I think for us in the United States it is hard because we have access to those things [media] and so unless you’re acutely aware of it, it’s not something you think about,” said Menten, who put into perspective the problem of keeping an issue from slipping from the headlines. “I think one of the reasons the group has been able to do that is because they have that international mindedness in their heads all of the time, and so they remain aware. Plus, they have a relationship with the school, so they feel more of a personal connection.”

Also, with the increased threat of terrorism in that region of the world, it is more important than ever to protect the safety of children and ensure their educations are secure.

“A couple of years ago when we first started this, it seemed more safe. One of the big fundraisers this year was getting the money for a bus, because they needed a way to get the girls back and forth from school more safely... The population of the school has tripled since we have started. There have been successes, yet they still struggle.”

Menten also believed that projects like the ones done in the IB Program give students a fresh perspective. “It gives them an appreciation of their own education. Kids in Afghanistan are so excited to go to school and they love the ability to go to school while the kids here try to figure out ways to get out of school, so I do feel that there is a newfound appreciation for that. I also think the value is that students are students no matter where they are at, and that idea that they are helping but that they are gaining an appreciation of what it means to be a student no matter where you come from.”



Photos Courtesy of LORI FALCON

Students volunteer their time running the IB Change Drive table to help girls in Afghanistan earn their education.

## Student accepts QuestBridge scholarship, commits to Northwestern

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO  
staff writer

QuestBridge “connects the world’s brightest low-income students to America’s best universities and opportunities.” Not only does QuestBridge provide a platform that connects these students to great universities but to other students who, together, will continue to prosper America with their talent. Senior Cristobal Garcia, was one of those students chosen to showcase his talent.

Though quiet and reserved, Garcia displays the qualities of a well-disciplined student who is highly motivated. “Driven, enterprising, I think these are the qualities that are most representative of me,” Garcia said. These qualities caught the attention of several teachers who informed Garcia about QuestBridge.

“Several teachers suggested the program to me, including Mrs. Andrus and Mrs. Reed,” Garcia said. “They were very outspoken about wanting me to apply to the first program in junior year, the college prep scholars program.” The college prep scholars program prepares juniors for senior year and the process of applying to colleges.

“The ones who receive the college prep award are invited to a conference at one of three campuses,” Garcia said. “There they give workshops on applying to college, how to produce a good college essay, how to make your application stand out.

They guide you through the application process.”

During his senior Garcia participated in the national college match, it was there that he was awarded the scholarship. “It was a very long application. QuestBridge asks you a lot of questions about your academic achievements, about your aspirations,” Garcia said. “As well as the more general stuff like test scores, GPA, class rank.” Now that Garcia has been awarded the scholarship, he has to maintain the same level of academic success that he presented in his application. “If I don’t, I could get my scholarship [revoked],” Garcia said. “I have to keep up with my academic work.”

QuestBridge grants students admission to one of their many partner colleges with a full four-year scholarship. Each “aid package” is tailored to fit the student’s financial need and accommodates the financial aid their chosen college will award them.

Garcia choose to attend Northwestern University in Illinois. For him, because of QuestBridge, selecting a college was not difficult. For many students, this process can be binding. Garcia he knew that if he was awarded the scholarship he would attend one of the partner colleges. “They selected me through the college match program,” Garcia said. “In this case it wasn’t a hard decision because I grew up in Chicago. I lived there for the majority of my life.”

Northwestern University offers Garcia a familiar atmosphere and an environment in which he can succeed academi-

cally. “I plan to major in computer science, because I’ve always had a profound interest for the workings of computers,” Garcia said. “This year I’ve taken up programing. I’ve also dabbled in website design.” The whole field of computers is very appealing to Garcia, he hopes to learn more about it while at Northwestern.

Because of QuestBridge, Garcia will also have the opportunity to meet and network with other scholars from the program. The QuestBridge Scholars network is made up of those who have applied to QuestBridge partner colleges and got accepted. “It’s a support network for incoming students, providing help for anytime you struggle or you need advice,” Garcia said. “Going into that environment will be a healthy way to start a college career.”

At Central, Garcia has been part of activities such as National Honor Society, Chess Club and a member of the International Baccalaureate Program. These activities have “shaped” Garcia into the student that he is today. “The IB program demand extreme discipline due to the difficult nature of the courses and the never ending stream of homework,” Garcia said. “As a result that has made me a disciplined student and it has also encouraged me to keep learning.”

Garcia looks forward to attending Northwestern and to what the college experience will bring him.

# perspective & commentary



AFTER THE TERRORIST ATTACKS  
ON A FRENCH SATIRICAL MAGAZINE  
MANY ARE LEFT TO QUESTION  
THE ETHICS OF SATIRE  
IN THE MEDIA

EMMA PETERSEN | Contributing Cartoonist

## CHARLIE HEBDO

BY KELSEY THOMAS  
executive editor

The terroristic attacks on the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo have left many people, including the public, journalists and the government, questioning the practical use of satire in the media.

Satire is a method of rhetoric used to patronize or ridicule another group. Satire can be used to make statements about religious groups, political parties, entire countries, or individual people. For decades, Charlie Hebdo has made efforts to satirize nearly every type of public figure or entity, sometimes making more aggressive attempts than others.

The mass murder that took place on Jan. 7 at the magazine's headquarters is not the first time that the magazine was involved in conflict because of its controversial cartoons. In 2006, Charlie Hebdo printed an issue with a cartoon, not unlike those that sparked the recent attacks, depicting Muhammad. After the contentious cover was published, the headquarters were attacked with fire bombs. Nevertheless, the magazine continued to produce cartoons that offended many.

The recent attacks have sparked a debate regarding the ethics of satire. Some assert that ridiculing people's religious and political beliefs, like Charlie Hebdo has done, is wrong, while others argue that it is all in good fun.

Satire and other forms of media should never be disallowed in order to save someone's emotions. Someone once said, "Free speech does not end where hurt feelings begin." At the same time, there are times when satire is irresponsible or used for improper reasons.

Molly Ivins, a talented and very famous American columnist once said of satire, "Satire is traditionally the weapon of the powerless against the power-

CONTINUE TO 'SATIRE' ON  
PAGE 10

## Saudi Arabia discounted oil prices political move, not out of generosity



CHOTEAU KAMMEL  
CHO-TIME

There are many things one may notice while out and about; the weather, colorful wildlife or a familiar face. However, another item that has come to be on that list is one that very few people would have happily looked to, the dropping gas prices.

Prior to several months ago, gas prices had become a constant dreary fact of life for anyone who drives and also has to pay for their own fuel consumption.

In late 2014 however, gas prices began dropping across the nation. This of course, was an unexpected turn of events as gas prices had stagnated at some of their highest levels

CONTINUE TO 'SAUDI' ON  
PAGE 10

## WHAT IS PTSD?

PTSD is a psychiatric disorder caused by experiencing life-threatening situations.



1 in 5 military personnel will return from Iraq and Afghanistan with PTSD.

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS  
staff writer

Emotions ran high as the blockbuster film American Sniper captivated audiences throughout the country.

American Sniper is a true story about a soldier named Chris Kyle; a man whose legacy will live on even though his life was taken last year. It is almost a certainty that just as people cried for Kyle, they also felt a feeling of pure hatred towards the man who had admitted taking this hero's life.

Eddie Routh, the man who is being put on trial for killing Kyle, was a retired veteran that Kyle was trying to help, by taking him to a shooting range to calm his nerves, when Routh turned on him, shot him and killed him. I believe that the defenses' plead of insanity should not be overlooked due to the bias from the movie.

To set things straight, I am not saying that this as an excuse for what happened. I am not saying that this is someone else's fault. I am not saying that Routh had no account for his actions, and in no way am I saying that he should not be punished.

I am merely stating that everyone should be granted a fair trial, and that a jury made up of citizens that have seen American Sniper will not carry out this right.

The emotions that captivated the audiences across the nation during this film will most likely cloud the judgment of the jury.

If this was to be taken in account sooner, the trial should have been completed before American Sniper was released. This would have taken away the possibility of a biased jury and would have ensured Routh a fair trial he deserves.

The trial will soon take place, and some are worried a fair trial is not possible at this point due to the blockbuster film.

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ADULT IN NEBRASKA ►

Nebraska is the only state where 19 is the legal adult age, but is it necessary?

PAGE 12



UNL DORMS ►

UNL decided to build a LGBT suite and apartment on campus for the next school year.

PAGE 13



MEDICAL MARIJUANA ►

Legalizing medical marijuana has been introduced to the state of Nebraska.

PAGE 14



# Parents that support non-vaccination movements prove selfish

BY JORDAN YOUNG  
co web editor

To vaccinate or not to vaccinate...If you were a parent, what would you decide to do with your kids?

This increasingly controversial question pertaining to modern day treatments for infectious and often deadly diseases has recently resurfaced due to the measles outbreak at the Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif. during mid-December.

Since the outbreak, an estimated 102 people, ranging from all ages, have been infected in 14 states. Nebraska is one of them.

Health officials have determined that the spread of the disease possibly rooted from travelers who were infected after traveling outside the country, thus bringing it to Disneyland. Those present at the park who weren't vaccinated for measles were the ones who became infected and the disease spread off from there.

Since knowledge of non-vaccinated kids and their parents were released, parents who condone this lifestyle have received mostly backfire and anger from other terrified and worried parents.

And they have the right to be.

Parents, or anyone for that matter, who support the non-vaccination movement (that has considerably increased over the last few years) are both naïve and selfish. The main reasons why people are joining the movement is because they either want to live an "organic" and "toxic free" life or want to protect their children from the supposed link between vaccines and autism.

To begin with, living an organic lifestyle in makes no sense in the long run. One huge advocate for this who has recently received major attention for his opinions on the outbreak, Dr. Jack Wolfson, doesn't feel the same.

"We should be getting measles, mumps, rubella, chicken pox, these are the rights of our children to get it," he said. "We do not need to inject chemicals into ourselves and into our children in order to boost our immune system...I'm a big fan of what's called paleo-nutrition, so our children eat foods that our ancestors have been eating for millions of years.... That's



IMANI BROWN | Contributing Cartoonist

the best way to protect," according to Washington Post.

Also according according to the Washington Post, Wolfson isn't even an expert on disease on infections. In fact, the doctor claimed to have reached his opinion on vaccinations because of his wife who is a chiropractor.

Go figure.

The doctor has acquired many followers, mostly parents, who share his ideals. Besides simply fearing the effects of possible toxins from within a vaccination, some parents fear the link between autism and vaccinations.

The theory came from a study in 1994 conducted by Andrew Wakefield who came to the conclusion that autism is linked with vaccinations. However, the study has been not only

disproved, but Wakefield was found guilty of forging statistics and evidence.

Credited health officials and scientists like the CDC tell parents--regardless of what they think--that vaccines are necessary. In addition, on their website, the foundation Autism Speaks agrees with health officials.

So do we. Although suggestions of healthy living is great there are holes in anti-vaccination supporters arguments. No credited health officials support their claims and the suggestion of a life without vaccines is a potentially dangerous one.

Measles is one of the most contagious diseases around and without vaccines there would be more suffering.

## RENEWING TIES

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN NEARLY FIVE DECADES, THE UNITED STATES AND CUBA SHARE A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP, AND FOCUS ON BUILDING STABLE CONNECTIONS

BY MICAH MARTIN  
staff writer

President Barack Obama announced a renewal of diplomatic ties with Cuba on Dec. 17. Initially severed because of deteriorating relations between the U.S. and Fidel Castro's government, this "standoff" has lasted five decades and through ten presidencies.

Starting with Dwight Eisenhower's decision to close the embassy in Havana, this cutoff has impacted trade, travel and economics.

This renewal will slowly begin to mend the rifts caused to these aspects between the two countries, but it will not be a quick fix. Obama's decision to renew diplomatic ties may "cut loose the shackles of the past" but it does not ensure success in the future.

Fidel Castro may no longer be in power in Cuba, but that does not mean that the Castro reign is over.

Cuba is currently being led by President Raul Castro, who assisted his brother, Fidel Castro, during most of his adult life. With a more than questionable history, and personal approval from Fidel Castro, it's hard not to wonder about the policies that Raul will back in the future.

These uncertainties are what cause concern among many people regarding what the US has agreed to support by renewing these ties. It is true that the events that caused the initial

break of ties happened before many remaining Americans were born, but that does not mean that it should be thrown aside so easily. There was a reason the ties were cut in the first place, and just because time has passed does not mean that those reasons have become invalid.

On the surface, it appears that things in Cuba have changed, but if we were to look at the inner workings would we see the same?

Perhaps then it wouldn't be Cuba that has changed, but America.

Some aspects of this revival may be foggy, but one thing that is crystal clear is the fact that by the end of this Cuba is going to be greatly changed.

The Cuba that people know today is a sort of escape from the eccentrics of mankind. Compared to much of the rest of the world, it is slow-paced and laid back, which ultimately means that it's free of the consumer created craze of places like the United States.

Due to the fact that Cuba has been sheltered from the US, it has been able to preserve its culture and lifestyle. Oddly, because of the severed ties with America, Cuba has gained an independence from overwhelming pop-culture that is rarely found in other places.

Of course, the lack of relations have also caused some issues, but in a world that is becoming a more standard landscape every day, the widespread preservation of Cuban culture

is priceless.

People may have the delusion that only good is going to come out of this revival of diplomacy, but when is that ever truly the case?

At first, companies may be hesitant to invest in Cuba, but as the relations stabilize there is sure to be a commercial race for Cuba.

Just think of it from a business perspective, Cuba is a place virtually free of a consumer-driven market, which will make it the next perfect place for business chains seen in America to establish in.

Not only will this change the landscape itself, but it will also impact the culture that has been so long preserved. Maybe it's sentimental to care about the changes that will occur to the culture of Cuba, maybe it's pointless to fight industry, but no matter the reasons behind the hesitation, it's important to realize the substantial impact that all of this is going to have on the country.

Obama's intentions may have been good-natured when he announced the renewal of diplomatic relations with Cuba, but that does not mean that the outcome of this decision will also be good.

However, because what's done is done, the most the world can hope for is that Cuba and its people are able to keep a grasp of their own culture while letting go of some of the sheltered ways that they've come to know.

## Satire shouldn't be prohibited; Charlie Hebdo cartoonists death undeserved

CONTINUED FROM 'SATIRE' ON  
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ful. I only aim at the powerful. When satire is aimed at the powerless, it is not only cruel — it's vulgar."

Magazines and news publications should aim to follow Ivins' philosophy.

While satire is an important aspect of free speech in the media, at times it is harmful and unnecessary.

In the middle of the Presidential race in 2008, The New Yorker published an issue with a satirical cartoon depicting then-Democratic candidate Barack Obama and his wife Michelle.

The couple was standing in the Oval Office, with an American Flag burning in the fireplace and a portrait of Osama bin Laden hanging above it.

Barack was wearing traditional Muslim garb, and Michelle was fitted with cargo pants, an AK-47 and an afro. The couple fist-bumped each other with pride.

The cover sparked outcry not only from Barack Obama, but from across the nation, and rightfully so.

At the time of its printing, right-wing extremists made allegations accusing Obama of being an illegal alien and a terrorist. While many people were fully aware that the cover of The New Yorker was purely satire, many did not.

The magazine overestimated the public's knowledge, and many people were instead convinced that Obama was a terrorist.

In addition, by publishing an issue with such a cover, The New Yorker added fuel to the fire being started by extremist opponents against Obama.

Instead of bringing to light the absurdity of the accusations against the Presidential candidate, the magazine did the exact opposite.

In addition, The New Yorker aided in perpetuating nega-

tive stereotypes of Muslims and African-Americans.

