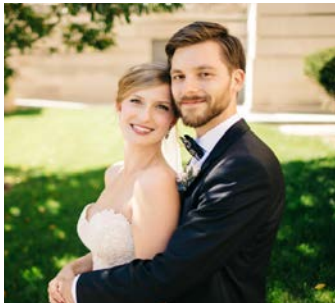




DO SPACE 2

The addition of a local high-tech library offers workspaces for the community, free internet, computer access and educational technology courses.



LOVE STORY 15

Two Central alumni met in 2004 while one of them was on a foreign exchange program. Years after attending prom together, the couple came back to take their wedding photos.



DANCERS 23

Two sophomores take their love for theatrical dance to the stage at each of their studio's rendition of "The Nutcracker."

the REGISTER



Omaha Central High School | Volume 131, Issue 3 | December 17, 2015

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OPS considers virtual education service for students

Alec Rome
web editor

At a recent board meeting, OPS superintendent Mark Evans and other school district officials discussed the possibility of an online program for students, which would make an at-home learning environment plausible.

The proposal is not like a normal online program, because there is actual face-to-face interactions in what is called a "blended learning" approach. Students who want to stay at home for personal or schedule reasons can take most classes online while still being to come into a brick and mortar building and meet with teachers. Along with consultations, students can go to clubs and attend different field trips as a part of the program. Students from elementary to high school have in-house days, social events as well as tutoring options if needed.

Having the face-to-face interaction is vital, Evans says, because it allows parents to have certified teachers discuss subjects that parents may not be good with, while still allowing flexibility in a student's schedule. "If you just do the online approach, and there is research that backs that up, if you don't give the opportunities for chat rooms, projects or field trips, I think you lose the hook," Evans said. "You lose the chance to make the learning environment the most engaged it can be." Nebraska is currently one of seven states that does not have a state or district-led virtual school.

Compared to a strictly online environment, a blended approach would offer current online enrolled students to not only have more resources for success but also ensure they meet state attendance requirements and take all school and district tests. Staff members and learning coaches help ensure that the student sticks with a consistent schedule and communicate needs to parents as to what their child is struggling with.

The proposed program is based off a model from the state of Kansas called the Andover eAcademy, which was one of three online programs Evans was involved with previously. One of the reasons the program was so popular and successful with parents was because of the blended opportunities, compared to over 50 different virtual schools in Kansas that did not offer those same benefits. Andover has only been in existence for four years, but has over 4,800 students and twenty-seven Kansas schools that participate in the program. "One of the reasons why [Andover] was so successful down in Kansas was kids can go anywhere they want and still take courses," Evans said.

Along with students who want the online and face-to-face interaction in a school building with teachers and other students, there are circumstances Evans saw with his experience that a blended model would benefit. He has seen students that participated in professional rodeos across the nation to students that act in Los Angeles that have benefitted from the blended approach. There were even students that were simply tired with the brick and mortar setting that wanted to move faster and saw the blended model as a way to move through curriculum faster.

What a blended program would provide that no other current OPS program or typical school setting would provide is flexibility with the student. Because it is a virtual school, the technology behind the programs shows when students do what activities. According to Evans, the program would allow students to complete work on their own time, and actual timelines and due dates for projects and work would also be more flexible.

One of the things Evans saw from both parents and
CONTINUE TO 'BLENDED LEARNING'
ON PAGE 4

"I FELT SO ALONE."

Tinca Joyner, a Central student studying abroad in France, and Louise Requin, a French student spending the year in Omaha, share their experiences with the Paris terror attacks.

Kelsey Thomas
editor-in-chief

The November terror attacks in Paris hit home for two Central students, Tinca Joyner and Louise Requin.

Joyner is currently spending her junior year in an exchange program in France, in a town in the southeastern region of the country. The town she lives in, which is near Geneva, is approximately a five hour drive from Paris.

Requin, who is technically classified as a senior, is also spending her year away from home, though she is a French native spending a year in Nebraska.

Though the two girls are tied to France and its people in very different ways, they have each directly felt the aftermath of the tragedy.

Before the attacks, Joyner did not sense a palpable fear of terrorism by the French people. Instead, she noticed the lack of news associated with ISIS compared to American media sources.

"I have noticed that in the United States we spend a lot more time talking about terrorism...so there is more ISIS news coverage... Here in France before the attacks there was news coverage on ISIS, but it didn't seem like a real threat to

the citizens here," Joyner said.

Though Requin agrees that French citizens did not feel directly threatened, she did recognize tension between the country and ISIS. The Charlie Hebdo attacks this past January, which were led by a group of radicals claiming Islam as their justification, sparked a fear of radical religious groups in France. Requin said that the attacks caused French citizens to feel the pressure of ISIS in the region, a feeling that contributed to anti-Muslim sentiments among some people.

"Muslim people did [the Charlie Hebdo attacks]...but terrorism has no religion," she said.

In the hours following the Charlie Hebdo attacks, Requin remembers seeing an interview featuring a French-born Muslim woman. "I never watch television, but I did this night. It was a Muslim woman, and she was saying, 'Please, French people, I am French before I am any kind of religion. I am French. And I am Muslim. I don't want anyone to think I am a terrorist because of my religion that has nothing to do with this,'" she said.

The attacks on Charlie Hebdo, though, were driven by much different motivations than the Paris attacks.

CONTINUE TO 'PARIS'
ON PAGE 4

WHAT'S ON THE WEB



Distinguished English teacher, Marcella Mahoney, pursues her passion while helping students improve their writing and reading skills.

MAHONEY FEATURE

HUSKERS REVIEW

The Nebraska football season started off rough with a tough loss to BYU, but with a new coach, the team finished strong.

omahacentralregister.com



High tech library helps introduce digital age, teaches to all generations

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

A new technological library called Do Space was opened recently, and the response from the community has been absolutely astounding. This library is the first of its kind in Omaha, and it may have the ability to change the way the general public accesses and utilizes the digital age.

According to the Executive Director, Rebecca Stavick, “The community has been taking full advantage of the space - from just coming in to access our gigabit of bandwidth, to families visiting the space to attend one of our Littles Lab programs which introduce little kids to STEAM principles,” she says.

Do Space contains a sizeable assortment of “hardware, software, and experimental 3D technologies in [their] 3D Lab. In addition, [they] offer programs and events for everyone – at all ages, at all levels of expertise,” Stavick says.

For example, Do Space provides the Senior Cyber Society program. This is a meet up group for senior citizens so that they can learn the ins and outs of new technology.

Do Space also offers an after school club by the name of “Teen Hackers.” Kids 12 years of age and older meet after school to “create everything from 3D jewelry to music videos to video games, test drive the latest tech, and just hang out...” according to the organization’s website.

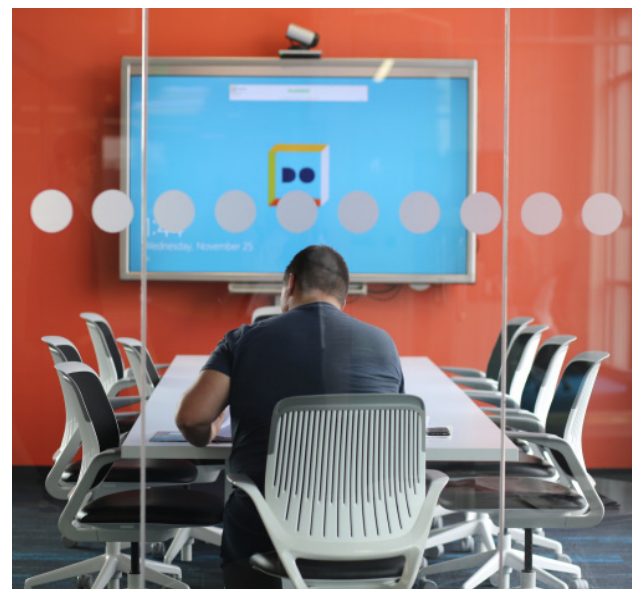
Because of Stavick’s vision, and her determination to make that vision a reality, the organization is the smooth-running machine it is today. “When I accepted the position of Executive Director, Do Space was a framework - it was a pool of resources and plans, and it has been my job to build Do Space as an organization,” says Stavick. “It’s my hope that this project changes lives - whether it’s empowering someone to access a computer to apply for a job, exposing someone to 3D printing for the first time, or enabling groups to get together to learn something new... I hope that Do Space will support the people of Omaha in a variety of ways.”

In addition to the wonderful programs Do Space makes available to the community, they also offer a wide variety of learning spaces and materials to stimulate motivation and progress.

The space has more than 50 PCs and Macs, 60 laptops, a dozen iPad Airs and 80 Kindle Fire HD tablets that are all available for public use, free Internet access and both a full-color printer, scanner and copier and a wide-format printer.