There were times when Charlie Hebdo made similar mistakes.

The magazine sometimes produced cartoons depicting Muslims or people of other religions in stereotypical, negative manners.

This manner of satire should not be thought of as harmless, or acceptable to use. It actually contributes to difficulties and misunderstandings between cultures.

On the other hand, Charlie Hebdo's cartoons that attack extremists or political leaders who have committed crimes against humanity are justified, though they do yield negative reactions.

People that argue that the cartoonists at Charlie Hebdo were asking for an attack such as this one, are essentially stating that people should tiptoe carefully around members of ISIS and other terroristic extremist groups.

It is devastating that lives are lost in the process, but without some resistance put forward by publications such as Charlie Hebdo, murderous groups could run rampant, accumulating power.

Charlie Hebdo made mistakes like the one made by The New Yorker. Attacking innocent groups of people with satire is unnecessary, and does nothing to aid in the progress of society.

Satire is a tool for limiting the power of a powerful person or group, rather than making fun of someone's harmless beliefs.

Charlie Hebdo's cartoonists and staff members did not deserve the fate that they endured, nor were they asking for it, as they were exercising their right of free speech. But, it may be important to question the merits of some of the cartoons like the ones they produced.

## Traditional supply and demand laws broken by dropping oil prices

CONTINUED FROM 'SAUDI' ON  
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and the demand had also flat lined.

Americans were pleasantly surprised to find that they could once more stop at the pump with \$20 and fuel up to a helpful extent. They did not immediately know though, why gas prices were going south.

As news agencies were quick to report, Saudi Arabia, which has historically always been one of the world's largest oil producer and exporter, had bolstered its daily oil drum production to 9.6 billion barrels and begun offering it at discounted prices to markets across the globe.

This surprising move by the Saudis was made even more interesting by the fact that it broke with traditional supply and demand doctrine.

Although demand had stagnated and as such there was no incentive from the consumer to bolster oil production, they decided to anyway. As the demand was unchanged but the supply went up, a surplus ensued causing prices to plunge.

The Saudi's motives behind flooding the global oil market are more political rather than assisting U.S. consumers at the pump. Their ability to mass produce and overwhelmingly large reserve stockpiles have allowed them to effectively isolate both regional enemy Iran and export kingpin Russia.

Iran's quest for power in the Middle East as well as friendliness with terror groups presents a threat to Saudi preeminence in the region.

Russia's robust oil exports and funding for Syria's Bashar al-Assad regime also provide threats to the Saudi economy as well as further unrest in the Middle East.

Regardless of the motives behind the market flood, it cannot be understated that the lower prices at the pump have been a welcome reprieve for U.S. consumers.

Even President Obama has taken notice, claiming responsibility for them in his State of the Union Address. Although this is a fallacy, it does make political sense to do so.

It is interesting to note that as gas prices had skyrocketed during most of his presidency, but he always claimed he had nothing to do with it, and now that they are going down all of a sudden he does.

When one considers how essential gas has become in today's everyday world and how it plays major roles in almost every aspect of said world, shouldn't the prices for other services and items be going down as well?

For example, should not grocery prices, much of which stems from transportation costs, go down as well? According to the United States Department of Agriculture, overall grocery prices increases 2.5% to 3.5% in 2014. Therefore, while gas is as low as it is, shouldn't the prices of groceries be going down too?

The answer to this question is yes, grocery prices should be going up, and that would be of course if the market was allowed to run its course.

Prices of groceries cannot change in correspondence with the gas prices because they are bound by price floors and price ceiling which are set by the government.

The prices of various groceries are federally regulated to where they cannot drop below or climb above a set dollar amount.

Theoretically this protects both producers and consumers. In practice however, price ceilings cause shortages as producers are less likely to make as much of a product if they cannot get any more for it than what the government says.

Price floors create temporary surpluses that cannot fluctuate with the actual market itself. This is especially true with the high price floors such as the ones at which many grocery products are sold.

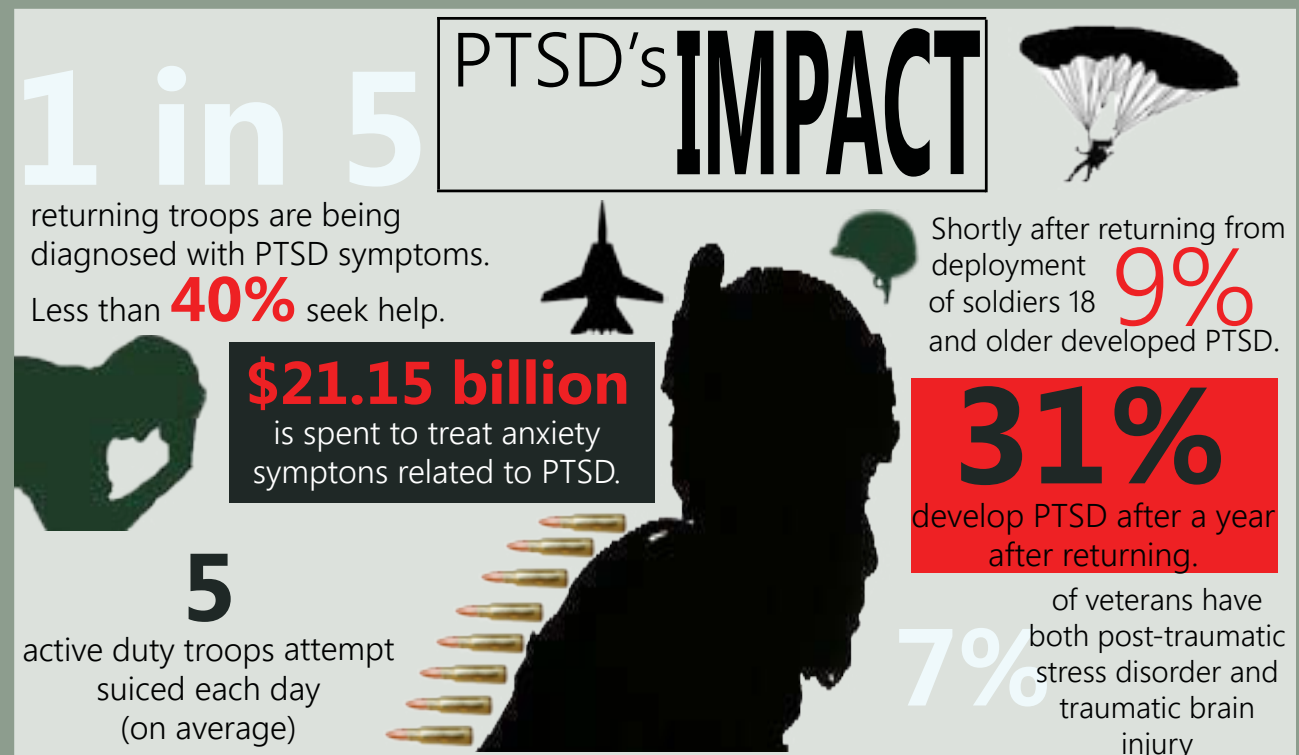
There are many more sellers who will bring goods to market at these high price floors than there are consumers who will purchase them.

These harmful regulations have been in place for decades and are one of the more obvious Keynesian influences in the United States economic structure. Although the motives behind such regulation are admirable, they actually end up hurting those who they are set up to protect.

They are also the main reason that although gas prices have been going down, grocery prices have not and have in fact continued to rise. After all, one of the largest contributors to grocery pricing is the transportation cost. Therefore, it is reasonable to expect them to drop in unison with the lowering of gas prices.

All in all, the lowering of prices at the pump due to the Saudi's politically motivated market flood has served to not only provide fuel consumers a reprieve but also to expose a decades old flaw in the U.S. economic philosophy and showcase the effects of government intrusion into the free market, making it in effect not so free.

A populace serves not only as the employees and employers of an economy, but the aspect that often is forgotten in command economies, is that they are also consumers. Therefore it is imperative to keep the price environment viable so as it may fluctuate directly with supply and demand.



Statistics provided from ptsusa.org, healmyptsd.org and ptsd.va.gov

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Routh's lawyer has petitioned once so far to move the trial out of Texas, and has been denied.

Everything should be done to try and move this trial out of Texas, and to see to it that the jury is made up of people that have not seen the movie; the lesser the knowledge on the case, the better.

However, moving the trial out of Texas may not help the defense anyway.

The fact that many people have seen this movie across the nation makes one wonder if the trial will be fair, and whether or not it will be possible in finding a jury that has not seen or be influenced by the movie.

All that is mentioned in the movie is that Routh was a suffering veteran.

Not included in this blockbuster was the depth of his suffering. He has acquired various mental diseases since being enlisted in the army that probably drove him to commit this murder.

The prosecution will fight for life in prison for Routh, while his defense will plead insanity.

However, since he was not portrayed in this light, but rather a murderous one, in the movie, it will be hard to find a jury that will not so easily decide on life in prison for Routh.

One of the major illnesses Routh suffers from is post-traumatic stress disorder.

PTSD is common among veterans and for some, can be very hard to overcome. It is certain that Routh never really found a way to battle this mental disease.

Turning to alcohol as a friend in time of need, Routh became very unstable and more liable to carry out acts of violence. Pleading insanity is not completely out of the question when neglecting everything but the facts at hand.

This also brings about how veterans with certain disorders like this are being treated.

If Routh had had better treatment and attention attending to his disorder, he may not have been on trial today for the murder of Kyle.

However, this is not the case, and Routh will probably find himself behind bars for the rest of his life.

This situation shows how much movies can actually affect the opinions of people. Yes, this man did murder a hero that saved many lives overseas, but he was, in reality, a man who was struggling to deal with a disorder that needed to be dealt the correct treatment.

He does need to pay for his actions, but I believe he is not the treacherous man he is made out to be in the movie, however controversial that statement may be. The insanity plea is what is most reasonable for both accounts.

One thing that everyone can agree on is that war is a disastrous thing and that its effects are much deeper than those left on the battlefield.

American Sniper captured this and was a very well produced movie, but it left many wrongly overlooking Routh's predicament.

# Creighton Medical Center suffers unnecessary repeal of certification



ANN MILROY | The Register

BY TIA SPEARS  
editor-in-chief

Despite the DHHS action, the state of Nebraska has determined we can continue to operate as a trauma center," President of Creighton CHI Creighton, Kevin Nokels, and Dean of Creighton University School of Medicine, Dr. Robert Dunlay, said in a combined statement on Jan. 9.

After a request on CHI Creighton's behalf to renew their Level 1 trauma center certification, functioning 24/7, they were denied by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). After a review in Oct, DHHS sent a letter to Nokels.

In the letter released to the public from the Director of Public Health and Chief Medical Officer of DHHS, it states that CHI Creighton didn't meet the criteria under "comprehensive" on the Trauma Centers Criteria Chart.

As a result, patients will need to go a little further away to Nebraska Medical Center, who did become certified as a Level

1 trauma center.

A failure to meet the general surgery clinical capabilities, the clinical qualifications pertaining to the attendance of a representative at 50% of the Peer Review meetings, the orthopedic surgery clinical capabilities and a verified Trauma Nursing Core Course which is a world-wide requirement.

Before, UNMC and CHI Creighton were both certified and shared patients depending on if the date was even or odd. That's all different now.

The reasons outlined in the letter addressed to Nokels are minute, according to his statement to KETV. He also claimed that the mistakes were corrected within 90 days. Whatever the case, CHI Creighton can still operate as a trauma center, therefore transporting patients over a longer distance to receive "Level 1 trauma center" care is just silly. Health issues and occurrences don't happen at anyone's convenience. People should be able to go to whatever hospital is the closest in the case of an emergency.

For those who do not know the difference between trauma

centers, Level 1 is the most prestigious of any kind. Level 1 (comprehensive) trauma centers take the most critically injured patients. Any hospital should be able to care for any situation at any given moment for the simple fact that it's a hospital.

What else is a hospital supposed to do? Granted there are different kinds of emergencies, but they happen everywhere at any given moment.

Omaha has several major hospitals, CHI Creighton being one of them. Nonetheless, we have a growing population which changes the ratio between citizens and hospitals more as time progresses.

It should be a state law requirement to have every hospital qualified as a Level 1 trauma center for this purpose.

Undermining this entire denial is that fact that UNMC and CHI Creighton are now viewed competitively, which in any traumatic situation, shouldn't really matter.

If a life is on the line, adding time (even if it's just a minute) before the patient actually receives treatment could be risking their life.

CHI Creighton has gotten a lot of negative publicity because of this denial, causing to people to choose other hospitals in general.

If anything, this is an embarrassing move towards CHI Creighton and a boost for the Ebola curing health officials at UNMC. Comparing the aesthetics and interior designing of the two, sure UNMC seems to be more modern.

Go watch TV and see that your morning news report has commercials paid for by UNMC.

They seem better, but if CHI Creighton had met the qualifications every year since the 70's, it seems odd that they can't make these qualifications now. If anything, in time CHI Creighton should perform better given the technology available to them.

It's understandable for DHHS to uphold high standards and qualifications for a Level 1 trauma center, but sending patients away to UNMC is a bit too inconvenient.

Sure, UNMC isn't all the way across Omaha, but it isn't next door to CHI Creighton either. CHI Creighton did appeal the decision, but as for now, they are still not able to function as a Level 1 trauma center. It's plausible to assume CHI Creighton will earn their way back to being accredited with that distinction given their past medical accomplishments.

Until then, to the patients' inconvenience, they will lengthen their time in with the EMTs and in turn, the M.D.s as well. That's not supposed to be the case.

## Taxing of college saving accounts wrong, other options should be explored

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL  
staff writer

The United States' Constitution mandates that the president must periodically update Congress on the current situation of the nation. On January 20, 2015, President Obama gave his sixth State of the Union Address, speaking among other things, on that of college tuition. With that, he laid out a plan that would remove the tax exempt status on future state 529 college savings plans. Although this proposal has since been quietly redacted, the true reasons behind the costs of higher education still have not been touched upon.

The state administered 529 college savings plan is designed to allow families to grow some of their invested wealth, to be withdrawn when their child is of college age. Of course the funds can be withdrawn earlier, albeit with a penalty, as the true purpose and function of the 529 is to help parents or guardians send a child to college.

What makes these plans so invaluable is their tax exempt status, allowing them to avoid the ever widening grip of the Internal Revenue Service. President Obama detailed a plan to remove the tax exempt status on them, claiming they disproportionately advantage the wealthy as compared to whom he considers the middle class.

The president cited evidence from the Federal Reserve, claiming that 70% of 529 accounts are held by those who make more than \$200,000 a year. Those who fit into this bracket are considered by him to be the rich. However, rich is not defined by a person's annual income, but more so by a comparison of assets to liabilities as well as taking into account mandatory expenses.

According to the College Savings Plans Network, the average worth of a 529 fund in 2012 was \$17,000. To most people this wouldn't exactly sound like the rich people the president likes to talk about.

In fact, that sounds more like the middle class he claims to want to support. Secondly, according to an article the Detroit Free Press, many of the truly wealthy do not even use 529s to pay for college, as they prefer more freedom to invest their own money.

First this proposal to tax one of the most popular and commonly held college savings accounts, and then the proposed "free" community college, which itself entails even more taxation, it seems the president and his body of government plan-

ners just can't seem to figure out why college tuition is so darn high.

One may ask, how could such a cadre of Ivy League graduates not be able to solve what should be a clear cut mathematical equation. Well, they actually have solved it, in fact they continue to keep "solving" it, with more and more federal subsidies and aid.

The conclusion that they came to, which was actually reached several decades ago, is that one, all students want to go to college and two, the government isn't doing enough in the education sector.

Interestingly though, as they have applied their solution which is that of more federal money, consequently the tax payer's money as the federal government really has no money of its own, the rates of tuition have continued to get higher.

Several decades ago, a shift occurred in the learning community, moving away from the incorporation of trade schools and allowing students to pursue what they want to the modern mantra of all students being academics and wanting to go to college.

This played into what the federal government continues to do with college education. They artificially created demand for college, saying that all students should go, but they didn't allow the supply of students who actually want to go to college to catch up with the inflated demand. This is what began the increasing prices of tuition.

Government has decided to drastically increase the demand for higher education with subsidies and student loans, but the supply of students who want higher learning has not kept up. The world of higher learning is divided into two sectors. The non-profit sector, which is made up of mainly the Ivy League, which is paid more in the prestigious names they carry, and then there is the profit sector.

The profit sector, as its names states, is there to make money. However, as the federal subsidies have increased as well as with student loans, it has evolved into what could essentially be a corporation that is more concerned with picking up more government subsidies than it is with providing quality and reasonable education.

The for-profit sector has found that as the federal government shows a willingness to give massive subsidies to it under the impression that it will make services more available, it is quite likely that many of these subsidies are simply pocketed, while a small amount is left for the stated purpose of lowering

tuition.

Colleges, like many businesses, have high overhead costs, while the costs associated with students are significantly less. That being said, colleges will try to charge as much as possible. If an applying student comes with "free money" also known as federally backed student aid, a college will only charge more.

In all honesty, college's skepticism on student loans and subsidies that are federally insured is not unfounded. A federal government that is 18 trillion dollars in debt and counting is not exactly the most reliable backer. Government backed loans is one of the largest contributing factors to the 2008 Recession and housing market crash.

The federal government kept interest rates artificially low, asking banks to give risky loans to the poor, naturally the banks refuse. The government then promises to guarantee the loans, causing the banks to give the risky loans.

The debtors cannot afford to pay back the loans so the government is forced to pay back what they guaranteed. It then raises taxes and borrows money both from overseas and out of Social Security and Medicare coffers to fund the bailouts, and also sues the banks for making risky loans. The banks then tighten loaning practices, only to be asked by the government once more to make risky loans.

This example is the result when the federal government promises to back a loan, and as such is why colleges charge such extreme rates when dealing with them. Although one solution to this continuing conundrum it for the government to essentially nationalize college education, which would bring down college costs at the expense of massive tax increases and quality.

The other is to simply slow the federal aid money and allocate it only to those who genuinely want to attend a facility of higher learning but do not have the means to pay. Colleges that reject federal funding have managed to keep their costs lower than their counterparts who happily accept "free money."

All in all, this problem is twofold. First there is the economic problem in which the market has been set up to be a melting pot of sorts for federal subsidies, due to the unreasonable and inflated demand the government has created.

Secondly there is the cultural issue of college being recommended for all students. How long will it take for self proclaimed intellectuals to realize that not every kid needs four more years inside the classroom?

## Nebraska needs to “jump on bandwagon,” adult age of 19 too hypocritical

BY MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN  
co web editor

In many states one becomes an adult at age 18, but there are some exceptions to that rule in the state of Nebraska. In Nebraska you are considered an adult at the age of 19, which doesn't add up. When does one really become an adult? Or is anyone ever an adult? From culture to culture it varies, but one thing throughout is agreed upon- no one can tell you when you become an adult, only you can.

It makes sense to have an age, a period of time of transition where one is supposed to break away from their parents and live on their own, however it doesn't really work out like that. For many when they are 18, or in Nebraska's case, 19, these “adults” are still relying on help from their parents with their basic needs. A lot of these people are in college and getting help from their parents to pay for their schooling and/or other expenses. So how can we say that they are adults, seeing how the definition for adulthood is “when a person is fully grown or developed,” when men tend to develop after women? It just doesn't make any sense. In order to make it uniform and fair other factors should be considered when deciding someone has reached adulthood.

There are the other cultures that identify adulthood in different ways, such as the bar mitzvahs and bat mitzvahs that Jewish people have when they turn 13, or in the Hispanic culture the quinceañeras that signifies a girl's transition into womanhood at the age of 15.

In American culture, we seem to commercialize some ages in one's life by placing importance on one's sixteenth birthday for the fact that they get to earn the right to drive a car, or when one turns 21 they are able to drink alcohol legally. That's just how America works.

With all this being said, Nebraska needs to either jump on the bandwagon as with other states and change the age of adulthood to 18, or they need to come up with a new plan to figure out how to measure adulthood and how “developed” someone is.

According to the pamphlet that is titled “Reaching the Age of Majority,” when one reaches the age of 18 in Nebraska, one can apply for credit in their own name. They too are able to file a lawsuit. Also they can now formulate a will. At 18 they can make healthcare decisions, and are able to make a contract to own something in their own name.

This seems like all the rights that adults get, but two are limited in Nebraska. At age 19, when one is legally considered

an actual adult, one can become eligible for jury duty and can become independent from parents.

Someone can get married in Nebraska at the young age of 17, but they aren't considered an adult until 19, yet they can serve alcohol at 19 as well. Essentially they are being hypocritical in dealing with the young adults of the state. They are basically saying that it's okay to get married at 17, but you can still be supported by your parents.

Instead of an age determining how grown-up you are, there should be a system implemented to determine when each individual person becomes an adult. How can one single person fit into this system? They can't. What if they've just gotten laid off from their job and their parents are not helping them out financially, seeing as they are not legally banded by that, or better yet what if someone with mental disabilities doesn't receive the adequate financial benefits for care due to their parents' refusal to help them?

Nebraska needs to get with the program. They need to figure out a system that works for all “adults,” and they need to set better restrictions on age that actually make sense for all. It needs to work for the individual as well as for the people, because everyone is different and that needs to be recognized.

## Connecticut Supreme Court wrong for forcing treatment

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO  
staff writer

Cassandra C., a 17 year old from Connecticut has made headlines by refusing cancer treatment, stating that it will do her more harm than good. The Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that Cassandra must continue to get chemotherapy against her will.

The teen who is still 17, cannot make the decision on her own until she turns 18. Even though she has support from her mother the court is still forcing her to undergo treatment.

It isn't fair that the teen must be forced to undergo treatment, the court made the wrong decision.

Cassandra was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma, with treatment her chances of survival are high but without treatment she would likely die within two years. It was recommend that Cassandra receive chemotherapy, which she refused. With her mothers support, she began looking for alternative treatments, but a judge is still forcing her to undergo chemotherapy.

It appears as if Cassandra knows what she wants. Even if

she is young she still has the right to refuse treatment. After two treatments, she ran away from home, which lead to the Department of Children and Families to take her into protective custody. Cassandra keeps insisting that the toxins will do her more harm than good. In reality it will be the lack of treatment that will end up killing her.

Not only did the state go against her wishes, but the wishes of her mother, who was more than willing to find other methods of treatments. Cassandra may be too young to make her own decisions, but she was backed by her mother. In other words she had parental consent. Its important to note that she isn't choosing to die, she simply wants another form of treatment.

Had medical officials and Cassandra's family worked together, neither would be in this situation.

No one can be forced to undergo treatment, especially if they want to try alternative treatments. The state of Connecticut had no right in forcing Cassandra to take chemotherapy, it violates her rights.



## Medical marijuana and its by-products utilized for extensive treatments, aid in illnesses

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ  
staff writer

The infamous medical marijuana bill is up for grabs in Nebraska. Senator Tommy Garrett was appointed to the legislature by Dave Heineman in 2013. He was the first to introduce a bill which would legalize the use of medical marijuana in Nebraska: The Cannabis Compassion and Care Act. Although Garrett has never tried marijuana before, he believes it could be very useful to the people it's prescribed to. Marijuana should be available for people who would genuinely benefit from it.

Garrett cringes at the idea of recreational use of marijuana. “If you want to get my dander up, mention medical marijuana and recreational use in the same breath,” he said. “We want nothing to do with that. We want it very tightly controlled.” Marijuana and its derivatives are known to have positive medicinal uses.

A study done by the Institute of Medicine in 2004 showed a poll that around a quarter of all patients with AIDS were using cannabis as pain and anxiety relief, to improve appetites and also to help relieve their nausea. Medical marijuana should be available to people suffering through life threatening illnesses.

A study published in 2004 showed that roughly a quarter of all AIDS patients were using cannabis as a means of pain or anxiety relief, to curb nausea, and to help improve their appetites. This should not come as a surprise because it is widely recognized that medical marijuana's anti-emetic and analgesic properties are beneficial in the treatment of HIV and AIDS-related symptoms.

Since the studies were published, cannabis based drugs have been approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration in a product known as ‘oral THC’ or Dronabinol. 30% of AIDS patients have reported that they suffer excruciating pain due to their anti-retroviral drug therapy sessions. The product is supposed to be used as an anti-emetic for not only AIDS patients but also those going through chemotherapy due to cancer.

Marijuana and its byproducts are also known to help treat depression. In most cases, depression is treated with medications like Prozac, Zoloft and several others. As of recent, research has directed cannabis as a treatment as well. Cannabis lacks the side effects that prescription medications have such as sleeplessness, agitation, and nausea.

Medical marijuana is known to help people relax and can often control the sleeplessness that goes hand in hand with depression and other psychological disorders. Derivatives from the drug can also soothe the anxiety and lift patient's moods due to its euphoric properties.

Research also claims that cannabis can help people with eating disorders as well as insomniacs. 16 states and Washington D.C. allow residents to be prescribed medical marijuana for insomnia due to the relaxation properties it has. Medical marijuana should be legalized for people with clinical illnesses, psychological disorders and also sleeping disorders.

Some may believe that there are many dangers to legalizing medical marijuana in Nebraska or any state for that matter. In this situation, the benefits outweigh the costs. Some citizens could find great value in the effects cannabis offers you.

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# TRANSFORMING THE DORMS

BY MADELINE HAYKO

staff writer

In the past, transgender students at University of Nebraska-Lincoln have had troubles finding the right place to live on campus. For example, a transgender male would either have to have his own room or share with people that don't match his/her gender identity according to the housing administration at UNL. The final option would be to go and live some place off campus.

As an additional option, UNL has decided to make a gender neutral dorm, specifically for transgender students who don't choose any other living arrangements. This new dorm is planned to open next fall. Right now, there is a four person suite being built as well as a two-person apartment.

While some may disagree with creating transgendered dorms, having these kind of dorms available will be helpful for transgender students who want to live in a more comfortable environment. These dorms should be able to give them the type of acceptance.

Currently in the U.S. there are over 150 colleges and universities that have housing for students that isn't gender specific. Many of these housing units are revitalized in order to

accommodate gay and transgender people.

UNL is a bit stricter about rooming than most schools, as many schools can have any student apply for a room, regardless of their gender identity. But, UNL wants there to be a specific gender associated with each person. It is relieving that the university can start to look at students for their true identity, rather than their medical make up.

Another good feature of the new systems is that anyone who identifies as LGBT is eligible for getting a room in this dorm. Even though some people might see it as an unnecessary change at UNL, this is helpful to those people who are maybe just coming out and who like to be around other people who share their same experiences when it comes to gender.

People shouldn't see this dorm as the only dorm for LGBT people, as if LGBT people can't live in any other dorm but this one. They should still be able to live wherever they want.

This is just another choice for them if they are not comfort-

able with their current options.

UNL will be the first university that will have a gender neutral dorm, but UNO is starting to consider getting one for their students, which could accommodate the diverse population at UNO.

If UNL can influence other universities and colleges in Nebraska towards equality and acceptance, then the investment in dorms will especially be worth it.

Photo Courtesy of **GOOGLE IMAGES**

## College athletes deserve pay due to hard work



YEILY BARRERA | Contributing Cartoonist

BY ALEC ROME

staff writer

College athletics (particularly football) are a staple across the country. Universities make millions of dollars based on the merchandise and tickets sold for their sports teams, but college athletes still struggle with tight spending, sacrificing nice meals and time out with friends for more time spent at their dorm and on the practice field. With all the money made, should players receive a cut of the revenue made off of their on the field play?

The decision by the NCAA before the beginning of last football season allowed conferences in the "Power Five" to be given some wiggle room as to their rules of recruiting and other matters. This allowed them to give their athletes not only a scholarship to play for their school, but also a stipend to cover the full cost of attendance, which includes books, food and other expenses.

This stipend affects the level of talent that attend the "Power Five" schools, and detracts players from teams outside those conferences. Average teams in these conferences can make hundreds of millions of dollars. Combined, the "Power Five" conferences earned \$1.1 billion dollars on TV deals this year, which begs an important question: if teams can earn so much money, shouldn't they be able to afford to pay their players? Most major talents are signed to these schools, so they could get paid in order to attend these schools.

It turns out that both coaches and recruits support athletes getting paid. But when you talk to the average per-

This has always been a water cooler issue, but we may be asking the wrong questions. If college athletes are struggling, then they should be paid. College athletes do not need to be paid an enormous amount of money, but they should be given some of the revenue in order to fully and completely cover the costs of attending a university and succeeding academically.

The steps that have been taken to help college athletes with their expenses has been positive so far, but athletes should receive a larger amount in order to fully cover the cost of attending a university with books and food and other expenses, but also a large enough amount to feel comfortable financially, so they can focus more on their academic and athletic ambitions.

Also, it seems that college football and college sports in general become a moneymaking scheme instead of a place where players are coached and trained for the future. The nation seems to be focused on the money, and not on the players becoming adults and moving on to their hierarchy of their respective sports. Most don't turn professional in the first place, so college players getting paid in order to help finance not only their athletic careers but also their academic careers can allow them a safety net if they do not make it to the professional level.

Colleges need to provide all of the needs for athletes to succeed on multiple fronts in order to secure their future as adults. In order for them to have a more successful life after college sports, athletes should not only have the financial stability to focus, but also the tools necessary for athletes to achieve inside the classroom.

## Years-old concept of "American Dream" deemed unattainable

BY TRENAY NEWSOME

staff writer

The American dream is defined as, "the ideal that every US citizen should have an equal opportunity to achieve success and prosperity through hard work, determination, and initiative."

The American dream is what attracted early settlers, and the dream that currently attracts immigrants to the United States.

But is this true? Does everyone in America have an equal opportunity to achieve success and happiness? For most people, the American dream is unattainable. These people include groups of people from different demographic groups such as African-Americans, women and same sex oriented people.

Africans were originally brought to the U.S. as slaves. Before the 20th century the only people who had access to the American Dream were rich white males.

In March of 1857, the United States Supreme Court declared that all African-Americans were not and could never become citizens of the United States.

The court also declared the 1820 Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, thus permitting slavery in all of the country's territories.

This case explains why African-Americans didn't have access to the American dream until the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution was ratified, defining citizenship. People born or naturalized in the United States are American citizens, including those born as slaves.

The civil rights movement promoted equality between different ethnic groups, creating equal opportunity for multiple races to achieve success and happiness.

As for women, they have always been thought of as objects, with the sole purposes to raise children and pleasure men. The feminist movement also gave women the same opportunity to work hard and achieve success.

Currently gay people face the same conflict that African-Americans and women faced before them. There are many benefits that they aren't given, like marriage.

Is the American dream attainable for anyone if a different groups of people is denied most of the opportunities given to other US citizens?

No, if one group of citizens is not granted the same opportunity as everyone else then the American dream is not attainable or realistic.

For every US citizen to have an equal opportunity to achieve success, there can be no discrimination.

Until there is no discrimination among people the American dream is unattainable for many.

# Should college tuition be offered for free?

VS

CHANCE FOR SUCCESS?