Now, Do Space has provided the public with the technology they require, but it is up to the community to realize the potential prosperous future that this project could hold.

Stavick said, “The Do Space team and I hope that Omahans really take this opportunity to co-create this project with us. Do Space doesn’t make any sense unless it’s community-led, and that’s why we’re always trying to build a creative culture here in the building, so people from all backgrounds can come and learn from each other.”



ANN MILROY | The Register

The Do Space provides free internet and computer access to its patrons, and offers educational courses on technology.

eliminate
BOREDOM
during winter break

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

ANN MILROY | The Register

FLAGSHIP COMMONS FOOD COURT

Westroads Mall is buzzing with people around the holidays. This December, a new food court is scheduled to open, and is expected to bring an avalanche of customers. A fully-functional bar compliments the casual dining atmosphere. This isn’t your average food court, as it will feature new gourmet restaurants. Flagship is a tremendous upgrade from the current dining space in Westroads.



Photo Courtesy of ONTHESNOW.COM

MT. CRESENT SKI AREA

This outdoor ski slope functions as a universal outlet for winter sports. Snowboarding, skiing and ziplining courses are offered at varying difficulty levels. Lessons and practice sessions are also available, reservations are sometimes required. Located at 17026 Snowhill Ln, Honey Creek, IA.

ALAMO DRAFTHOUSE

Fancy dine-in cinema experience complimented with a professional and elegant vibe. This establishment has strict rules to preserve the experience of enjoying a movie. No children under 18 are allowed in unless accompanied by an adult. They are located at 12750 Westport Pkwy, La Vista, NE.



TIM MOYLAN TRANQUILITY ICEPLEX

Indoor and outdoor ice skating sessions. Fun for the whole family, with a professionally-maintained indoor rink, and an outdoor traditional-style rink. Hockey lessons are purchasable for all ages at a decent price. They are located at 12550 W Maple Rd, Omaha, NE.



TAKING REFUGE

Natalie Nepper
editor-in-chief

ABDIKARIM MOHAMED SOMALIA

Abdikarim Mohamed came to the United States at tail end of 2013. Although he was still young, he had seen things beyond his years. He had experienced war.

The Somali civil war began in the 1980s, out of the resistance form the Siad Barre regime. The UN intervened after the dissolution of the central government in the 90s. And although Mohamed had been born into war, his family did not begin the process of becoming refugees until 2009. For many refugees, the process takes a little under two years, but for him, it was four. Mohamed viewed the procedure as a game of "luck," and for some it takes longer than others.

“ [The rebels were] taking kids like age 13 to 14 and it wasn't safe. They lied to the kids... that was the problem.

ABDIKARIM MOHAMED

Somali refugee

Despite the lengthy process, continuing to live in Somalia was "okay" for him. But soon the fighting against the government involved everyone, even kids his own age. "[The rebels were] taking the kids like age 13 to 14 and it wasn't safe," he said. "They lied to the kids... that was the problem."

Being relocated to Omaha proved challenging, but the adjustment to school was the hardest part for Mohamed. "You have to understand the situation. When I came here, I didn't know the grades and I didn't know this thing, this school thing," Mohamed said. "In Africa, when you skip the school or when you don't go, it's nothing. It doesn't make any trouble. But when you come here, you have to go to school every day. You have to work for your grades. You have to look for a scholarship. That's the challenging part."

So far he has enjoyed watching the football games the most. He emphasized that although he doesn't play, it is still fun to watch a sport he doesn't have in his own country.

In the spring he plans on playing soccer, something he's been involved in most of his life. He isn't sure where life will take him after Central, but Mohamed wants to go to college and finally get into a career.

GATWECH JOCK SOUTH SUDAN/ETHIOPIA

Gatwech Jock was originally born in South Sudan, but became a refugee at the age of 3 when his family moved to Ethiopia. He grew up in refugee camp with his parents, four brothers and three sisters. He came to the United States at the age of 15.

"There was some guy threatening to kill our father and we just told this case to the professionals in the refugee camp. When they heard the situation... they took our case further," Jock said.

Although he's only been in America for around three months, he's already noticing the differences. The government's involvement is something he noticed right away, as neither South Sudan nor Ethiopia had any form of food stamps. "Here is better because things are okay and this school is very nice," he said. "There we didn't have clothes, there's no food sometimes, and there may be no water. Life there [was] very difficult."

Because Jock is new to the school, he's not entirely sure about what clubs he'll get involved in, except for soccer, his favorite sport. After Central, Jock wants to go back to Africa and make a difference. He's interested in studying rocks and minerals at the mines there.

TIL MONGER NEPAL

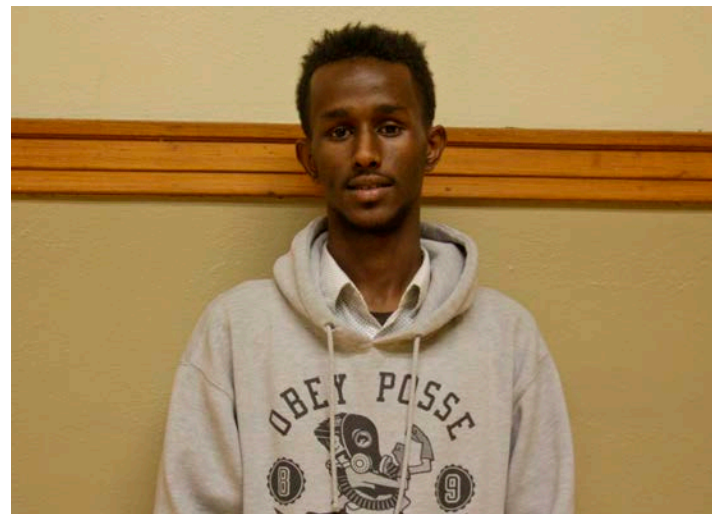
Til Monger has been in the United States for only 8 months. He is originally from Nepal. Through help from the IRM, the Interfaith Refugee Ministry, Monger was able to be relocated with his family to Nebraska.

According to his translator, "All of these transportation fees and everything are geared by IRM and then they have to pay those loans up to like one year."

The biggest difference for Monger is the living style, but he enjoys the education and the learning style that is offered at Central. "The discipline of the school and the students" challenges Monger every day.

After high school, Monger plans to continue his education in college. He's not sure what he'd like to study just yet.

Three Central students share their experiences as refugees and their ability to adapt to life in the United States.



ANN MILROY | The Register

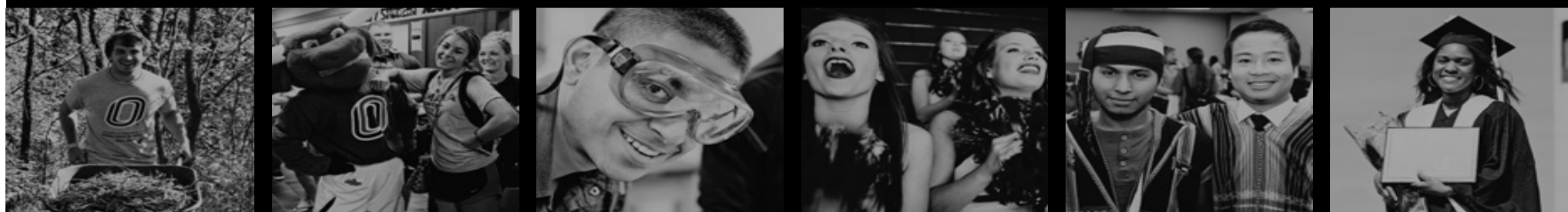
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Learning program allows students to complete work on their own schedule

CONTINUED FROM 'BLENDED LEARNING' ON PAGE 1

One of the things Evans saw from both parents and students while running a virtual school was that parents did not necessarily know all of the components to teaching a certain subject. It did not matter what the grade level of the student was, because the curriculum was complex for parents even at the fifth and sixth grade level. Parents found it advantageous to have quality curriculum and a certified teacher for support in their home environment.

Another major reason why Evans felt it was important to start the exposure of online learning was the similarity between online schooling and college environments. "The reality is, when [students] go to college, [students] will take online courses," Evans said. "The chances of [a student] going through college without taking an online course is minimal." College students also seem to want flexibility in their schedule, and it has become a trend in campuses across America. Evans hopes there are opportunities in the future for all students to have the experience of taking online classes in order to better prepare themselves for post-secondary education.

While the program is built on flexibility, it does require more self-motivation than a typical school setting. "My past experience says that you have to be self-motivated to be successful in an online blended environment," Evans said. "It requires actually more self-discipline than a brick and mortar where you have someone on a daily basis reminding you of due dates, assignments, [or] when the next test is. Here you have to be more responsible for that."