BY NATALIE NEPPER  
executive editor

Imagine this. You enter high school with 600 people, people of all different economic, social and political backgrounds from around the country and maybe even the world. And on the last day of your senior year, you finish with only 300 of your peers. Except this time, the people beside you have been narrowed down to a much less diverse pick. Your class, what was once an array of students is now comprised of only the people with strong, stable financial situations.

This is the reality for colleges across the nation. Only 46 percent of students who enter college will graduate, making the United States the most developed country with the least amount of college graduates. More than half of the dropouts face a very real issue that comes with an education, the high cost.

As the price to attend college continues to rise, the potential graduate numbers drop severely. A college degree, which was once considered necessary to enter the job force may now be seen as a luxury to even middle class citizens. It's no surprise to us all, college is expensive. But does it need to be that expensive?

President Obama recently proposed the American Graduate Initiative under the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act, which if passed will funnel \$2 billion into the nation's community colleges- giving students the opportunity to attend college for free.

His idea is simple. Community colleges will offer flexible course schedules in convenient locations, which is especially helpful for older or working students. Plus, they will be the obviously more affordable option as opposed to four year universities. In order to improve college access for low income students and work towards Obama's goal of having the highest proportion of college graduates in the world, making college free seems like the best way to go.

Students who once had to choose ramen noodles for meals would now be able to channel the money used for tuition into textbooks, living expenses and of course, decent food. If all goes according to plan, people won't have to consider dropping out in order to pay their next month's rent.

America will see a steady increase in educated workers in the workforce, and students who were at one time a part of low-income families will be able to obtain high paying jobs with their degrees.

The \$2 billion invested from the government will create faster and more convenient forms of learning for students who only attend part-time. The funding will help implement online courses with interactive tutors, simulations and new software available for access at home. Plus, the courses offered within the community colleges will be adjusted to improve learning, accelerate the graduation process and integrate programs and pathways so students struggling with time to attend won't have to overload themselves.

Additionally, community colleges will be encouraged to partner with local businesses to create career pathways for their students after graduation. By helping set up jobs and ensuring bright futures for alumni, the number of college graduates unemployed after schooling will decrease too.

Community colleges will be able to smooth over the credit transferring process with the funding they receive as well. It will become easier and faster for students to transfer to four year universities or other community colleges without the possibility of losing credits.

As a nation with the highest college tuition costs and the least amount of college graduates between developed countries, offering community college for free will ensure America's youth educated and financially-stable futures. President Obama's proposal will only facilitate advancements in learning and provide thousands of skilled students and workers the opportunity to earn degrees.

Ultimately, it all comes down to one simple question: why deny this generation a chance to succeed?

WORTHLESS EXPENSES?

BY JULI OBERLANDER  
staff writer

Ever since the State of the Union Address, the amount of media attention placed on America's College Promise has generated a great debate among the American people over the president's new education policy.

Obama's plan, that would include free community college for all Americans, reaches out to anyone deemed willing to work for it. The president's program would extend grants already offered to low-income students, as well as to middle and upper-income individuals who have been considered ineligible for government programs under the current system.

However, the plan has met opposition from the Republican majority in Congress. Sen. Lamar Alexander, chairman of the Senate's education committee, believes it should be up to the states to provide a free community college option, similar to programs in his home state of Tennessee.

If he expects any positive results for his community college proposal, President Obama needs to collaborate with legislators and come up with options that are doable for each individual state. He also needs to understand that the success of his idea may vary in each section of the country. Different states have different factors, such as their economies, that will either limit or foster the development of free community colleges.

Obama's plan is also largely flawed in the fact that it is trying to give aid to too many people. According to Education Dive, free tuition is already made accessible to America's poorest students through federal Pell Grants. This means more than 7 out of 10 students pay less than \$1,000 per year for tuition, including nearly 2 out of 5 students who have their entire community college tuition paid through grants.

Free community college for all is certainly a noble ambition. However, the president needs to seriously consider if his goal is attainable for every American. If Obama wants to increase the amount of government aid given to low-income students and extend that to those of middle and upper-income, he needs to come up with a specific method for funding his plan. The government can only raise taxes so many times to make this ideal possible.

The issue of cost is a definite roadblock to the success of Obama's program. If all students start receiving free tuition regardless of their income levels, America's College Promise could become increasingly expensive for the government to carry out. The White House projects the cost of the program to equal \$60 billion over 10 years. That's a lot of money that the government has to compensate for.

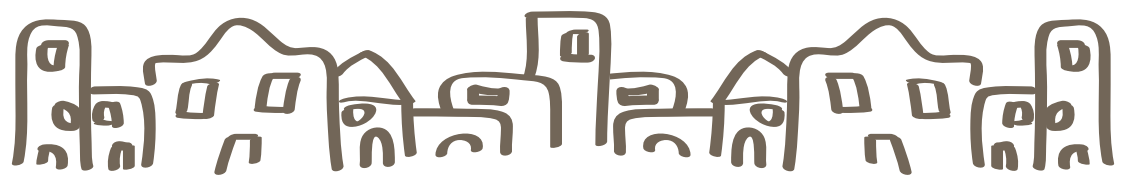
Obama has not accounted for the toll his program may exact on four-year schools in America. With the incentive of receiving full tuition at community colleges, fewer people will choose to attend four-year schools. This could force many institutions to close.

With federal funding focused on community colleges, America's College Promise leaves it up to states to finance four-year schools. According to Education Dive, states would have to pick up 25% of the bill if the education policy becomes law. This may be a lot to ask, considering state spending on post-secondary education has been at a low point in recent years.

Clearly, there are more questions marks than certainties marking Obama's proposal. According to US News, America's College Promise, if enacted, could benefit as many as 9 million students each year. But first, the bill must pass Congress and be implemented by all 50 states. That means the president must garner enough Republican support in both legislatures, an unlikely probability.

These are only a few of the challenges Obama will have to face to make his plan a reality. Free community college is in the interests of every American struggling to fund a postsecondary education. However, the president needs to address some major flaws in his policy if he wants it to work for everyone's pocket book. Even then, there is no guarantee in a country bitterly divided over how to deal with the shadow college casts over it.

## COLLEGE UNL Edition BREAKDOWN



Loan Fees  
\$98.00

TOTAL   
\$22,870

Tuition & Fees   
\$8,169.50

Room & Board   
\$9,961.00

Books & Supplies   
\$1050.00

Personal Expenses   
\$3,604.00

# entertainment



## BEHIND THE SEAMS

**BY JULIA HALONEN**  
staff writer

A new exhibit at the Durham Museum showcases 15 costumes from favorite plays in the Omaha area. Georgiann Regan has worked for the Omaha Community Playhouse for over 20 years helping actors become their characters through elaborate handmade costumes. Marking her anniversary, the Durham Museum opened an exhibit featuring some of Regan's designs Jan. 10 until April 12.

She had a hard time hand picking costumes for the exhibit to display.

"When I think of design, I don't think of an individual costume. I design a whole picture up on stage, all the costumes through the whole show. That's what a design is," Regan shares with Omaha.com.

Costumes from the famous play "A Christmas Carol" are clearly showcased in the middle of the small display room. One of the featured outfits worn by Jacob Marley, Ebenezer Scrooge's business partner who has been dead for seven years. The classic looking tail coat is made by layering yarns, trims, and fabric together. To get a distressed, deteriorating look a water soluble fabric is sewn on the top

CONTINUE TO 'SEAMS' ON PAGE 18

ANN MILROY | The Register

## Entertainment industry profoundly affects Omaha comedian's life

**BY JULI OBERLANDER**  
staff writer

Though he may work in insurance by day, Nick Rowley always knew he wanted to be a comedian.

Since graduating from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2007, Rowley has accomplished just that.

"Even as a little kid, I was kind of like a class clown," Rowley said. "I found out early that I enjoyed making people laugh."

In 2007, Rowley joined 1980Star, a sketch comedy duo consisting of himself and friend John Thome.

However, it wasn't until 2011 that the Omaha native became serious about his craft.

"I would make funny videos with friends, but it wasn't until I started doing improv that I thought it could be an outlet, a scene I could be a part of," Rowley said.

This interest in improv quickly led Rowley to teach the skill at the Backline Theater on 16th and Harney, also property of 1980Star.

"I teach levels 1, 2 and 3," said Rowley. "It started in 2012 with eight people and has grown to a large group. It's fun to teach and watch people who want to try their hand at it like I

CONTINUE TO 'COMEDIAN' ON PAGE 18



ANN MILROY | The Register

Above: Rowley talks to John Thome, seated at the keyboard. Conversing with the audience is his favorite part of performing.



OMAHA BAKERIES ►

PAGE 16

The Register shares the best bakeries for satisfying a sweet tooth.



OSCARS ►

Review each of the four Oscar Movie of the Year nominees



VIOLA MADAU ►

PAGE 20

Central welcomes Italian foreign exchange student, Viola Madau.



## BLISS OLD MARKET BAKERY

BY NATALIE NEPPER  
executive editor

Bliss Old Market Bakery, located in Aroma's Coffeehouse in the heart of downtown Omaha, is anything but your typical place to eat. Sitting at 1031 Jones St., the business rests not too far from shopping in the Old Market and it is only a short drive from Central.

At Bliss it is equally about the atmosphere as it is about the food. Not only will you be ordering a cup of coffee, you'll be ordering that authentic coffeehouse experience, complete with brick walls and leather couches and an unforgettable smell of spice that floods the room.

From the moment I pulled up, I fell in love. As a sucker for old buildings, I was captivated by the massive brick structure and the words "Aromas Coffeehouse" and "Bliss Old Market Bakery" painted delicately in white on the windows. The inside was no disappointment. I was stunned by the local artwork for sale that scattered the wallpaper.

Despite the high ceilings and the spacious seating area, the place had a comfortable, homey feel – and the selection of treats were meant to parallel that. A small assortment of bakery goods, ranging from cupcakes to cinnamon rolls were reasonably priced and tasty looking. The bakery also creates custom cakes, pies, cookies, muffins and other sweet snacks. I've heard great reviews about their cupcakes from various raving customers, so I'm sure I'll stop by their Benson location (6051 Maple St.) to try a few bites.

I ended up ordering a cinnamon roll and a blueberry scone, both of which I wasn't entirely impressed with. The cinnamon roll was an overload of sweet gooey cinnamon; the icing was literally overflowing my plate. However, the portion size was huge so it's guaranteed you won't leave hungry.

The blueberry scone was nothing like I had ever tasted before- and not in a good way. It was oat-y and grainy and

so dry that I needed something to wash it down with. It just generally lacked the sweetness I needed in a scone. The coffeehouse itself is such a beauty, and I guess I hoped the dishes would coincide with the atmosphere.

Luckily, the hot chocolate was their saving grace. It hit the nail right on the head and I absolutely fell in love with it. The perfect balance of milky and sweet- I'm not kidding when I say it was flawless. The menu offers a wide variety of hot and cold drinks: coffees, teas and of course the hot chocolate. Their selection, displayed on a massive chalkboard wall is probably the most inspiring part of the business. Giant artistically written words scatter the board and showcases the baked goods and drinks offered that day. Because the menu is erasable, they can switch up the product or prices any time they'd like.

The workers at Bliss were those cliché coffeehouse employees: hipsters in their early 20's, lined with tattoos and sporting beanies over messy hair. The cashier working that day gave me the "I don't really care" look when I began to ask questions about the menu and the items available. But the whole staff was very nonchalant about everything and I suppose it added to the completely mellow feel of the business.

Bliss definitely lives up to the classic coffeehouse experience, and was flooded with businessmen holding meetings, college students cramming and caffeine fanatics curled up with mugs. Floor to ceiling bookshelves lined the backroom, and a cozy fireplace lit the space in an easy warmth. I was comfortable, and ultimately I think that's the feeling that every bakery and coffeehouse should exhibit.

Although the two bakery items I tried weren't entirely up to par, I appreciated the environment and the atmosphere that encompassed me when I first walked in. I will definitely stop by again for the experience, and if not that, then at least to grab a nice hot chocolate to go.



ANN MILROY |The Register

## JONES BROS

BY JULIA BIELEWICZ  
staff writer

We all have a favorite cupcake shop. So far, mine is Jones Brothers in Aksarben Village. They are known for their cupcakes but they also offer a variety of donuts, macaroons, cheesecakes, croissants and their newest addition: frozen yogurt.

The atmosphere of this eatery is relaxed, bright and expansive. The staff is helpful and educated on the deserts and how they are made. Large windows surround the shop and during the day the sun is always shining in. There is plenty of seating inside and outside of the bakery.

Jones Bros. has an unbelievable variety of cupcake options. They have typical flavors such as chocolate or vanilla, but also unusual ones like root beer float and ice cream sundae. They also offer gluten free cupcakes every day.

The cupcakes are consistent in their quality. I always enjoy the red velvet especially because of the thick butter cream frosting. Although, I ventured out and found I am very fond of the sweet and salty cupcake. It is chocolate cake infused with salted caramel, topped with chocolate frosting and sea salt. I thoroughly enjoyed them and was impressed with the elegant appearance.

The cupcake prices aren't exactly cheap, but they are comparable to other cupcake shops in Omaha. All of their cupcakes are \$3.75, the other deserts are also similar in price. If you plan on taking cupcakes to go, they offer convenient boxes that are easily transportable.

My next favorite was their raspberry swirl cheesecake. I can easily say it was the best cheesecake I have ever eaten. The graham cracker crust on the bottom was crumbly, sweet and buttery. The cheesecake was light, and not overly sweet. On the top, there was a tart raspberry swirl that paired very well with the mild vanilla flavor of the cheesecake.

The shop's latest addition is frozen yogurt. They offer three sizes and lots of flavors such as vanilla, raspberry/pomegranate, cake batter, dulce' de leche' and Dutch chocolate. They also offer fresh fruit and other toppings to add. The cake batter frozen yogurt was a new experience. I was pleasantly surprised that it tasted just like ice cream. It was creamy, thick, sweet and very enjoyable.

Jones Brothers also takes pride in the coffee and other drinks that they offer. You can order coffee, espresso, lattes, smoothies, tea, lemonade and much more. They specially train their baristas and claim you won't find the same experience at other stores. For before work or before school needs, Jones Bros. is open early to accommodate the people's convenience.

Another convenient factor of this shop, is their café located directly next door. The café is a popular spot for lunch. Their menu includes items like salads, deli sandwiches, wraps, paninis, soups and macaroni.

Jones Bros. has two locations, one in Aksarben and one in west Omaha. In consideration of everything, the employees at the cupcake shop are very friendly, and the cupcakes themselves are even better. I recommend anyone to try Jones Bros who is looking for good deserts in a relaxed environment.

## PETTIT'S PASTRY DOWNTOWN

BY JORDAN YOUNG  
co web editor

On a typical Tuesday morning at 4 am, most restaurants and businesses aren't open to the public or ready to take on the business day that lies ahead.

But on the corner of 16th street sits Pettit's Pastry, a small homey bakery, store lights illuminating the sidewalk and ready for customers to start pouring in. And when they step inside, they should be in for a delicious treat.

The first step into Pettit's is an overwhelming one—but in a good way. Aromas from the open kitchen and the pastries sitting on display are a deliciously sharp contrast from the clashing smells of downtown Omaha.

What is most overwhelming is the enticing, seductive display of desserts sitting behind glass counters.

There are cookies, bagels, cinnamon rolls, pies, muffins, brownies and more, making Pettit's famous across Omaha. Pettit's also includes wedding cakes and specialty items for different holidays or photo cakes. If you're impressed with the variety, you will be even more impressed with the remarkable taste.

But what earns Pettit's its main credibility around town is the donuts. The crème de la crème, the pedestal and crown jewel of the bakery. And they are good.