Evans does know that the system would not be for everyone, but he knows there is a huge advantage for home-schooled students with this model. While the program would like to include current OPS students, Evans says that it would start by targeting new students in order to provide funding for the program. OPS would need to hire a director and instructors, a location for that staff, and purchase curriculum, which ties back to getting funding at the state level.

OPS hopes to develop and implement the online blended program by next school year, on a small scale. They would like to start with a K-8 program ideally, then begin to expand to K-12, and eventually have both internal and external enrollment. Evans hopes to grow the program with existing students if they choose to take an advanced class not offered at their school or classes to supplement their learning. However, expansion could be inevitably limited. "I think the majority of students want to be in a brick and mortar environment," Evans said. "It is definitely not for everybody, and we are not recommending it for everybody. But we see young people out there who have special needs, and we are not doing anything to help them and support their educational needs."

Students connected to France share their reactions to the Paris terrorist attacks

CONTINUED FROM 'PARIS' ON PAGE 1

The Paris attacks, according to Requin, caused more fear in the hearts of the French public.

"In Charlie Hebdo, it was really an idea that was attacked... But with [the Paris attacks] it was just this massacre of innocent people that were just there, simply in the street eating, simply at a concert. And that was really terrible, to [think], 'That could have been me,'" Requin said.

In France, the Paris attacks occurred around 10 or 11 p.m. local time. The Friday consisted of normal activities for Joyner, including going to school and meeting with her host father for lunch. Thus, it was not until late at night that she was affected.

"When I learned of the attacks I was watching a movie in the family room, it was probably 11 p.m. My host father came in and told me that there had been a terrorist in Paris and there had been three separate shootings and bomb that had gone off at the stadium, and that he was going turn on the news. We then saw that there was a hostage situation that was going on at a concert. We just sat on the couch in silence watching the news together," Joyner said.

In Omaha, however, Requin was spending her afternoon at IncluCITY, a diversity workshop for high school students. As the program began, the moderators asked the participants to turn off their cellphones so that they would be fully engaged in the activities. As Requin started to power off her cellphone, however, she noticed dozens of messages and notifications from friends back at home and in the U.S.

"I see messages [from] people telling me 'It's awful' and asking 'Have you seen the attacks in Paris?' and my friends in the U.S. texting me and saying 'Is your family okay?' I just started crying. Just right away," she said.

Only hours prior, Requin's mother had arrived in Paris for a business meeting.

As her friends in France tried to text her to keep her updated on the attacks, Requin was trying to contact her mother to make sure she was safe. The leaders of the IncluCITY workshop repeatedly asked her to turn off her cellphone.

"I was crying, knowing my mom was in Paris. They told me to switch off my phone, and I said, 'I can't, people are getting killed in France, and my mom is not answering my texts,'" she said.

Joyner resides with Requin's family, meaning that her host mother is Requin's mother. As Joyner and her host father watched the news, he was trying to contact her host mother in Paris.

"He called my host mother who was in Paris at the time

for a meeting. She didn't pick up until the third time that he called, and then she told him that she was safe and at her hotel," Joyner said.

At the workshop, Requin was moving through assigned activities hoping to hear from her mother soon. Her host father called the workshop and asked to speak to her, but the moderators told him she was busy in an activity and would call back later.

Eventually, Requin called her host father who told her that her mother was safe in Paris. The next day, Requin spoke to her mother who convinced her that she was safe enough to finish her business conference in the city.

The days following the attacks were difficult for the girls to get through. Joyner witnessed a foreign country experiencing tragedy while there, as Requin watched her homeland grieve from afar.

Her host family was anxious over the attacks and concerned for their own safety as well as the safety of their loved ones. The following day, they travelled to Lyon for a birthday celebration, and were planning on visiting a nearby museum.

"Given the state of emergency and the tragedy [the museum] and mostly everything was closed, and there weren't many people out on the streets. We drove past a square in Lyon, and at the base of a statue were lit candles as well as flowers. The French population following the attacks was very strong and united in their state of grief for their country," Joyner said.

Meanwhile, Requin tried to cope with the loss in a community that reacted much differently to the attacks.

"I just felt isolated. It's the type of situation where you just want to be with your people. I wanted to be there. I just wanted to be with my mom to make sure she was okay," she said.

She appreciated the comfort that most people tried to give her, but she still felt misunderstood being in the U.S. She spoke with several other French exchange students staying in the States in order to share their emotions and grief.

"I felt really alone. I felt so alone," Requin said.

As the people of France try to heal and the world searches for a solution to end terrorism, Joyner and Requin try to find their proper place in the difficult situation. Joyner is an American in a foreign land, aiming to help her host family and new friends cope with their loss. Requin is isolated from her home, family and friends, but she is with them at heart, though land and sea may separate them.



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

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

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

The Register has won multiple

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

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of The Register staff and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central High School.

Signed editorials are the opinion of the author alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central High School or The Register staff.

Special thanks to all the faculty and staff of Omaha Central High School and Omaha Public Schools. Your cooperation with our students helps us maintain a professional atmosphere in order to teach media education.

Thank you, readers.

A note from the editors:

Thanks for grabbing a copy of Issue 3 of The Register. After coming back from our 2nd place Best of Show win at the 2015 JEA Conference, we were ecstatic to create this issue. Each section of the publication has a two-page spread on varying topics to fit every reader's interests. Check out our in-depth feature on a Central alum, who was killed in WWII at the age of 19, in the news section. In the perspective & commentary section we have two contrasting editorials considering how to defeat ISIS. In arts & entertainment, we have four reviews on pages 18 and 19. In sports & leisure, we showcase seven athletes with promise for the winter sports season. Didn't see something you wanted to be covered? As always, send us a story; we are happy to print contributing writers.. Thanks to all the help we've gotten from our student teacher, Ms. Wheeler, this semester. We're going to miss you! Thanks so much- and don't forget to follow us on Twitter: @CHS_Press.

Natalie Nepper
Kelsey Thomas
ENJOY!

the REGISTER staff

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

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

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Journalism trip results in multiple awards, hard work pays off



Photo Courtesy of HILLARY BLAYNEY & MARSHA KALAOWSKI

Left: Students pose with their advisor, Hillary Blayney at the convention in Orlando. **Right:** Due to weather and other delays, students were stuck in the Houston airport for 19 hours.

Carlson Koch
staff writer

In the early morning of Nov. 12 the Central High Newspaper and yearbook members began a trek to out-perform all other papers and to produce the most outstanding newspaper.

Blayney accompanied the students as the sponsor for the trip. During the excursion, the students had many objectives and learned quite an array of things, "The yearbook and newspaper staff members learned new photography techniques, interviewing skills and ethical practices," said Blayney.

As well as students learning new skills and techniques for journalism, Blayney developed to appreciate time with students. She said, "I learned how to be patient in an airport with a lot of teenagers. The most important part for me is seeing my students develop a passion for journalism and create memories in the process," she said.

Sebastian Beccerra, senior and a yearbook member traveled along and learned many new skills to help develop his layout skills. "We learned all kinds of things about journalism in general. Workshops made me learn about the layout and more of plagiarism," said Beccerra.

This passion for journalism began his sophomore year of high school, where an open period was available and he decided that, "yearbook looked as good as anything," he said.

During these conferences and seminars, Beccerra developed this love even more than before, specifically the heart that Blayney had been hoping for. "I am going to go to college after this next year, and I felt like I needed to find something I liked. Journalism is a contender for my focus in college," he said.

"I like getting to bond more with the journalism kids," said

Beccerra which was a common while other students felt the same way. By spending so much time together, the group naturally became closer.

Beccerra said that the proximity to friends and the availability of yearbook advice allowed him to expand his horizons.

When creating a yearbook, a central theme is used throughout the published form. "Through the conferences this idea of centering our piece on a main topic was emphasized," said Beccerra.

“ I am going to college after this next year, and I felt like I needed to find something I liked. Journalism is a contender... ”

SEBASTIAN BECCERRA

Yearbook Member

After practicing skills of journalism for a few days at the conventions, awards were given for both individuals and schools. For the best of show plaque, the final standings came out and Central placed second out of the other 471 schools. The sponsor, Blayney explained the feeling by saying, "I was so happy when the newspaper placed second in best of show."

Editors Natalie Nepper and Kelsey Thomas were extremely overjoyed when Central's second place finish was announced. "This is the highest we have placed in a very long time," said Nepper.

As a result of winning this award, the newspaper staff has the opportunity for a Pacemaker award which is an honor to the recipients, the Pacemaker at the high school level consists

of multiple excellent issues. As well as, the Pacemaker is the highest award for high school journalism.

Along with the group award given to the newspaper staff, individuals were honored as well, including senior staff photographer Ann Milroy. At the convention, her name was called for the Excellent Award in Photo Portrait. "I was very surprised," said Milroy when receiving the award for photography. These awards, and others like them made the already extremely educational trip even more beneficial, as the people involved saw the fruits of their labor.

Although the flights to Orlando went smoothly, and taxi transportation made city travel easier, the passage home was a far more complicated. Due to weather delays, the students had to spend 19 hours, with nothing to do, in the Houston George Bush Intercontinental Airport.

The staff improvised and spent time joined with one another remained in a positive mood. The group passed the agonizing hours by racing with wheelchairs, sleeping, watching Netflix and building blanket forts.

Though the job of being a journalist can be challenging, the objective of a journalist is to seek and report the truth, and without the constructive criticisms of other people, it is difficult to realize mistakes. With the conference, both the Newspaper and Yearbook staff members were taught new skills and given fresh, new opinions regarding how they can improve their respective fields. As their advisor, Blayney noted how these skills must constantly be honed.

"My students just have to keep on taking pride in their publications and meeting deadlines," said Blayney. "Then anything is possible."

Central alum patents devices, revolutionizes breast cancer technology

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

Along with the countless amount of graduates from Central, some stick out more than others. Fred Burbank, class of 1959, arrived at Central at age 13 and graduated at age 17. He went on to graduate from Stanford and became a physician who invents medical devices as well.

He credits much of his success to Central. "Central prepared me for the future by exposing me to interesting teachers and classmates and offering me a wide range of extracurricular activities, many requiring that I come to school early and leave late.

Further, because Central drew students from across Omaha, I had friends from all areas of the city with varying backgrounds," Burbank said. The diversity and opportunities Central provided shaped him into the person he is today.

Subsequently graduating from Central, Burbank pursued a career in the medical field at Stanford University, and went to medical school at Stanford as well. Afterwards, he had an internship at Harbor General Hospital, located in Los Angeles. Some of his jobs included being an epidemiologist at the National Cancer Institute, a psychiatry and radiology resident at the Stanford Medical Center as well as a Cardiovascular and Interventional Fellow at Stanford.

Along with being a practicing physician, much of Burbank's notoriety comes from his success as a creator of various medi-

cal devices through which he has earned hundreds of patents. Though this sounds intimidating, most of his ideas start ambiguously.

"My patents start on the back of an envelop at lunch, on a scrap of paper waiting in the car, or while reading a medical article. They all start with drawings that look like the product of a third grade art class. Invention starts with very simple elements. What is the medical problem? How has it been addressed in the past? What has worked? What doesn't work? ... At some point, the device works well enough to test in laboratory animals. When those test are completed well, human trials begin," Burbank said.

Although he has invented numerous devices, one in particular stood out. "I believe that my biggest accomplishment was the invention of a medical device that extracts tissue from deep within the breast to establish a "tissue" diagnosis. I named the device the "Mammotome" to indicate that it extracted tissue from the breast.

"The device is directed to an area within the breast that is of concern. To establish if the area of concern is cancer or not, sufficient tissue needs to be examined under the microscope," Burbank said.

With the invention of the "Mammotome" device, tissue can be obtained without surgery and general anesthesia. According to Burbank, following the procedure the small skin-opening is only covered with a Band-Aid.

Unlike many other physicians, due to his success as the cre-

ator of medical devices, Burbank has been able to experience numerous areas of health.

"I have enjoyed a wide range of activities being a physician. I have been able to use computer techniques to analyze cancer trends in pursuit of the origin of various cancers. I have been able to help patients in a wide range of settings: emergency rooms, psychiatry offices, and in angiography suites," Burbank said. "And more recently, I have been able to create new medical devices to improve health care... Learning though out my life required me to set aside accomplishments I had made in one area of medicine and enter a new area in which I had little or no accomplishment at all. Each of these humbling experiences—and I have had many— have allowed me to expand my world," Burbank said.

Though it may seem as if his only hobby is creating life-altering devices in the medical field, Burbank has at least one more interest. "I fly. Last winter, on nearly the shortest day of the year, I flew a small, twin-engine airplane from where it was manufactured in Austria to Ontario, Canada. On the flight I flew through Artic Circle and had days with no direct sun light," Burbank said.

For students wondering what they would like to do with their lives, he has one piece of advice: "This one is easy. Interest. I followed my interests. That is what lead me to learn different medical specialties and to invent." Burbank said, "When I was interested, I never considered work to be 'work.'"

a voice from the grave

John Cottingham, a Central graduate from the class of 1943, was killed at the age of 19 during military service. His family has collected letters and mementos sent by him during the war, and has maintained his gravesite for decades. Through interviews with his loved ones and relatives, The Register revisits his story.

john cottingham

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

For over 150 years, Central High School has been producing some of the nation's top scholars, athletes and professionals in their various fields. Amongst these thousands of alumni, many have chosen the humble yet gallant task of defending the liberty of this country. From the First Great War and onward, dozens of Central men and women have stepped into harm's way so that people they would never know could find peace, and within this number many have paid the ultimate and final price for that very freedom. Class of 1943 graduate and U.S. Army Private First Class John Cottingham is one of these brave individuals, whose actions away from "the Nest," in a distant land represented true valor and in death continued to purvey the meaning of loyalty and honor.

Cottingham was born in Springfield, Illinois, on June 27th, 1925, where he grew up until the second semester of his freshman year of high school, when his family moved into the Dundee neighborhood in Omaha, Nebraska. The house he grew up in still stands today, and Cottingham enrolled at Central High School on January 29, 1940.

During his time at Central, Cottingham kept an extremely busy schedule and made sure to commit himself to his new school in the fullest possible manner. Academically, he was an honor roll student and was also a National Honor Society member, being described as a good student, but also as one who had some difficulties in making it to class on time. After completing his senior year, Cottingham has accumulated 112 tardy marks.

On the activities side, Cottingham was involved in Reserve Officers Training Corps and made the rank of second lieutenant in charge of a platoon. He also served as an air raid warden as his high school years coincided with recurring threats of attack on the mainland stemming from the ongoing World War II, and also stood at attention during all battalion parades. Cottingham also played on the school golf team and was a member of a bowling team known as the "Klassy Keglers." His club participation included Latin Club, Chess Club and he was a member of the Senior Committee.

Beginning his junior year, Cottingham became the sports editor for this very paper, The Register, and he would hold this position until his graduation, being described by one of his teachers as, "one of the best writers with creative ability." Writing was his sweet spot, and from his editor's desk in room 149, Cottingham authored dozens of sports stories and even founded his own humorously named organization in light of one of his favorite anecdotes, the S. P.U.U.F.W.T.E.F.T.F.W.J.O.T.N.C.T.O., or the Society for the Picking Up of Unfortunate Fellows Who Trip and Fall Flat

on Their Faces When Jumping Over a Tennis Net to Congratulate Their Opponents.

Cottingham used his column, "by Cott," to express his love for sports spiced with a flair for sarcasm and a quick wit. In one of his final interviews with The Register, he even joked about the end WWII as he said, "The war will be over on January 27th, 1947, at which time the Hottentots will rise up and try to conquer the world so don't say you weren't warned."

When not at school or participating in related activities, Cottingham worked as a dishwasher for Union Pacific and also practiced and played in gold tournaments at the Omaha Country Club, and when not doing either of these, he could often be found enjoying a hamburger or at the Blackstone Hotel. All of this ended one day before his 18th birthday, when he entered the U.S. Army's 75th Division on June 26th, 1943.

“A little over a week following victory at Herdecke, John Cottingham was killed on April 25, 1945, two months and two days before his 20th birthday, and 12 days before World War II in Europe would end.”

Cottingham received his basic military training at Fort Leonard Wood in Missouri, and during his 18 months there he was recruited into the Army Specialized Training Program, which for the mean time managed to keep him out of combat as it was geared towards academics and other non-infantry roles. However, following the massive casualties resulting from D-Day landings in 1944 and the ensuing battles to secure Europe's coasts, the men of this program were pressed into service as infantry soldiers and were subjected to months of weapons and endurance training before being deployed to England as the "Make Ready" Division in November of 1944.

The division landed in Great Britain on November 22, and there in Wales, Cottingham authored the final letter than his family would ever receive from their beloved son. Dated the third of December 1944, he wrote of "the parts of American life that seem stronger and happier to me every day. One is going to church on a sunny Sunday and the crowd there," and "the biggest one of all I guess, is the town you know and the people there."

Departing the friendliness of an allied nation, Cottingham's division was deployed to France in mid-December and then into Belgium, where arising German threats required rapid response. Ultimately, the battle that the men of his division had been thrown into would become known

as the infamous Battle of the Bulge, in which German Panzer units drove deep into American lines the allies were forced to fight them back. With sub-zero temperatures, constant mortar barrages and hidden mine fields, Cottingham's 289th Infantry of the 75th Division suffered heavy casualties during their time in the Ardennes forest.