After visiting Pettit's numerous times, its prized donuts has never failed to impress in taste or freshness in comparison to other donut shops across Omaha.

In detail, the donuts are just sweet enough along with a freshness and crispness that can't be found in every donut.

And the cost for these baked goods? It's reasonable for sweets. In one outing, a glazed donut costs \$1.15 and a twist style donut costs \$1.59. In other words, two donuts for \$2.74, which isn't bad.

Besides the food and price, what makes Pettit's special is the atmosphere. It's location in the downtown area is a huge contribution, making it very unique from other bakeries. The smallness makes it feel more intimate. However the downside is that there is no seating area or tables to sit down and eat at which makes it more of a pick-up or take-out style of restaurant.

In terms of hospitality, Pettit's is around the same as any other place. Workers say hello, politely ask what you need and get it picked and packaged as quickly as possible, which is nice and overall pleasantly average. Hopefully that can be said for all Pettit's restaurants across town.

Because of its popularity, since it's opening in 1954, Pettit's has branched out throughout Omaha and established four other restaurant locations.

Besides Downtown, there's one off of Pacific, Blondo, another in LaVista and a recently opened in Papillion. Only the Pacific and Blondo locations are actual dine-ins.

Overall, for Central students, downtown Pettit's can easily be a quick-stop for snack pickups before or after school. The location is not only convenient, but the taste makes it overwhelmingly worth it.



# THE HISTORY OF THE WHOOPEE CUSHION

BY CHOTEAU KAMMEL  
staff writer

Banana peels, bars of soap and buckets of ice water are all items that have been associated with the practical joke.

Throughout history, in literature, cinema and even everyday life, the practical joke has always managed to garner both howls of laughter as well as nods of disapproval.

One of the most popular and well known pieces of prank is that off the age old “master of gas,” the whoopee cushion.

Although now relegated to drug store toy aisles, dollar stores and the odd magic shop, the whoopee cushion has always been a classic partner in crime to the childhood prankster or even the immature office boss such as Steve Carrell’s, Michael Scott. Even though it is fairly well known, few people realize truly how old the whoopee cushion is.

Before one can truly understand the whoopee cushion and its history, one must first understand what makes it so effective and appealing. The humor associated with the whoopee cushion is known as flatulence humor.

In other words, the humor of the toot. Although regarded as impolite to do so in public, flatulence has been found humorous by people across the globe for centuries. Earliest mentions of flatulence humor can be found in Greek literature dating back to A.D. Five. Both *The Knight* and *The Clouds* by Aristophanes contain references to the humor stemming from the laughter that followed a release of putrid odor from one of its characters.

This history continues into a society that was quite similar to the ancient Greeks, the Roman Empire. Australian archeologist Warwick Ball, a prominent expert on Mesopotamian and Middle Eastern history, asserts that Roman Em-

peror Elagabalus used to entertain dinner guests with a prototype of the whoopee cushion.

It can be imagined that the loud rippling echo of what would appear to be flatulence would most likely start any dinner party off on friendly terms.

Although realized early on that the toot could bring much laughter and that formulating a device that could bring synthetic flatulence upon unsuspecting victims would bring about a similar reaction, the modern whoopee cushion did not come to fruition until the early 20th Century.

Like so many of the great inventions of history, corn flakes, the slinky, and now the whoopee cushion, it was invented in its modern form by accident.

Employees of the Canadian firm JEM Rubber Co. of Toronto, Canada, were simply experimenting with sheets of rubber, when they stumbled upon what would be recognized today as the whoopee cushion.

The owners of JEM Rubber Co. approached Samuel Sorenson Adams, CEO of S.S. Adams Co. and the distributor of numerous practical joke items such as itching powder and stink bombs, to see if he would be interested in producing the whoopee cushion.

Adams reportedly said that the item was “too vulgar” and that it would never sell. Following this rebuff, the whoopee cushion was sold to the Johnson Smith Company and brought great success.

Seeing the rewards that it was reaping, S.S. Adams Co. eventually produced their own, calling it the “Razzberry Cushion.”

All in all, although the whoopee cushion is a very simple and childish item, it brings with it a history that is more extensive and impressive in longitude than even some of the more “appropriate” cultural staples of today such as Shakespeare or even da Vinci.

## LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION!

THE NEBRASKA INTERNATIONAL  
THESPIAN SOCIETY  
HONORS SENIOR SINGER  
AND OTHER STUDENTS



Photo Courtesy of **THE O-BOOK**

Left: Melissa Comstock and co-star junior Grant Koch share an emotional scene in Central's fall musical *Aida*. Right: Singing passionately, Comstock takes center stage for a solo performance.

BY TRENAY NEWSOME  
staff writer

Lights, camera, action – these are the three words senior that Melissa Comstock lives for when she gets ready to perform in front of a ‘bigger’ audience.

Comstock performed in front of a ‘bigger’ audience at the Nebraska ITS festival in the final showcase of the festival.

The Nebraska ITS Festival is the State festival for the International Thespian Society, which is an honor society for theater. “You have to accumulate a certain amount of points through your experience in your school programs in order to be a member [of the Thespian Society]. That’s how you go and perform,” said Comstock.

The festival lasted two days, Jan. 9th and 10th. The first day of the festival included individual events and the tech challenge. The second day was the individual event call backs and the improv challenge. While all of this was going on, there were still schools performing full length shows, workshops and keynote speakers.

For individual events, the students were put into different rooms to perform in front of three judges for a certain topic. The judges have a rubric they use for reference. The people with the highest scores get call backs and then must perform for another

Comstock competed in Solo Musical Theater and was one of the few people to get a call back from that topic. After call backs, she had to perform in front of another panel of judges.

“They decided right away who would perform in the final showcase. There was a fire thing that happened and cut the show short so only four acts got to perform and I was one of those acts,” she said.

“I was excited because I wanted to perform in front of everyone, to feel the big audience and perform in front of peers and show them what I could do. I was grateful I got to do that. It was a great way to end my senior year ITS experience,” said Comstock.

The environment, during call backs, was more supportive than anything. “It’s not like no one was talking to each other. Everyone was asking each other where they were from and what they were performing,” said Comstock.

Comstock performed “Think of Me” by Andrew Lloyd Webber. She chose this song because it’s closer to classical music which is what she usually sings. She also knew a lot of people would not sing that style of music. “I thought it gave me an advantage and the style is what I excel in most and what I’m pursuing. So I wanted to represent that,” said Comstock.

Performing in front of a ‘bigger’ audience is what Comstock wanted the most out of her ITS theater experience. “I was so

scene with the audience. The energy I got from the huge audience was just indescribable. Like when they made you do that natural high project, that’s what I’d choose,” said Comstock. “I got a standing ovation which was really strange because nobody else in the show case got one. It was really humbling.”

Comstock plans to go to the University of Nebraska at Omaha for vocal performance. She plans to double major or minor in music education, special education or graphic design as a plan B. She auditions for her program in a few weeks at the BOC festival.

“It’s really scary to be a performance major and everyone looks at you, first they want to know if you are good enough and if you are willing to be poor is the next thing they ask you. But it’s really like anyone who is passionate about science or math, I’m really passionate about music and performing and theater, it’s not a question for me, I know that that’s what I’m supposed to do,” said Comstock.

Not only was Comstock successful, but the Tech Team placed 2nd place in the tech challenge, and there were several students who received recognition for outstanding performances. These students were Katie Bohn, Erin Budeshiem, Grant Kohn and Mallari Hangman. “Last year our Tech Team placed 3rd, so placing 2nd was a great accomplishment,” said Scott Mead, drama teacher.

# DURHAM EXHIBIT: BEHIND THE SEAMS



ANN MILROY | The Register

*"When I think of design, I don't think of an individual costume. I design a whole picture up on stage, all the costumes through the whole show. That's what a design is." Georgiann Regan has been designing costumes for over 20 years.*

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ON PAGE 15

then washed leaving a very textured appearance. The costume even features a small fog machine hidden in a money box strapped to his chest emitting fog from under the coat throughout the performance.

All designs and development were done by Lynne Hazuka Ridge, another arts worker at the Omaha Community Playhouse. The costume has been worn for eight seasons of the play and over 250 shows.

The exhibit also showcases the original drawings from designers themselves.

These drawings show measurements from the actor, fabric samples, and small details only the characters will notice. Some designs are painted with water colors to give a more complete idea, others just in pencil.

One watercolor sketch hung in the back corner of

the room displays a rainbow colored dress from the popular play Joseph and the Amazing "Technicolor Dreamcoat". The play tells the story of Joseph, the favorite of his father Jacob, who is sold by his brothers into slavery with the Egyptians.

He then saves his life by correctly interpreting Pharaoh's dreams, forgives his brothers, and brings his family to Egypt. This psychedelic coat drew my eyes when I walked into the room, captivating me immediately. The coat is placed on a spinning pedestal allowing you to view every stitch and patch. Being

the muse of the play, producing an accurate costume was vital. After weeks of studying different off-takes of the biblical story, Regan decided on an idea and began designing. Her final product is mesmerizing on and off stage.

I very much enjoyed this look at what goes on back stage. Sadly this historical site is not free, children ages

3-12 are \$6 and adults 14 and over are \$9.

But within that one-time fee, the entire building including all other exhibits are free. Getting back to the show room was an adventure in itself, being that it is hidden in the back corner in the basement of the museum.

At first walking in I had expected more costumes, but only saw 15, although the ones displayed were amazing to see in person.

I would not recommend going to this exhibit if you are not interested in any other item in the museum.

While \$6-9 is a standard and reasonable price for the entire museum, "Changing Characters" itself is not. Anyone interested in the theater would very much enjoy this look behind the scenes and how everyday actors turn into their favorite characters.



Photo Courtesy of NICK ROWLEY

## UNL ALUMNUS NICK ROWLEY TELLS ABOUT HIS JOURNEY IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY

CONTINUE FROM 'COMEDIAN'  
ON PAGE 15

did."

Since then, many of his students have graduated and made their way into the Omaha comedy scene.

"It's cool to see parts of our team who have gone on to performing regularly," Rowley said.

The comedian believes he has grown a lot from his experiences as an improv instructor.

"My favorite thing is to make sure every person playing a character knows each other," Rowley said. "I like to make adjustments to set up students for success and great scheme."

Rowley's philosophy is for his students to learn from believing they have failed.

"It's important for my students to know that it's not life or death," Rowley said. "It's comedy and you want to be entertaining. It's supposed to be fun."

Rowley's work at the Backline Comedy Club came just in time for what he calls a "comedy upsurge" that started in 2011 and since then has taken Omaha by storm.

"It was a great time to come when comedy was growing," said Rowley. "Now there are shows in Omaha every night."

From the Midtown Crossing video series to Omaha Comedy Week, Rowley has been heavily involved in the city's entertainment scene. He refers to his work in comedy as a "fun and relaxing hobby" away from his day job.

"It's brought me more self-confidence, which I didn't have a lot of before," said Rowley. "I love being on stage and performing for an audience. I love having conversations. You can really meet some interesting

In addition to his contributions to 1980Star and Backline Theater, the comedian is a part of Dinner Detective, a murder mystery series at Double Tree Hotel. According to Rowley, the future of comedy in Omaha is bright, and he only sees the genre increasing in popularity over time.

"There's a lot of opportunity to collaborate or have your own show," said Rowley. "Many venues are interested in recurring shows. Legend comics has stand-ups every Monday, and there is always bars and coffee shops. Comedy is not an unattainable thing."

This advice is something he passes on to his students wishing to break into the craft.

"Other than just do it, I tell them you have to try everything," said Rowley. "Figure out what you want to do and try it out. There are open mics, stand up and improv opportunities. Go see shows. See what appeals."

As for his own future in performance, Rowley does have goals to branch out into hubs like L.A., Chicago and New York, but for now he wants to make Omaha an even better place for artists to pursue their dreams.

For Rowley, his life has been changed "immensely" because of his involvement in the entertainment industry.

"Before I got involved in 1980Star, I was thinking of going back to school," said Rowley. "I didn't know what to do, and then comedy presented it. It might not be something I make money at but it's what I want to be doing."

\*Rowley is currently up for Best Comedian at the Omaha Entertainment Awards held at the DoubleTree Downtown on February 15. The Backline and 1980Star are also nominees for Best Comedy Ensemble.

## MY LIFE AS A COMEDIAN

“ Figure out what you want to do and try it out.

NICK ROWLEY

comedian ”



### THE GRAND BUDAPEST HOTEL

Directed by the esteemed Wes Anderson, this movie lives up to everyone's high expectations. It is unmistakably an Anderson film, marked by witty humor and a unique plot. This tale of a concierge and his adventures has earned nine nominations this year.



### THE IMITATION GAME

Benedict Cumberbatch depicts a man with multitudes of both secrets and intelligence in this film. The story is based off of Alan Turing's life, a mathematical genius and WWII code-breaker, who saves his country only to be turned against later in life for being gay. The movie is a painful, but important reminder of the insensitivity of society towards homosexuals in the 20th century.

# THE OSCARS

BY KELSEY THOMAS



### BIRDMAN

Birdman has been so successful due in part to its star cast of Michael Keaton, Edward Norton and Emma Stone. But it is not only an achievement because of talented acting, it is also a technical masterpiece; Birdman appears to be filmed in one continuous shot. The film tells the story of a washed-up actor attempting to rebuild his family and career only days before he stars in a Broadway play.



### BOYHOOD

Boyhood is perhaps the most unique film in the 21st century so far. Shot with the same cast over a period of twelve years, moviegoers not only witness the fictional story of a boy growing up, they also witness the actors maturing and developing.

## Alternative music of Conor Oberst and others inspires and connects to family, self

Music has always been a constant in my life. I can remember my father exposing me to obscure music, not the typical Top 40 stuff that people are used to.

As a four year old I can recall singing along to the Violent Femmes song "Blister in The Sun," and "Add it Up," my dad muting the volume when it got to the curse words and somewhat provocative, sexual parts. We listened to "his" music in his 2003 Subaru Outback, a car which has become mine. He showed me "ska" music, his favorite band is The Specials. It was categorized by the use of trumpets, with a somewhat punky beat and message, a lot like The Clash.

I once saw Bob Dylan in concert with him; he of course was only there to see Elvis Costello, one of his favorite musicians. In his words, Elvis Costello was more "unknown" than Dylan and my dad liked him more because of that.

This was our bonding time together. He would play a song by a band and then give this long back story about what they were known for and why he liked them.

He told me that in high school he often liked a band or song because he wanted to be different from his peers. He even told me that he wished he were like me when he was in high school saying that "I'm not afraid to be different from others."



MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN  
I GUESS THAT'S OKAY

I listened to my first Bright Eyes album in 2005. I was a mere eight years old, but I was completely entranced by the lyrics spewing out of Conor Oberst's mouth. This time it was my mother's influence instead of my father's.

The album I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning came out in January of 2005. It tackled issues of all sorts, but most of all the human condition. Even as an eight year old, I felt something when listening to this album. My love affair with Conor Oberst and his band Bright Eyes flourished over the years. In eighth grade I saw him play at an outdoor theater in Council Bluffs, only knowing the songs that were on I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning.

Oberst, though obviously drunk, put on one of the greatest shows I had ever seen. After seeing him perform live, it was

time for me to listen to other albums. I did a lot of research on him and his musical endeavors. I plastered my room with pictures of him. It was turning into some sort of obsession.

The other girls my age had crushes on Justin Bieber; I had a crush on Conor Oberst, and without shame.

Through my extensive internet searches, and after many trips to the library where I checked out his albums to listen to, I found my favorite album, Fevers and Mirrors. On the cover of the album is a mirror that lies against a wall with beautiful wallpaper on it.

Maybe I was reminded of my grandmother's house, but when I saw it I somehow knew it was the one album I had been searching for. It was the third album released by Bright Eyes, and was released when I was only 3 years old.

As I developed deeper into the work of Oberst and learned about his other projects I quickly learned that this would be the start of me finding the music I really cared about. I started to go online, finding music old and new that I resonated with, where I began to learn more about myself.

Music to me is not just noise. It's what links me to my dad, and what links me to my soul.

# A LITTLE PIECE OF ITALY

BY GEORGIA CHAMBERS  
staff writer

A high diploma from for Viola Madau does not mean her next step will be applying for a college. Even though Madau is a senior, her home is in Italy and she will have to complete another year of schooling in order to graduate. Madau is an exchange student who received the opportunity to study abroad and has traveled all the way to Omaha, Neb. to attend school at Central.

"In the beginning it is kind of hard but then you get used to it," Madau said.

Omaha, Neb. may not seem to be the destination desired by someone traveling in from another country, but whether Madau wanted to come here or not, her options were quite limited. "It is the host family that asks us to come," Madau said. Madau was never given the option of where she wanted to go. She applied, and then was given her opportunity.

"They told me during the first days of August that I was coming to Omaha because there was a host family interested in hosting me. One week later I was in a plane and ready to go," Madau said.

Madau arrived in August and stay until late June or early July. "I am trying to ask and see if I can stay after the 4th of July because it is something I would like to see," she said.

Attending Central has been a unique experience for Madau.

In Italy, students attend schools five days a week for five hours a day in a classroom of around 30 students. All these students are very familiar with each other-- much different than the students at Central. On top of this, students in Italy wake up at 7:30 a.m. rather than starting class around this time. As this may seem unfair, students in Italy also attend five years of high school instead of four. Madau will graduate high school here only to return to Italy and attend her high school for another year.

Adapting to these changes has been quite a learning experience for Madau. "[Attending Central has been] intense," Madau said with a laugh. "Central high school is a huge school. I feel really lucky to be going here. The teachers are amazing and I have gotten to know a lot of people because it is different here than in Italy.

As for her favorite thing about Central, Madau credits, without hesitation, the teaching staff.

"For sure not the stairs," Madau said. "I would have to say the teachers because of the relationships I have with them. The relationships are different here than they are with my teachers in Italy; [the teachers at Central] are really motivating."

Adapting to American culture has also been somewhat difficult for Madau. "The hardest thing is being in another country and having to accept the culture. You cannot say 'Well, in Italy I do this, so I am going to do that here, too...' You have to adapt," she said.

Certain things pertaining to American culture seem odd to Madau, but she admits the weirdest thing about American culture is the countless, odd questions she has been asked since her arrival in America about her Italian culture.

"In general Americans ask exchange students the strangest questions, such as, 'Do you have cars?' It seems like a part of America thinks that they are [the only source of modern civi-

lization]," Madau said.

Since Madau's home is not here, many may think that she would become homesick. As daunting as attending school in another country may seem, Madau admits not feeling much homesickness.

"A lot of people ask me if I feel homesick, but no because I have a really nice family here that cares about me and treats me like a daughter. I do not feel homesick at all," she said.

However, Madau does miss certain things about her home and lifestyle back in Italy. "I miss having the independence of hanging out with friends when I want because we have public transportation. Here I have to ask for a ride and everything is so far away. In Italy my house is about five minutes by car from my school... everything is close," she said.

All in all, Madau's experience in America has been positive and enjoyable.

There is no doubt that Central has played a large role in making her experience a positive one. "It sounds strange but I really like going to school," Madau said. "Even though I have to wake up at 6 a.m., and in Italy I had to wake up at 7:30 a.m., I just like going to school."

“The hardest thing is being in another country and having to accept the culture. You cannot say ‘Well, in Italy I do this, so I am going to do that here, too...’ You have to adapt.”

Viola Madau

Italian exchange student



**Left: Madau taking pictures in Verona, which she calls “the city of Romeo and Juliet.” She noted that while visiting the city, she spoke in a TV program.**

**Top Right: Madau representing her home country during an Omaha parade. She was sponsoring YFU, her high school program, which allows her to study abroad.**

**Bottom Right: At the Werner Park baseball game, Madau talks to an announcer. She won an Omaha Storm Chasers Jersey during the 7th inning stretch.**

Photos Courtesy of VIOLA MADAU



## Artist finds success in local mural painting, opening own studio

BY MADDIE HAYKO  
staff writer

Sharon Davis, a local Omaha artist, has left her mark on the art community. She owns Arbor Street Studios where she is able to create her masterpieces. For someone who has been into art since she was younger, this is a dream come true.

"I have been into art for as long as I can remember. I was obsessed with my art supplies in kindergarten. All of my school classes leaned towards art too, all the way through high school," said Davis.

Davis never lost her interest for the arts through her schooling. "In tenth through twelfth grade, I went to Erie County Votech School for commercial art studies. Half the day was regular classes and the other half was art class," said Davis.

"I learned a lot and I was determined that I was never going to incorporate computers into my art. Although that has held me back from making better money, I've stayed true to what I enjoy and can finally make a living at it," said Davis.

Davis could definitely take her work to the next level by selling her art and offering her services locally.

"Once a business is happy with your art, they tell their friends and neighbors and you end up with a lot of work in one area," said Davis.

But once in a while she gets the opportunity to do something outside of Omaha.

"This past summer I was asked to fly out to N.C. to do an

event for a large rug manufacturer from India. I was asked on a Wednesday and flew out on Friday and worked for 41 hours straight. It was a blast and a good paycheck," said Davis.

Davis can never leave her community for too long because she is very dedicated to her work at her studio and building her small business.

"I love Omaha and definitely prefer to stay in the Nebraska area. I think that building community support is one of the most important things a small business can do. Being a small local business supporting local small businesses is what I enjoy most," said Davis.

Due to an accident a while back, Davis lost sight in her right eye in addition to some control of her hand, making it difficult to pursue art.

"When I first had the accident 12 years ago, I definitely had to stop all art and working in general till I could get myself back to health," said Davis.

At that time her current job required her eye sight so her injury affected her ability to work for at least a month.

"I was tattooing for a living at the time and was off work for a month or two due to numerous surgeries. I was able to get back on the horse and went on to tattoo and then start my own business as a florist and sign painter," said Davis.

When businesses hire artists to decorate a part of their store, artists may not be given a lot of creative freedom. When working for companies, Davis is usually just displaying the company's logo somewhere. However, she has the opportunity to get creative once in a while, especially for weddings.

Like every artist, Davis has something that inspires her work and even though it isn't the most appreciated thing in the world, it speaks to her.

"I grew up loving graffiti and that has been an influence of mine since I was young. Since I've been in the skateboarding scene since I was 15 and have been as interested in the graphics as much as I've been into the quality of the products," said Davis.

"I would say that culture has been a huge influence of mine over time. There is a large resurgence of interest in hand lettering and handmade goods so my business has fortunately started up at a good time," said Davis.

Davis is always busy with new work around the Omaha community. Right now, she has occupied her time with several projects, so there is no doubt that citizens will be able to spot her art around town, especially in the Benson area.

"Right now I'm working on a few signs for a friends barber shop in the Blackstone neighborhood, then I'll be wrapping up a mural for Benson Brewery," said Davis.

Davis is excited to get started on these new projects.

"Once the weather breaks I'll be starting a large mural project in Blackstone area, four separate murals around the neighborhood. Among all of this I do smaller projects for friends and events here and there. Definitely keeping busy," said Davis.

Even though she has a lot of projects she has to keep up on, Davis is happy to finally be living her dream.



## Gallery offers unique exhibit, focus on sales

The Abstract Art Show at the Modern Arts Midtown, runs from Jan. 9 to Feb. 28, and showcases artists Larry Roots and Graceann Warn.

Art is something in life that is greatly impacted by the beholder. For many pieces, especially abstract, the mood of the work changes with the perspective of the person. No matter if someone regards the piece as good or otherwise, it is undeniable that it makes the onlooker think. Whether these thoughts are praises or insults, questions or understandings, the artist will have done his or her job. So if you're looking for something interesting to do, you should definitely keep MAM in mind.

The art itself and the different mediums used, such as charcoals, paints, metals, beeswax and ashes were interesting. The presence of all these different styles allowed for a show that was varying on an individual scale, yet cohesive as a whole.

Even though there were many different styles and artists, everything worked together smoothly. This created a depth that would not have been there otherwise. This fact made the gallery experience enjoyable for all people, no matter their preferred art tastes.

The art may have had quality, but the

## MICAH MARTIN | staff writer

# art exhibit

### The Abstract Show

address: **Modern Arts Midtown**

rating: 7 out of 10

gallery setup was standard and ultimately lacked any major distinguishing characteristics.

However, it is indisputable that the pieces in the show itself were well distinguished and thought-out, giving this initial impression less weight. The placement of these pieces around the gallery created smooth transitioning from one to the next, allowing it to be much easier to become lost in the artwork.

The prices were the only thing that interrupted this peaceful flow. This takes away from the overall beauty and hidden interpretations of the art. A gallery is a place to sell art, but if MAM focused a little more on the artistic side instead of the monetary, the whole experience would have been better. If it hadn't been for this, MAM would have definitely had a much more relaxed and creative atmosphere. The way that it was gave it a more serious mood that distracted from the art that the gallery was showcasing.

The workers were accommodating, but neither of them really offered up any information about the art voluntarily. Artist bios or more conversation would make this gallery much more user friendly.

For people who are well versed in abstract art and its artists, there would be no trouble settling into the MAM environment, but for those that are more removed, the foreignness never fully goes away.

For anyone with an open mind and an interest in art, MAM is an interesting place to go, but if you're looking for a more educational atmosphere you'll have to keep searching.



## Decades old video game able to stand the test of time

There are very few video games that last for decades, yet some have stood the test of time, such as Pac-Man, Asteroids and Galags.

But one classic in the eyes of some continues to be a tradition for football players and fans alike. Tecmo Bowl debuted in 1989 on the Nintendo Entertainment System, one of Nintendo's more successful consoles. The sequel to this groundbreaking game came two years later in 1991, in the form of Tecmo Super Bowl.

Tecmo Super Bowl was a game that featured actual NFL teams and NFL players, including the entire 1991 regular season schedule, along with the same format as the real NFL playoffs.

The program had 28 teams (at the time) which was double the amount of play selections as the original game.

As with any game, it had its flaws. The game was notorious for the over-powered running game of Bo Jackson, on the Oakland Raiders. Jackson was so fast at runningback, that a simple sweep to the right that made it to the second level of the opposing defense would be a guaranteed touchdown.

Also, running was more complex than just a straight line. The defense would get a speed boost in order to tackle the run-

## ALEC ROME | staff writer

# video game

### Tecmo Bowl

debut: **1989**

rating: 9 out of 10

ningback, so you were forced to run in a zig-zag pattern to avoid the defenders and make it into the endzone. Annual tournaments are held, the most popular in Madison, Wisconsin. It started with only 22 competitors, but now has grown to 256 competitors. It has its own sponsors and will have its 11th annual tournament on Mar. 7th. The tournament gets very serious including plenty of yells and chants, as well as intoxication. Last year's winner took home \$2,700.

The game has also created an online community that has found ways to play the game on PC and Mac, through certain "emulators" that act as the actual console. Many have chosen to put their own spin on the game, with updated rosters and small gameplay tweaks, to "juiced" (or increased difficulty) games that are meant to test one's Tecmo skills.

There is a certain nostalgic yet continued unique feel to playing the game as a modern star such as Marshawn Lynch or Tom Brady as an 8-bit football player instead of in the updated technology in video games today. You are able to win with any team, no matter what players are on each team. They continue to provide an appeal for those who enjoyed the original but imagined what it would be like to play as their favorite stars.

Tecmo Super Bowl has continued to provide a means of old school entertainment for those who played the game as a kid and those who respect the golden age of video games and the building blocks of modern technology. The community and tournaments across the country continue to get bigger, and the game still has a following like other classics of its time.



## Pursuit to bring avant garde rap style fails in newest album

"2014 Forest Hills Drive" was released Dec. 9 by rapper J. Cole serving as his third, yet short of stellar album. While J. Cole fans can enjoy his play on words, swanky hip hop beats and personality, the "it" factor is missing earning it a 5.5 out of 10 rating.

The album commences with Cole's rough and gruff voice over a soft, sad song named, "The Intro." He repeats the words, "Do you wanna, do you wanna be happy?" almost as if he's trying to ask himself that question. It was a nice way to open up the album and let Cole fans in on a very soft side of him rarely seen.

The album quickly transitions into older sounding hip hop music. The title of his album is actually his old address and gives the listener a clue as to what the content is in most of the songs. He reminisces of his adolescence in a brutally honest way that can seem humorous on the surface level, but his intention is to be dead serious which is the album's theme.

From losing his virginity in the song, "Wet Dreamz," to comparing his life to his friend's growing up in, "03' Adoles-

TIA SPEARS | editor-in-chief

# album

### 2014 Forest Hills Drive

artist: **J. Cole**

rating: 5.5 out of 10

cence," the listener gets to transition with Cole into his adulthood. Don't get too excited, this is short lived.

Unfortunately, Cole is inconsistent throughout the album, not lyrically but instrumentally and vocally. The seventh song on the album, "St. Tropez," starts off as a clean hip hop beat then gets chopped and screwed and ultimately unpleasant. On top of that, his raspy voice creates a conundrum. It gets really messy at some points in the album because it seems that loses himself.

If there's one thing Cole is good at is, it's making a hit and putting valuable poetry in his music. He's had a number of hit singles such as "Crooked Smile" and "Who Dat" which show his ability to create a crowd pleaser. Out of all thirteen songs on the album, "G.O.M.D" is that song. Cole finds a way to move the song from an old southern hymn, to a clean hip hop beat, to a bass heavy song adding some pleasant strings.

By far the most enjoyable part of the album is the ending. The second to last song, "Love Yourz" is the greatest any modern day rapper or hip hop artistic has done because of its beautiful, poetic attributes that have a kick of urban flavor in it. He writes to his younger self, his mom and to other people in general about how to love what you have because there's always going to be something better.

Cole's album was great enough to top the Billboard 200 within its first week of release, but let him get lost in his intentions again and it's plausible that unconventional styles won't prevail. It isn't quite worth purchasing the whole album, but there are admirable pieces in each and everyone of his songs making his album worth listening to.



MAYA DURFEE O'BRIEN | co-web editor

# movie

### A Girl Walks Home Alone At Night

director: **Ana Lily Amirpour**

rating: 7 out of 10

## Intense plot line, mysterious main character earn movie high ratings

Corruption, drug usage, death, sex, and a female Dracula. This is "A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night." It has been called an "Iranian Dracula." The movie is in black and white adding a bleakness of what is to come. Red lips, black cape, black eyes - she is ready.

The film takes place in Iran in a town called "Bad City." It is a ghost town and the people are all very corrupt and blind to the fact that there is a vampire walking around.

The girl, who remains nameless throughout the film, preys on the terrible people of the town. One of her first victims is the town's drug dealer. He feeds on the weakness of the people, specifically an older man who is addicted to heroin.

She is mysterious, appearing out of the shadows and riding a little boy's skateboard. She's intriguing and that's the point.

The man's son is named Arash and is established as the main character of the story. He resembles an Iranian James Dean, dressed in a leather jacket, white tee and slicked back hair that seems to work to his advantage. Arash first meets the girl after her visit to the town's drug dealer. From there it all goes downhill.