The 75th Division was even sent to relieve the beleaguered and now famous 82nd Airborne Division along the Salm River, before being brought back up to full strength and going back on the offensive. Attacking across the river, the 75th managed to capture several key town in securing and allied foothold on the other side. For the next month or so, the 75th continued to take village after village, and work to secure the areas surrounding the Rhine River, before the allies' final offensive to take the German fatherland, before being relieved and sent to a rest area in Holland for a recuperation period lasting from February of 1945 until March of the same year.

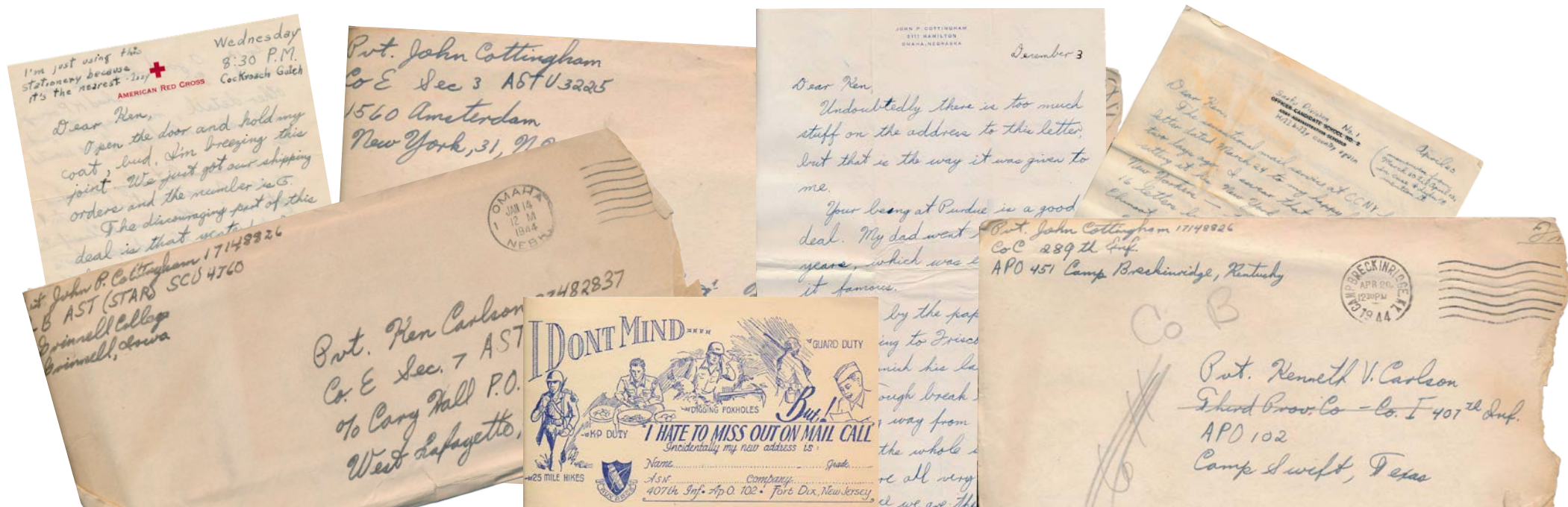
The 75th was once again put back on the line, and was tasked with crossing the Rhine and eliminating the remaining resistance in Germany's industrial heartland, the Ruhr pocket. Eventually this mission would be reinforced by several more army groups and would even accept the surrender of the German city of Herdecke on April 14th, 1945.

A little over a week following victory at Herdecke, John Cottingham was killed on April 25, 1945, two months and two days before his 20th birthday, and 12 days before World War II in Europe would end. By this time very little organized resistance was faced by the Americans, and the majority of casualties stemmed from random sniper attacks and artillery barrages. Twelve other members of his company died that day, most likely due to sniper fire, ambush or vehicle accidents.

For his gallantry and military service, Cottingham was awarded the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star for valor. John now lies in eternal slumber amongst the hallowed rows of plain white crosses that line the fields of Margraten Cemetery in the Netherlands, where his headstone at Plot I, Row 19, Grave I reads John Paul Cottingham June 27, 1925-April 25, 1945. Dutch natives Mark Henssen and his grandmother Gertge now watch over his grave, as their family has for the last decade.

Upon being notified of his son's death, Cottingham's father Paul authored, in a 1945 family Christmas card, a poem that has rung and continues to ring true for thousands of American families whose children have fallen in defense of their nation.

"We prayed that you'd be spared;
Perhaps you never knew how much we cared.
We thank you, son, and other sons who sleep
In many lands. Now we'll the vigil keep."



a lasting legacy

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

During World War II, people from the Netherlands were liberated by American troops. Even today they are very thankful for the efforts of the troops and realize how different their lives could be if American troops hadn't intervened. As a way to give back, an 'Adopt a Grave' program has been established at the Margraten Cemetery in the Netherlands to honor the American soldiers' graves overseas which do not have American families to come visit them.

Gertje Henssen, a Margraten grave adopter, was present when a group of Omaha Central students visited the cemetery. "Ton Hermes [president of Margraten cemetery] told us about a very special day. A delegation of American students would come visit the cemetery on June 9, 2015. Mark and I were invited to come because six soldiers had gone to the very same school as these students, of which our John Cottingham was one. That day was unforgettable and the emotions were beyond description," Henssen and her grandson Mark Henssen have adopted John Cottingham's grave.

On that day, students and teachers met with fellow grave adopters and shared information about the Central alum the families had adopted. The students were accepted into the city hall by the governor and were revered highly by the various families. It was an opportunity for these families to learn more about the soldiers they had adopted and how their life was like back in America.

"We got to know more about our soldier because the students brought a complete folder with documents. In there, we found out [that] John Cottingham wrote for the local journal at school. Finding out about these things makes John more and more of a person we know and want to take care of, therefore, I am sure that John Cottingham will be well cared for from now on," Gertje said.

However, Gertje has been involved with the Adopt a Grave program for quite some time. This program has been a family effort for decades.

"My first memories of the foundation ['Adopt a Grave' program in Margraten] was about 70 years ago," Gertje said. Gertje was just a child then, but remembers her visiting the gravesite with her parents. Her parents started the tradition of adopting a grave in remembrance of the American soldiers.

"Together with my parents, we often visited Margraten by bike and we always took some flowers with us. The name of that soldier is unfortunately forgotten. After a couple of years that my parents adopted him, his family took the soldier back to his birthplace in America," Gertje said.

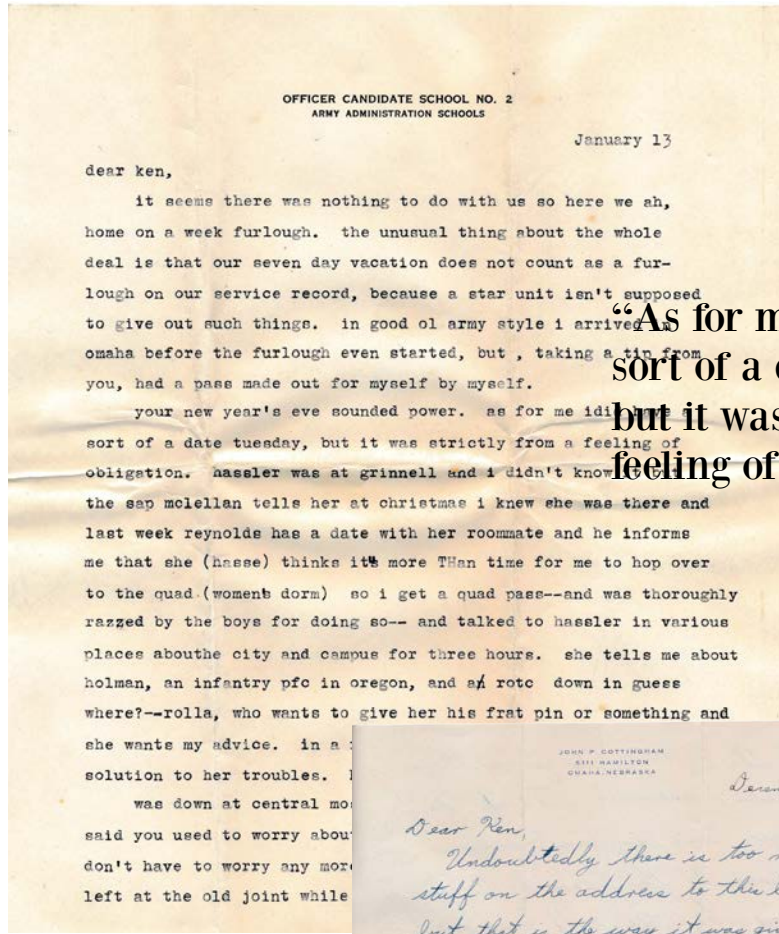
After the soldier's body was sent back, Gertje and her family lost touch with the program, but not for good. The Adoption Foundation reached out to Gertje again in 2005. They asked her if her family, Henssen-Kusters, had adopted a grave in Margraten a couple of years ago. "They were looking for a family which they hadn't spoken with a long time, so I went to the city hall and asked if they knew a family by the name of Henssen-Kusters who had adopted a grave, but unfortunately I couldn't find the family who had," Gertje said.

Coincidentally, Cottingham's grave needed adopters, and when Hermes reached out to Gertje and Mark, they couldn't pass it up. "I just felt right, so I did, and it was a special day. Together with my children and grandchildren, we went to the grave and that's where I asked my grandson Mark if he would take over the grave when I'm no longer here," Gertje said.

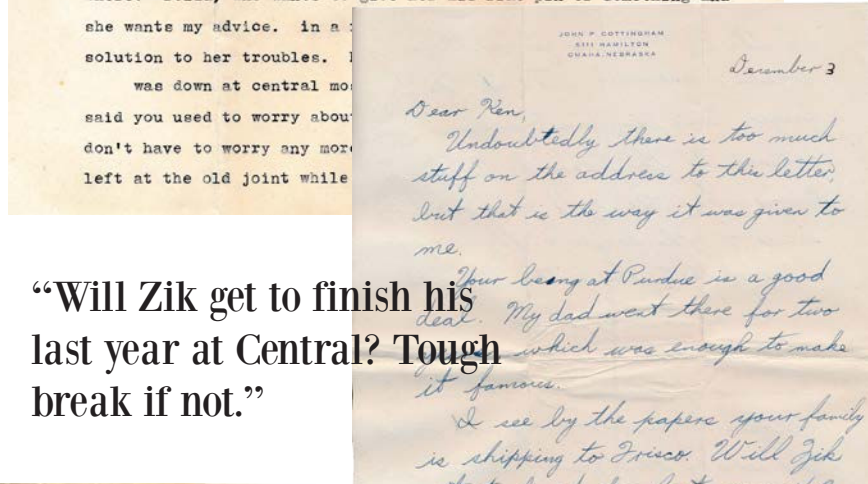
Whenever Cottingham and the soldiers are honored, such as during the 70th anniversary of the cemetery and when Central students visited the soldier alumni's graves during the summer, Gertje and Mark are always present.

During the visitation alongside the students in the summer, Gertje and Mark, in each other's embrace, delivered flowers to Cottingham's grave. They shared an unexplainable bond that promises Cottingham will be revered highly in their eyes as long as they live.

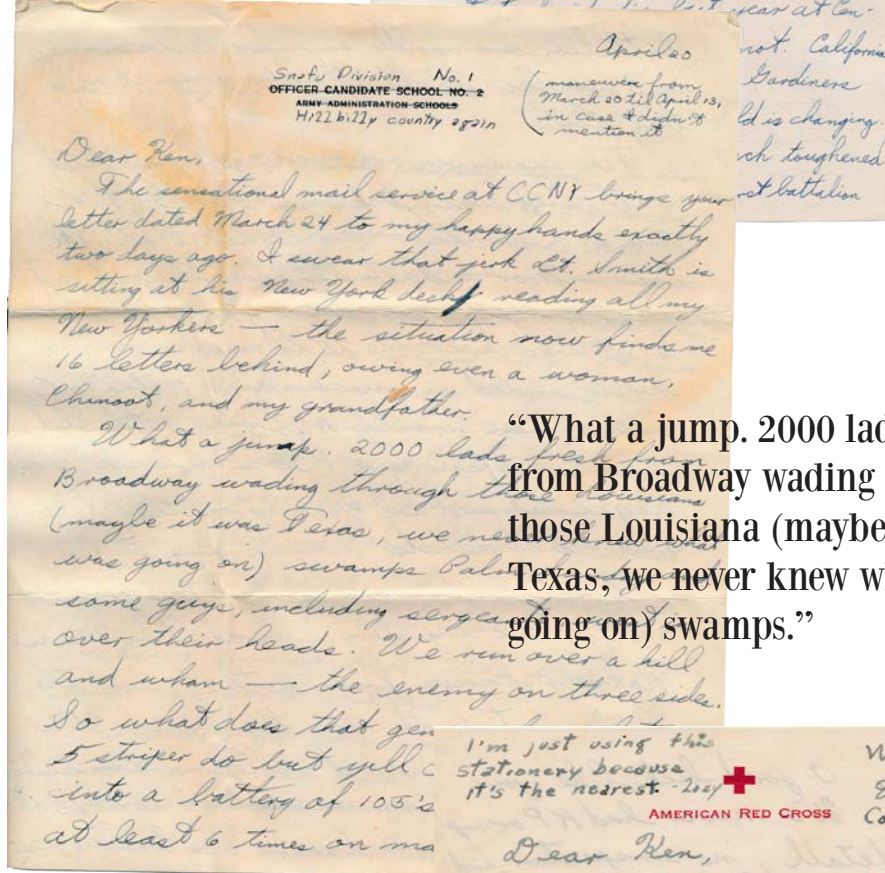
"Mark and I swore never to leave John Cottingham so that he would never be alone and without family again," Gertje said. "On Memorial Day in Margraten, we got a picture of John, and that's when he became even closer to our family."



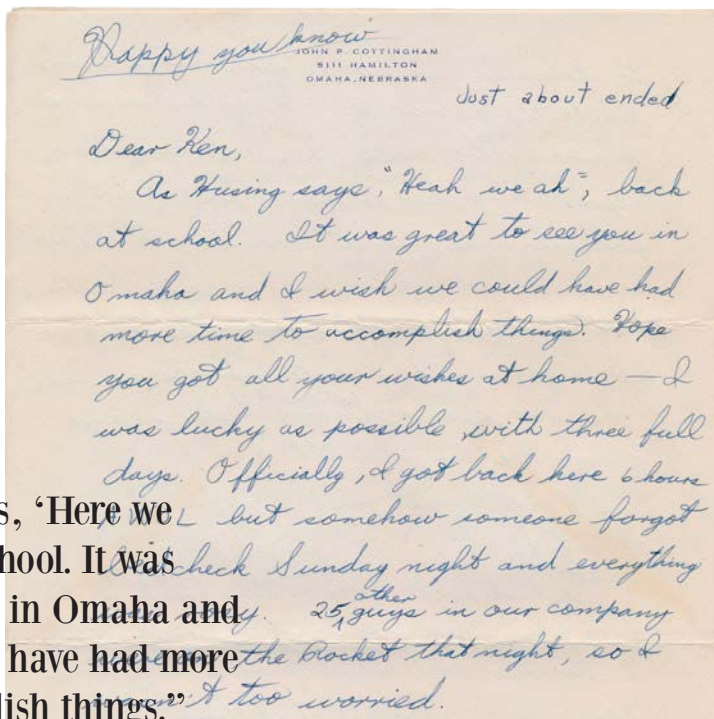
"As for me I did have a sort of a date Tuesday, but it was strictly from a feeling of obligation."



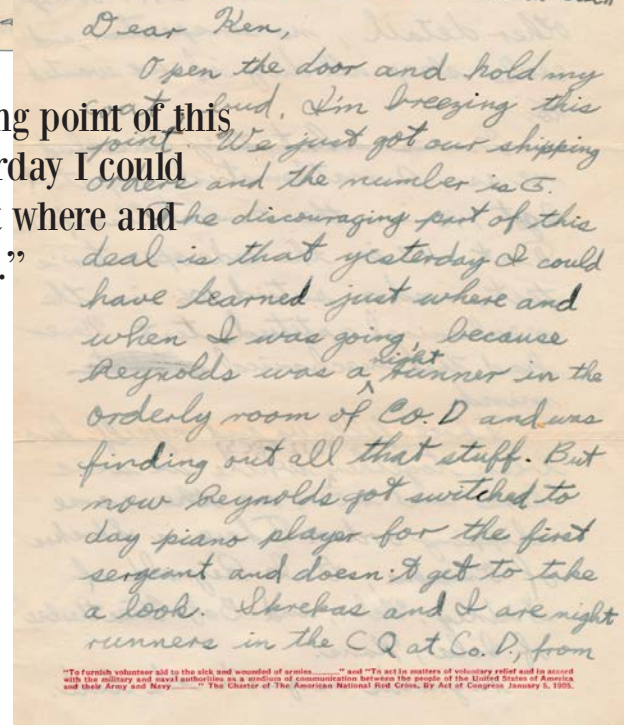
"Will Zik get to finish his last year at Central? Tough break if not."



"What a jump. 2000 lads fresh from Broadway wading through those Louisiana (maybe it was Texas, we never knew what was going on) swamps."



"As Husing says, 'Here we are,' back at school. It was great to see you in Omaha and I wish we could have had more time to accomplish things."



"The discouraging point of this deal is that yesterday I could have learned just where and when I was going."