Later, Arash meets up with the girl after

his visit to a local night club in Bad City. He is dressed as Dracula, which the audience knows is ironic because he is talking to the real Dracula in the flesh. Arash is instantly entranced by the girl. Arash is instantly entranced by The Girl, he is "head over heels" so to speak in love with her. Throughout the course of the movie we see his efforts to be with her, when she knows that she can't because, as she said in the movie, "I'm bad."

Filled with electro-pop, Iranian contemporary music and some oldies, this is not your typical Dracula movie. It's deeper filled with layers upon layers of plot line.

It's free of the Hollywood style Dracula. There are no organs playing as the next victims come to Dracula, there is no white face makeup, but rather there are real people trying to survive through the exploitation of the town in the only way that they know how. It's a vicious cycle, and while it's no necessarily a good thing that the girl is killing people, she is teaching an important lesson, that Karma really can harm you in the end.

"A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night," is more over a love story. It's that true love that only can be emulated in movies, the one where no matter what the two characters will somehow find a way to be together no matter what happens to them (or will they?). That's the beauty of this movie. You never really know what's going to happen next.

The girl is the perfect character to be the Iranian Dracula within "A Girl Walks Home Alone at Night." The movie itself is free of cheesy-ness, yet encompasses all the things that don't make sense, but somehow work together.

# sports

# 100 WINS

KOLBIE FOSTER BECOMES THIRD WRESTLER IN CENTRAL HISTORY TO ACCOMPLISH 100 INDIVIDUAL WINS



Photo Courtesy of **THE O-BOOK**

**BY JULI OBERLANDER**  
staff writer

To say Kolbie Foster is good at wrestling would be an understatement.

The senior recently achieved the 100th win of his career at Central. For Foster, it wasn't anything special. He showed up to the meet and defeated his opponent.

That was all that mattered, until he received the news that he had accomplished 100 individual wins as a wres-

tlar, the third to do so in Central history after Keygan Foster in 2012 and Ronald Wells in 2013.

"It was against Northwest," Kolbie said. "I pinned him in the first period. I didn't know it was my 100th win until after the match."

The accolade may have caught Foster off guard, but it was good news for the wrestler. The distinction was also satisfying to his coach and father, Jimmie Foster.

"I was happy for him, just proud of him," his father said. "He's been winning for a long time."

Kolbie has wrestled since elementary school, but according to his dad, it's been a lifelong process.

"I've been coaching him for 18 years," the Central wrestling coach and social studies teacher said. "I'm his dad of course. I'm just helping him reach his goals. I don't separate coach and father."

Kolbie doesn't sense a difference between his dad's role as his parent or as his coach, either.

CONTINUE TO 'FOSTER' ON  
PAGE 26

## Baxter Roundball series continues rivalry, honoring alum athletes



GEORGIA CHAMBERS|The Register

Christian Harmon looks to get past a Creighton Prep defender. Over 3,400 spectators attended the anticipated event.

**BY SAN JUANA PARAMO**  
staff writer

The Ralston Area was filled with excitement as fans gathered to watch the Baxter Roundball Series which displayed Central's girls and boys basketball teams against Omaha Marian and Creighton Prep, respectively.

The event, which was sponsored by Baxter Auto group, honored Prep and Central boy's teams from 1974 and 1976.

Both teams were major factors in determining the state championship then. Centrals and Marians girls, classic rivalry games between 1983 and 1985, were also honored.

"It is an event featuring local high school programs with great basketball traditions," said Brittany Gunn, girls basketball head coach.

"This is the first game ever of the series," said Benjamin Holling, boys basketball head coach.

Alumni from each school were also present, those that played for the teams were honored during halftime.

"This is a great occasion it is awesome alumni are being honored," Gunn said. "It is also a great for the girls to experience this event."

The series will prove to be competitive for the teams who have had quite a history between them. "The old rivalry will definitely bring more energy to the arena," Gunn said.

CONTINUE TO 'BAXTER' ON  
PAGE 26



**THURMAN** ▶ **PAGE 23**

Alum begins star career in basketball at the University of Nebraska-Omaha.



**SIGNINGS** ▶ **PAGE 24 & 25**

Central athletes sign to various universities across the nation, committing their college careers to playing sports.



**DIVING** ▶ **PAGE 27**

Learn the ins and outs of diving, including each difficult dives that athletes have to do.



Photos Courtesy of **TRESHAWN THURMAN**

**Top:** Now a forward at UNO, Thurman averaged 16.6 points and 7.9 rebounds per game his senior year at Central.

**Bottom:** Thurman runs past a defending opponent, looking to move down the court and score.

# STARTING ON TOP

CENTRAL GRADUATE TRESHAWN THURMAN  
BEGINS BASKETBALL CAREER AT UNO  
AS A STARTER

BY **JORDAN YOUNG**  
co web editor

A height of 6-foot-seven, an athletic build and an incredible amount of continuously growing mental strength helps University of Nebraska Omaha freshman basketball player Tre'Shawn Thurman excel at his craft on the court.

Thurman is currently one of the five starters for the Mavericks and has the important position of power forward, the second biggest player on the court.

To be a starting Mav, Thurman has had to work hard not only physically, but also mentally in order to adapt to the faster, quicker game of college basketball.

"You not only have to beat your opponent with physical abilities, but mentally you have to know how they play," said Thurman.

"I like [the] players abilities. They're faster, jump higher, they're smarter...they're teaching [me] things I never knew. I still have to get stronger and faster, I'm younger than everybody so I'm still learning as well," he said.

For Thurman, his transition from high school to college basketball has been a predominantly smooth ride.

"It hasn't been as much as a bumpy road as I expected it would be," said Thurman. "I fit in really well, I fit into the system really well. They're putting me in places that I can succeed...you got to go out there and play if you want to win."

Thurman accredits a lot of his success to his experiences at Central.

"Coming here [Central] and playing with players who play at such a high level already. They molded in to being a better player than I already was," he said. "They taught me to learn to play with people who are better than you or better around you if you want to play."

"Coach Behrens was a great help too. He put me into position to succeed," he said. "He put me around a great group of guys and taught me how to win. Those are big things I learned here."

Thurman always knew he would play at a high level after basketball, and Central gave him the tools and access to do that.

As a freshman he played on junior varsity and also had a spot on the varsity team.

"I got in a couple of games," he said.

With his mentality thrown in with a mixture of experience with winning and strong sense of ability, Thurman knew he would get his chance when the offers

from predominantly Division 1 schools came pouring in his senior year.

And that's how he ended up at UNO.

"I was maybe considering going 'ju-co' [junior college] for two years or a year depending on what was best for me and my family," said Thurman.

"I had a lot of D1 offers. I looked at how they played, how I played and see if I could fit in well with them. Really I talked to my friends, my family, my coach and [then] decided that UNO was a good fit," he said.

What set UNO apart from the other schools was the way he was able to relate with the coaches.

"I felt a connection really from the beginning. Just how much they wanted me. They wanted me so much I knew I would come in and be a big piece to them in the future and right now," he said. "They really liked how I played and I knew that was the place to go."

Ever since he made the decision and packed his bags for school, Thurman has been enjoying his experience.

"When I first got there they didn't see me as a freshman they saw me as a basketball player," he said.

Thurman described the team as a family type group and that they have taken him under their wing. "They teach me things," he said.

Specifically Mike Rostampour and CJ Carter, the two team captains, continuously teach Thurman the ropes of mastering college level ball.

"Mike has a lot of knowledge. Me and him are somewhat similar so I really look to him for advice," he said.

"Mentally they teach me things to look at, things to really look for if you want to beat a guy here look for their weaknesses. We definitely get along really well. We have a lot of work to do things to look for," he said.

"You have to be able to see the type of defense guys play. You have to stay in the game," said Thurman. "You have a little bit more time in college so you have to mentally be prepared to get down on a lot of points and fight your way back."

Since then Thurman has adjusted well to life at UNO and his goals for basketball.

He takes four classes for a total of 12 credit hours and is able to juggle it well because of planners who help the basketball team stay on track with school.

For the rest of the season, Thurman hopes to "just get better" and that the basketball team will make the post-season tournament.

## Seemann Stadium's turf to undergo extensive repairs after 10 years of use

BY **CHOTEAU KAMMEL**  
staff writer

The first recorded use of artificial turf football fields in the United States occurred in the 1960s. Omaha Central's own Seemann Stadium, completed in 2005, also utilizes this artificial turf, obviously in a more modernized state. Regardless of the innovation involved in the initial undertaking of the stadium, the field is due for an overhaul, and although not formally made official yet, that will be coming this summer.

Although Seemann Stadium is still relatively new, the turf that takes the brunt of the stadium's activities has taken quite a beating in its first ten years of use. This maintenance concern is the main reason for initiating the planning of a new field.

Athletic Director Luke Dillon has been involved in the planning process for this new field since his first day at Central this past fall. He described what it will be as "high tech," "It will be made completely new," he added.

These renovations will bring the stadium's turf up to code with some of the technological innovations that have been made since it was built around a decade ago. Also, the turf will not be the only part of the stadium that will find itself becoming anew. The visitors' locker room, which has for a while now been more on the dilapidated side of things in terms of building quality and state of cleanliness, will also be receiving an overhaul.

"Although they [the visitors] may never feel the same way about Central as we do, we want to treat our guests so that they get a good impression of our school," elaborated data administrator Tom Wagner.

According to Dillon, the timetables of the two projects will not be congruent, but may overlap. Work on the field will begin the week of May 26, following the last day of student attendance, while the visitor's locker room will begin in the spring. The field is currently estimated to take six to eight weeks, but a more accurate estimation will be available once the existing turf has been torn up.

Regardless of having not been made formally official, Dillon said that it is almost a done deal. "It's pretty much a go," he added.

Prior to any meetings on the possible attainment of a new field, both Central's own athletic department and the Omaha Public Schools Athletic Department had been looking into it in their own way. "They



Paige Colburn | The Register

**The Seemann Stadium will experience renovations on the field over the summer, which will affect summer PE classes.**

had been looking at it behind the scenes as well," Dillon said.

Central's current field, as well as all of Seemann Stadium, was paid for in large part by donations from the field's namesake, Lee Seemann and his wife Willa as well as the late Susan Buffett.

The new turf and renovations however, will be funded by the district. Dillon pointed out however, that for any extras such as the school logo in the center of the field, Central would foot the bill.

Dillon also said that Central was one of the first OPS schools to receive a turf field in the first place. "Central is a trend setter. Other schools saw what we had, wanted it and they got it," he said.

Central will be the first of the OPS high schools to have its field turf redone, and will begin a cycle that will take several years to complete, with one high school done every year. For Central, the first home game of the 2015 football season will be played on a new Seemann Stadium field. Lastly, Dillon explained that on the schools part, the reception of the new turf has required them to do little more than, "attend the meetings," he said.

For the rest of the season, Thurman hopes to "just get better" and that the basketball team will make the post-season tournament.

**K**ia Scott signed her papers for participating in volleyball at Grace University, just a couple miles from Central.

Scott has been playing volleyball since the fourth grade for a recreational league in Omaha. She then advanced to a club team during her eighth grade year. Her career has progressed greatly through her time at Central. She has learned to communicate better both mentally and physically.

Scott was looking for a school that offered nursing as a major. She also wanted a school that was close to home that would also provide her with a good education.

"I think college sports will be difficult but also manageable. I think that high school and club volleyball have prepared me for the challenges ahead for any college sport," Scott said.

Scott said her parents have been supportive of her since day one. They push her to go to practices, tournaments or whatever volleyball requires. Her coaches constantly ask what she wants to do and what type of school she thinks she would enjoy. Both her parents and coaches have helped her get where she is today.

She said all of her teammates were excited and happy with the decision she made to play in college. She believes she has gained a lot of respect and many relationships with her fellow players over

the years.

"I think I will continue to improve no matter what. I think playing at the college level will just continue to strengthen relationships with people and coaches," Scott says.

For Scott, sports were not the main reason she signed with Grace University. She knew she wanted to play college sports but also added that nursing was her primary reason for deciding on a college. Academics always came first to her no matter what.

"I know a current [Grace] volleyball player who was an alumni of Central. Besides that, I expect to make many more relationships with other people during my time in college," Scott says.

Scott says that Central has opened her eyes in so many aspects. It has given her a realistic perspective of today's world. She has had coaches that have pushed her to be the person she is today.

It is no different than with academics; all of her teachers have pushed her to study and do the best she can while in high school to prepare herself for college. Scott says that all of her success is owed to her teachers, coaches, parents and teammates.

Scott is extremely excited for the next chapter of her life athletic-wise and career-wise. She expects it to be difficult, challenging and time consuming but trusts that it will be rewarding in the end.



BY JULIA BIELEWICZ  
staff writer

Photo Courtesy of DIANA CASTILLO

# KIA SCOTT



BY JULIA BIELEWICZ  
staff writer

Photo Courtesy of DIANA CASTILLO

# KOLBIE FOSTER

**S**enior, Kolbie Foster, signed papers last week for playing football at Wayne State University in Wayne, Nebraska about 100 miles from Omaha.

Foster has been playing football ever since he was little. He began playing for a local little league called the Little Vikings before sixth grade. During his time at Central, he continued to improve. He recalls only playing a couple games his freshman year, though by his junior year, he was a starting player on varsity.

"I didn't know about Wayne State until recently to be honest. I only found out about the college because the coach contacted me. I went on a visit and really liked it and I also got a good offer from them. I am receiving a scholarship which made me want to go there even more," Foster said.

He expects college sports to be much harder and a lot more time consuming since he'll have longer and more frequent practices. Foster anticipates a very different experience because he knows he will not be one of the best people on the team.

"My parents were very supportive and pushed for

me to go to Wayne State because of the scholarship I was offered. My coaches encouraged me to take the offer that the college had given me. In my decision I rarely considered academics, I solely relied on sports," Foster said.

All of his teammates stood behind him and his decision to go to Wayne State. They all agreed that he was going somewhere that would benefit him as well as play and improve as a player. Foster anticipates getting a lot better at football and gaining much more skill and strength.

"I am really excited to play on a college team because it will be more centered on football rather than Central's practices that just last for a couple hours. I expect college practices to last all day," Foster said.

He doesn't know many of the students or athletes there. Although he is friends with a couple of guys who are on the football team, he knows he'll have to branch out and meet new people to find his group of friends.

"I have become a much better player because of the opportunities I got and being a football player at Central in general. I know that practices will be long and games will be stressful but I have faith due to my past chances," Foster said.

Foster says that much of his success can be accredited to Central and the experiences he has had while playing football. He's excited for the upcoming memories and chances he will have and is enthusiastic about his future.

**D**aiShon Neal signed with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln to play football this upcoming year.

Being a senior, Neal is excited to move onto college level football and to finally get out of high school. Although he admitted to enjoying playing at Central, he expects to enjoy playing at UNL much more.

Deciding which college to sign with was difficult for Neal. Other schools that reached out to him included Alabama, USC, Notre Dame, Michigan, Oregon and Oklahoma, as well as a few other colleges. Neal's family has played a very important role in helping him along in his football career, especially his father.

Neal's father has helped him improve in his skills and make life changing decisions. "He's an ex-professional athlete, he played college football as a freshmen so he's been through it already so he's helping me a lot through the process," Neal said.

Deciding on what career he wants to pursue was also a difficult decision, however he finally decided to major in business and culinary arts. "I like to cook and I like to eat and I want to be in business with it." But that would be only if he wasn't able to play football as a full time career. Signing with a DI school such as UNL he hopes to play later on.

As for his first year playing college football Neal says he would like to win a national title.

Playing for Central has helped Neal improve greatly but he expects that college will take his playing skills to a whole other level.



BY JULIA HALONEN  
staff writer

Photo Courtesy of DIANA CASTILLO

# DAISHON NEAL



Jacobe Hollingsworth signed papers for William Penn University.