These letters, saved by Central graduate Ken Carlson, document John Cottingham's contact with his friends back home while he was away at war.



FINALS WEEK 09

While other schools have finals during convenient time periods, OPS continues to remain set in its ways, but says its open to change.

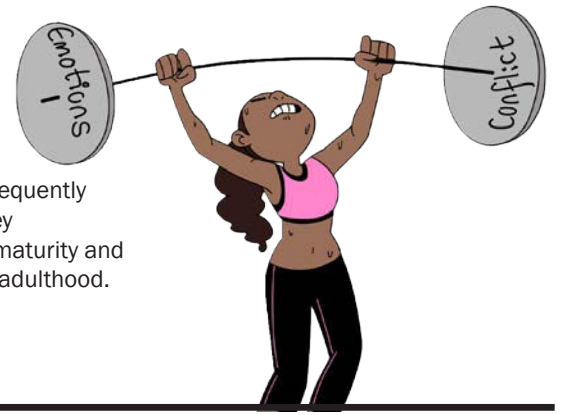


ISIS SPREAD 10-11

Following the terror attacks in Paris, war is seen by many as the solution. Is this really the only option?

COLLEGE 14

As college students frequently become offended, they demonstrate their immaturity and lack of preparation for adulthood.



perspective & commentary

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(UN)SAFE SPACES

Creating "safe spaces" on college campuses violates the First Amendment, silences debate and should not exist.



ANN MILROY & JULIAN HOCK-BEATY | The Register

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

The first amendment has always been a topic of controversy. In this day and age, there is a significant amount of discrepancies regarding an individual's speech rights. Drawing moral lines is hard, because hate speech and slander is often defended as "free speech."

College campuses seem to be the epicenter for protests and rallies. Most of the time, the issue is somehow related to politics. College students develop a sense of empowerment that only strengthens during the process of becoming newly-independent adults. Opinions are voiced explicitly, and this often creates tension, uproar, and sometimes even violence. It completely depends on the nature of the issue at hand.

The first amendment is used as a shield (as well as ammunition) by young protestors and student activists. "Free speech" is an overused and misunderstood term used incessantly by these people. This happens regardless of how ridiculous, inaccurate and offensive their statements and arguments may be. It's un-

fortunate, because the law (which should be comprehended accurately) becomes perverted in favor of people who don't really know what they're talking about.

A new developing trend in U.S. colleges is a concept called "safe spaces." This is basically an accessible location (or locations) on campus where harsh opinions cannot be expressed. People in the designated area become "protected" and "immune" to any so-called hurtful comments and statements.

Here's why this whole idea is completely idiotic. The hypocrisy of this concept is astounding, because again, college should be a place for expressing ideas openly. If a certain group aggravates another, something along the lines of "It's our right to say what we want, its freedom of speech" is said. However, if the situation was flipped, the group would likely be the ones offended. Safe spaces essentially serve as places for whiney students to go when they can't take what they dish out.

Another serious issue with safe spaces is that it inevitably

CONTINUE TO 'SAFE SPACE'
ON PAGE 12

New writing course develops student research techniques

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

The objective of any academic course is, or should be, to completely and effectively not only educate students in the subject matter, but teach them to apply the skills they learned to other situations. Contrary to popular belief, not all classes fulfill standards. One that does, though, is that of Central's Honors Academic Research Writing (H ARW).

Tracey Menten, CAS coordinator and Theory of Knowledge instructor of the IB department, teaches the class, along with help from the head librarian, Beth Eilers. H ARW, though it is taught by an IB teacher, is not synonymous to IB students. Any student of any grade can take the class. Additionally, it is the first of its kind in the Omaha Public School system and has had resonating effects on its students.

As a student in the H ARW class, I firmly believe that it is the best class I have ever taken in my whole educational career. Not only has it improved my writing skills drastically, but it has influenced my perception. It has also taught me to be more reflective and analytical and it has shown me that open-mindedness is a key concept.

In the duration of one semester, the course covers material such as English writing, historical writing and scientific writing. This is so students can use the skills they learn in the H ARW classroom in a completely different classroom as well.

For instance, in an English class, if a research paper was required, those who had taken the H ARW course beforehand would have an unbelievably affirmative advantage. The class covers how to research effectively, find reliable and academic sources, write an annotated bibliography, write reflectively and revise previous work.

This class has been extremely effective in developing my own thoughts, formulating my own opinions and backing up those thoughts and opinions with solid research. Not only is the curriculum exceptional in quality, but so are the instructors of the class.

Personally, when a teacher is passionate about the subject matter they teach and if they actually care about their students, I am more prone to succeed while simultaneously enjoying the class. Menten and Eilers do a wonderful job of simply teaching. They both explain the material in a way that every student can understand, rather than just giving us handouts, worksheets and tests that will only further discourage them.

In addition to the writing and curriculum based aspect of the class, it entails activities such as class discussions, personal evaluations, Socratic seminars and several other entities. Menten ensures that the classroom is always an open environment and that all ideas and thoughts are welcome. Her refreshing perspective on education and her unique teaching methods are what makes her classes so extraordinary.

Also, since the class size is fairly small, both Menten and Eilers have time to focus on the class individually and as a whole. Because there are students from varying grade levels with different strengths, the instructors recognize that each student is coming in at a different point in their academic career.

Academic Research Writing stemmed from a four-week summer class that was offered in 2014. Each week was taught by a different set of teachers; so, for example Eilers and the AP World and Academic Decathlon instructor Ms. Deniston-Reed taught history writing.

This is the first year the class has been offered and it's had an extremely positive response. This semester there are sixteen students, and next semester there will be twenty. It has been predicted that the number will continue to increase just because of word of mouth, and rightfully so.

If there is any class that deserves immediate and abiding recognition, it is Academic Research Writing. This class has quite honestly changed the way I think and the way I look at certain situations, for the better. I believe every student should

Gift giving can be simple, fun, inexpensive

It is no secret that the holiday season, while fun in concept, is full of stress. There's party planning, food preparation, gift purchasing, wrapping and of course the seasonal decorating.

No matter your religion or holiday schedule, these days off won't come without a little bit of hassle.

As only a high school student, I never take time to get wrapped up in holiday stress until finals week is over. Even after that, when my family and friends bombard me with last minute items on their wish list, I manage to live. But I couldn't do it without my trademarked surefire way to survive holiday gift-giving as a teenager (and probably as an adult, although I haven't tested that theory yet).

My first and most important tip is to start early.

As a self-proclaimed expert in procrastination, I understand the trauma that comes with putting things off until the last minute. That's why I get going with gift shopping as soon

as I can.

The trick is I never set out with the goal to buy gifts. Whenever I'm out getting something else, no matter the time of year, I keep an eye out for things my family and friends like. And if I find something they'd enjoy, I buy it. That way, when December rolls around, I won't have to worry about any last-minute costs except wrapping paper.

Always keep a stash of generic gifts.

Endless "Secret Santa," "White Elephant" and other gift giving games pop out of nowhere after Thanksgiving. This stash is especially helpful even before the holiday season, when those forgotten birthdays appear.

The internet is your best friend, I can't stress it enough. The best day of the year for online deals is Cyber Monday, and being an Amazon Prime member will save

CONTINUE TO 'HOLIDAYS'
ON PAGE 12



NATALIE NEPPER
NOT TOO DEEP

Central's final schedule illogical, other schedules more efficient

Most other schools seem to have the right idea: have finals the last two days of the semester. Central's use of three days, lengthening specific periods each day, and not having a make-up day, is not logical and does not benefit the students or the teachers.

There are at least two other metro area high schools without block scheduling who administer finals on the last two days of the semester.

Millard North is one of these schools. Even though they have eight periods a day, for the last two days before break, they change to a block schedule format. Odd periods are lengthened on the first day, and then even are lengthened on the second day. However, this format would not work with Central due to the uneven amount of periods.

A more likely solution to diminishing the awkward construction of finals week would be to mimic Omaha South's final schedule. Like Central, South also has nine periods a day. For the last two days before break, they will still have every period. The bell schedule remains the same, and even periods have finals Thursday, and odd periods have finals Friday. Extended finals over the two day periods may be offered, which gives teachers flexibility in the type of final they offer.

One scenario that no OPS school currently implements is to shorten the school day by eliminating periods without finals. Students would be on board with this, and the concern of it being "too taxing" on students would not be valid. No student would complain about getting out earlier. Plus, they would not have to put up with drifting from period to period after their finals, completing busy work, the only option teachers are left with after their students take their finals.

Assistant principal Tom Wagner addresses that transportation is more of a concern that limits them from shortening the school day. He recalls that he just had particular periods for three days during finals week, and that it was ideal, but it is not possible for Central to implement this because there are over 40 buses. "We couldn't shorten the day to just have finals for those days," Wagner said.