At the age of 10 Jacobe Hollingsworth started playing football. Starting off with the Omaha Chiefs then advanced to the Omaha Jackals. When he was asked about how his previous teams have helped him prepare for college, he mentioned Central. "It's really helped me a lot playing around good players like DaiShon [Neal] and Tre Sanders."

Because college is peeking around the corner Hollingsworth has been planning on what he will be majoring in. "Probably major sports management and minor in business administration... because after I graduate I'll probably be a sports conditioning coach so I'll still be around football."

As for other activities he plans to be involved with, "hopefully the track team, but that's pretty much it. I've got to focus on sports, that's what I'm there for". Goals for Hollingsworth's freshman year he hopes "ultimately to start".

Hollingsworth plans to major in sports management and to minor in business administration. He hopes to go into sports conditioning so he can remain around football for his career.

Hollingsworth's family has played a very important role in his football career. "They supported me a lot, like coming to the games and just basically being there for me." Going to his games and practices has inspired him to do better as a player.

Deciding on a college was a difficult decision for Hollingsworth. His friends and family's opinion was very important to him. When he was asked about who aided him in making the final decision, he brought up his former football coach. "Actually my little league football coach. He's always been around in my life."

Other schools Hollingsworth was debating on signing with were Peru State or Hastings, both colleges being in Nebraska. Although William Penn University is in Iowa, it is still close enough to home.

Hollingsworth said although he did have a great time improving and playing with people at Central, he is really excited to play in college. He shares that throughout his four years playing prior believes that the years he has spent playing for Central has prepared him well for William Penn.



BY JULIA HALONEN  
staff writer

Photo Courtesy of DIANA CASTILLO

# JACOB E HOLLINGSWORTH



BY MADDIE HAYKO  
staff writer

Photo Courtesy of DIANA CASTILLO

Xavier Graham decided to sign to Dakota State University to play football. Even though he had many choices to choose from, Which made his decision a hard one, he was finally able to limit it down.

"I signed to Dakota State University, it seemed like a good university to me. They had all the majors that I was looking into and for their football program they offered me a full ride scholarship. It seems like a good place to be for the next four years," said Graham.

Some of the other schools that were giving him offers were Midland, South Dakota State, and Peru State and a few others, but he was happy with his final choice. On National Signing Day the press can really affect people's choices on where they are going to attend but it didn't seem to make Graham question his choice.

"It really doesn't affect me I think it's a pretty cool opportunity for everybody to see me out there and making a change in myself and hopefully I can inspire younger people," said Graham.

Graham is happy to be sticking with football because it has been a part of his life for a long time and it would be hard for him to let a passion of his go.

"Growing up it was a family tradition, playing football was around me 24/7. I just grew up loving it and all my life that's all I've wanted to do. My dream is to make it to the NFL so I will do whatever it takes to make my dream come true," said Graham.

Going from high school to college is a big change for most, but Graham is ready to take on the challenge.

"I get to step up in college, I will also have bigger competition and I will get to play against top opponents that will make me better," said Graham.

With this transition Graham will also have to push himself to work harder on a college team. So he is planning to do a lot more training before the football season starts to get himself in shape.

"I will prepare myself for college football with more dedication, off season lifting, more supplements, more lifting. Pretty much training as hard as I can," said Graham.

With Graham's life long passion for sports, he is ready to give it his all when it comes to football. People look up to Graham and he hope to become a role model for all the young football players out there who have the same dream as he does which is to become part of a professional team in the NFL.

# XAVIER GRAHAM

On National Signing Day Demetrius Marable made up his mind between the two colleges he wanted to attend, and he is very pleased with his final decision.

"I signed to Morningside College, out of the two colleges I had trouble choosing from Doane and Morningside. It felt like they were the same, they had the same kind of environment but I felt that Morningside was the way to go. Doane was a family school so it made it real hard to say no to Doane," said Marable.

National Signing Day was an important day for Marable, and he would be making a life changing decision.

"The publicity of National Signing Day didn't really affect me, I know it's a big deal because you're making a decision that will affect your life. But the media didn't really do much to affect me or how I felt, because I really knew where I wanted to go," said Marable.

At Central, Marable played three sports. But now that he is going into college, he has decided to be a dual athlete, playing baseball and football. Even though he is dropping one sport he knows he will still enjoy what the Morningside teams have to offer.

"I'm really going to

enjoy the brotherhood and the comradery of being a part of a college team; I feel that those two things are really what's going to set apart those who go to college for just for academics and those who go to school as a college athlete," said Marable.

But since Marable is a student athlete he will already have connections with people.

"As a student athlete you're going to be involved right when you get there, you're going to have people to interact with as opposed to someone who goes in as just a student," said Marable.

Marable is ready to push himself to the limit when it comes to sports and he is planning to get in shape for what is to come.

"The day that I did sign, I got a workout regimen that the coach emailed us," said Marable. "I'm going to try to go to the gym and lift this summer. I'm planning on running track with a coach just to get in better shape and to increase my speed."

Marable is ready to work for what he is passionate about and even though it will be a lot of work, he is willing to put in the effort.



BY MADDIE HAYKO  
staff writer

Photo Courtesy of DIANA CASTILLO

# DEMETRICE MARABLE

# 100 WINS for KOLBIE FOSTER



Photo Courtesy of JIMMIE FOSTER

Above: Kolby Foster poses around teammates and coaches, holding a t-shirt he reviewed for his wins.

CONTINUED FROM 'FOSTER' ON PAGE 22

"My dad's been my coach my whole life so he's taught me everything I know," he said.

This year, Kolbie is ranked number one in Nebraska, and his goal for the season is very specific. "I just want to win the state tournament, and I pinned the number two guy already," Kolbie said. In order to reach this goal, the senior plans to keep up his training regimen along with his coaches and fellow wrestlers. "We practice every day of the week- Monday through Sunday," Kolbie said. "I do it all the time so it feels regular." For Kolbie, winning the state tournament would be an ideal way to finish his wrestling career.

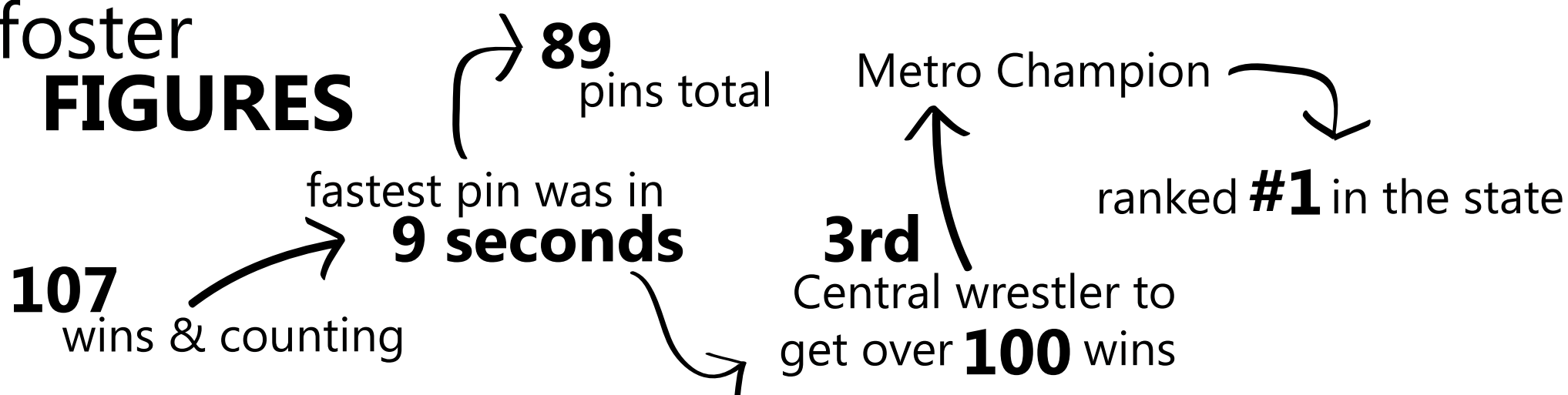
Although he enjoys the sport, he plans to focus on football in college. Among his prospects, Wayne State and Midland University are were his top two choices. "I'm still undecided, but I've had a lot of offers and visits," the senior said before committing. He ultimately chose Wayne State. Even though Kolbie is choosing football, his dad is thankful for the opportunity he's had to see his son improve as an athlete and as a person.

"His technique has gotten better, his attitude has gotten better," the coach said. "I think he's enjoying it [wrestling] more now that it's over. I just want my son to be happy." When it comes down to it, Kolbie's dad will support his son, no matter what direction he takes in life.

"I want him to be a productive member of society, a great father and a great husband," the older Foster said. "That's my goal for all my wrestlers."

As Kolbie explores his options during and after college, his father reflects back at the last 18 years as a time he's had to enjoy with his sons and athletes. In the end, both father and son are satisfied with that.

## foster FIGURES



## Series showcases Central rivalries with Prep, Marian rivalry in Baxter Roundball

CONTINUED FROM 'BAXTER' ON PAGE 22

"We are excited to play in front of a large crowd and arena," Holling said.

"The atmosphere will be different from what the girls are used to," said Gunn. "I know they are excited to play in the area and it will definitely be a great experience for them."

Both coaches have prepared for the games like any other game, the only difference being the change in venue.

"Our main focus, is to work on the things that we need to work on to become successful," said Gunn. "We have intense practices through Wednesday and on Thursday we have more of a "walk through" practice."

The game will be no different. Both schools have played against each other previously and are quite familiar.

"I'm expecting to compete with our maximum effort," said Holling. "This game will be no different," Gunn said. "We still need to be mentally and physically ready to play the full 32 minutes."

The series served to showcase the tradition Central, Creighton Prep and Marin have left. It will also serve to showcase the tradition the new generations will leave.

"I want this series to motivate the girls," said Gunn. "They are learning about the legacies left behind and only hope they would be motivated to do the same."

## Both swim teams qualify for state, hope for 20 spots

BY MICAH MARTIN  
staff writer

With a season running from November to January, competitive swimming has of the longest and most demanding seasons.

Despite this, thanks to some aspiring new and veteran talent, Central's varsity team is looking to get farther than ever before at the State meet this March.

"I think swimming is one of the toughest sports to do, because it requires a lot of mental fortitude and physical work. I mean, you need to learn how to hold your breath and go fast at the same time. No other sport requires you to do that," said Kristoff Berzins, a varsity coach.

Even though this sport is demanding, many of those who participate in it believe that it is well worth all of the work that it requires.

"It's a lot of hard work, practices are long and hard...but it's fun and it pays off," said Jessica Ferguson, a freshmen swimmer on the varsity team.

Part of this hard work are practices, usually after school from 4:30 to 6:30. With these, the varsity team is diligently preparing to be serious contenders for State in March.

They work on their strokes and stamina, by doing things like a 500 warm-up, which is about 20 laps or other things like eight 200s in a typical day. This allows the individual swimmers to improve, at the same time bettering the team.

"I just like how you may be in individual events but there are always people cheering for you, and it's just really enjoyable, because you're all pushing yourself to be better," said

Swimming may be an individual sport, but every swimmer is still part of something larger, and when one person improves the whole team is benefits.

Already this season, both the boys and girls teams have qualified for state cuts in all of their relays. Including these ones and individuals cuts, the team saw around fifteen in total.

However, coach Berzins is still looking for five or six more before the State meet comes around.

Even though the team has done exceptionally well so far this season, they aren't done proving themselves yet. This is evident in everything that they do as the season ticks down.

"When the girls team got their 200 free relay cut they were pretty upset with some of their individual times, but they all rallied together and made the team cut," said Berzins.

Despite some disappointing results they were able to come together and beat the state qualifying cut by five seconds.

In regards to State, the teams' goal is to secure spots for at least twenty swimmers, as well as getting a couple of girls into the second day of competition.

In past years, Central's team has never had a female swimmer qualify for that second day, but this year there are definitely a couple of hopefuls, such as Jessica Ferguson who already has state cuts in almost every field.

With as many aspiring swimmers on the team this year varsity has a good chance at meeting some of those goals.

Swimming competitively may be hard work, but the friendships and accomplishments that are made will long outlast the pain and sweat that goes into it.

"It's difficult, but really fun because there is always someone to compete with," said Parry. "Do it, because it's definitely

# THE INS AND OUTS: DIVING

BY TIA SPEARS  
editor-in-chief

## 1 BACK DIVES

The diver will stand on the end of the board with their back facing the water. The diver will complete a backward press and takeoff, then rotate away from the board to complete between one half and three and a half somersaults. This dive can be done in the straight, pike or tuck position.

## 2 FORWARD DIVES

The diver will be facing the end of the diving board. Once the diver leaves the board, they will rotate away from the diving board and complete between one and a half and four and a half somersaults. The somersaults can be done in either the tuck or pike position.

## 3 REVERSE DIVES

The diver will face the end of the board. The diver will make a forward approach and then hurdle backwards, completing between one and a half and three and a half somersaults in either the tuck or pike position.

## 4 INWARD DIVES

The diver will stand on the end of the board with their back facing the water. The diver will complete a backward press and takeoff, then rotates toward the diving board as they're moving away. The diver can complete up to three and a half somersaults in the pike or tuck position.

## 5 TWISTING DIVES

The diver can do a forward, back, reverse or inward dive as long as a twisting motion is annexed to it.

## Lingerie football objectifies women, some embrace attention

BY KELSEY THOMAS  
executive editor

Dubbed as "the fastest growing women's sport in America" by some, lingerie football has stepped into the spotlight, angering millions of people in the process.

There is no doubt that lingerie football, and sports like it such as "diva wrestling," perpetuate the objectification of women. Female athletes are faced with far more difficulties than male athletes, and only part of the issues have to do with hyper-sexualization. Women's athletic programs have far less support at the collegiate level, and there are very few paid opportunities for women to professionally play. Many women that participate in lingerie football or diva wrestling have true athletic skill, and it is unfortunate that this is the only outlet for them to exhibit their talent.

While this aspect may be true, it should also be kept in mind that the women who play lingerie athletics have made the decision to do so. Many people only blame the corporations involved,

but the women are also at fault. Any individuals or businesses that support, or participate in lingerie sports aide in showing that it is okay for people to view females as sexual objects, rather than capable human beings.

Of course, women have faced gender discrimination since the beginning of mankind, for reasons that are unfounded. Women as a whole are not to blame for the inequality that we are faced with so often.

But it is important to remember that the companies cannot control peoples' interests. Above all, they are businesses, and the sole purpose is to make money. If lingerie football and diva wrestling means profits, then it will continue to be supported.

If a woman complains of objectification, yet plays in a lingerie football league, it is hard to sympathize. No one has forced them to participate in the sport. Moreover, lingerie football leagues do not pay their players, women play to compete instead. There is no benefit given to women who play besides the ability to showcase athletic skill, and to earn attention from gawking audiences.

In addition, most, if not all, of the women who play lingerie athletics are happy to do so. They are paying to play, after all. If this is the case, who can deny them of this, or tell them that their actions are wrong? Feminism champions the rights of women and supports their free will. To assume that a woman is being taken advantage of in order to play, or to encourage a woman not to play because it encourages sexualization, goes against the beliefs of feminism. In a sense, it is another way to tell women what they can and cannot do with their body. If a woman wants to play football in a bikini, it's her choice. If she doesn't feel degraded by it, then no one else should feel offended by it. Feminists fight for women's choices, and urging women to stop playing a sport goes against this principle.

Lingerie athletics may contribute to the objectification of women in today's society, but it is a woman's choice to participate or not. Ultimately, this freedom of choice is more important than any sexualization that may occur.

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