But why not? It's not like the busses have any other duties.



ISABELLA FILIPS | Contributing Cartoonist

Elementary schools are not dismissed at this time, so plenty of busses would be available to bus students home early. Rather than a logical reason as to why finals cannot be shortened, this serves as a way to put off addressing changing the schedule. By saying "oh, sorry we can't change it, transportation wouldn't comply," they seem to have a reason as to why it has to be done in this manner.

Therefore, any one of these formats would not only be beneficial to students, but also to teachers. After the students finish the final, what are the teachers supposed to do with the remaining time that they are forced to fill with the remaining days? Play a part of a movie? Supply the students with busy work? There is no purpose—students couldn't care less about watching a fragment of a movie or completing holiday

puzzles. Overall, South's schedule may prove much more efficient than shortening the school day. Obviously this works for South, because they have not altered the way in which students take finals. Changing the format to mimic South's would not be as demanding as shortening the school day, so there is no reason as to why Central could not change it.

Wagner admits that the way they are doing it now is how Central has been doing finals ever since that he can remember, but that he would be open to new ideas. Whatever format it may be, change has to come, and finals week must not be dragged out.

IN THE
OPINION
OF THE
REGISTER

College academics no longer focused on practical majors, rather, hobbies

Carlson Koch
staff writer

College is a make or break time for all individuals involved. The path they choose to take is a large indicator of the rest of their lives, and this often starts with the selection of an academic major. However, what began as a path to careers and a better future, college majors have now fallen into the realm of adult hobbies and often do little to prepare their charges for being productive citizens.

Many college majors serve no purpose other than large debts for the students.

Perhaps one of the least valuable educational paths, Cannabis Cultivation is present in California and is primarily promotes many addictive substances. This major teaches people how to grow these "crops," and provides little else in actual world experience.

Marijuana may not be enjoyed by everyone, but laughter is. Comedy is prevalent at the Toronto Humber College where writing and speaking classes are required for this diploma. Internships also require the students to perform at the Yuk Yuk's comedy club every week.

Considering these majors, and their ridiculousness, someday there will eventually come a point where even a sport becomes a major. As with comedy, majoring in sports does not take a lot of intelligence.

A college major for illegal substances in many states is confusing enough, but even auctioneering is a program. In this, graduate students learn the well-known, "Going once, going twice, three times... Sold!" One class teaches future auctioneers how to specialize in a developed eye which spots items worth selling.

In Maryland, golf course upkeep is a major that teaches students the techniques and methods behind repairing and maintain

the grounds on country clubs and other greens.

Even with archeologists knowing some things about Ancient Egyptians, combining these two leads to the creation of Egyptology. While enrolled, the class brings students back to the birthplace of civilization while even being able to work to a Ph.D in Egyptology.

So many of these majors are more of a hobby rather than something to be studied.

Ultimately, people could use these skills that interest them towards a different major. For Egyptology, someone could provoke archeology as an interest and the study Egypt as a passion. With archeology as a major this study of Egypt can

be accomplished, as well as a an outlet towards a viable career.

Colleges perpetuate unemployable human beings by offering these majors.

If you played golf, management is a suitable choice for a career, but it is a something that should be part of a broader major, not a specific path.

Majors merely present a stepping stone to a bigger world of jobs and makes people more of a diverse employee.

In addition to graduate majors, puppetry is an undergraduate-program for college students. Rather than playing with "dolls" these students could be practicing law or something more productive. People who are lazy will find interest in these majors.

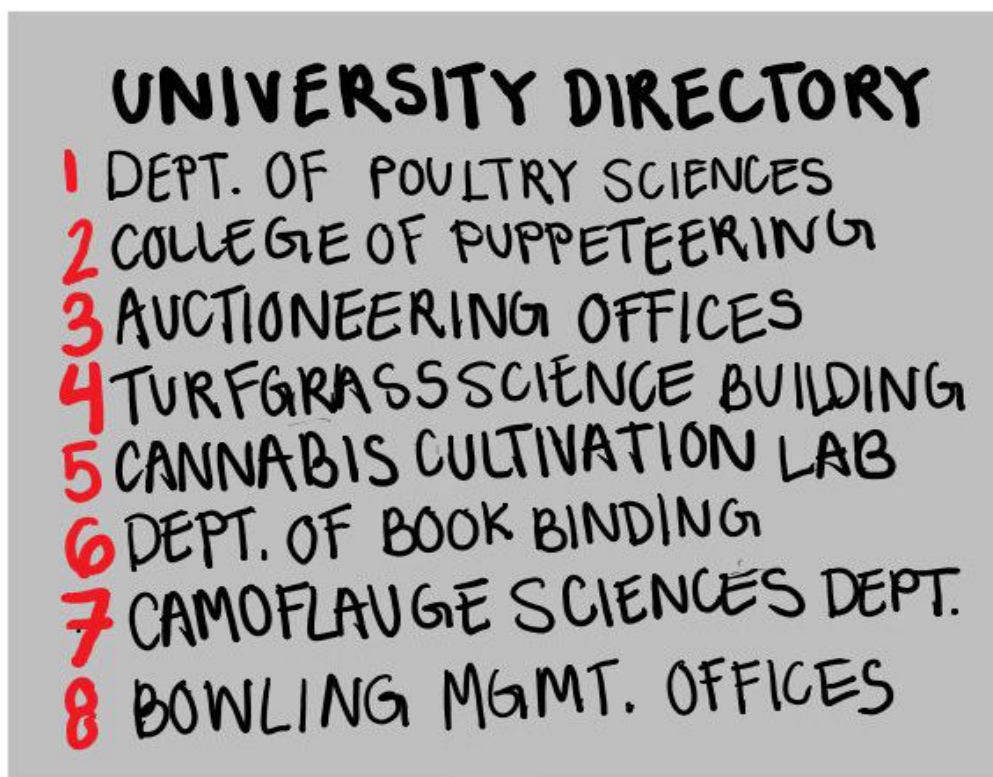
Puppetry focuses on a certain skills rather than life skills. No other opportunities other than puppetry are available. Opposed to teaching where you can either do elementary teaching, or take it farther to become a professor.

Although acting does not include many academic related jobs or classes, but they must work proficiently and constantly to have the advantage when applying for jobs. Being an actor at first consists of waiting and very little chances to become famous.

In and out, colleges operate off of the money students pay, and at the end of the day they strive to pull people in with whatever it may take, whether it be a ridiculous major or not.

More importantly, one of the main reasons college is so expensive nowadays is because colleges are financing these ridiculous majors.

They are not free. They require professors, buildings and funding. In other words, students who don't even partake in these silly majors are still having to support them. In reality, these funds could be used for more important majors, such as in the fields of science and medicine.



a shot in the dark

The recent attacks in Paris have opened American citizens' eyes to the dangers of ISIS. ISIS must be defeated, but the question of how to do so remains.

Militaristic action, invasion necessary to defeat ISIS

Alec Rome
web editor

The Paris attacks were a frightening example of the power that ISIS has in convincing its followers to attack their homeland. After many attacks inside of Syria and the Middle East, ISIS was successful in branching overseas to France and making a major impact. Attacks such as the one in France that killed more than 120 people cannot be tolerated, and unfortunately the United States will have no choice but to provide some assistance or make a collective effort in eliminating ISIS from its headquarters in Syria.

Nobody wants to go back to war again. But without some sort of military action, ISIS will keep sitting in their headquarters, ordering their followers around. The social media outreach of ISIS has kept people in the United States and across the world in fear; including some events in Atlanta, Georgia rumored to be under threat on November 22. The people of these countries should not be forced to continue living in fear, but if no significant action is made to eliminate ISIS, fear will continue to be present in citizens across the globe. Striking fear is the goal of a terrorist organization; people must stand unwavering in order to take away the power terrorism can possess.

How do we begin to combat the fear that ISIS has created? Limit their social media outreach and stop people from helping them and (allegedly) the hacking group called Anonymous has begun to take down thousands of ISIS-affiliated Twitter accounts over the past few months. Preventing attacks abroad is a two-sided fight, on the cyber battlefield and the desert terrain of Syria. We can't eliminate ISIS from cyberspace fully, but any reduction of power is a step in the right direction.

While the United States and many other anti-ISIS forces are making ground, air strikes like the ones France made merely days after the Paris

attacks do no good. France dropped twenty bombs on sites that were already evacuated. While President Obama has stated that the current strategy of making air attacks on ISIS-occupied territories has worked, eventually the battle will reach a point where ISIS will need to be hit hard on the ground.

Air attacks will get the job done in a few years, but in that time, ISIS may be able to attack cities in the United States, across Europe and cause even more unnecessary destruction. Whatever their goal is has not been reached, and Paris will only be the beginning. Ultimately, ISIS must have their eyes on the United States, and with that amount of time, ISIS can keep relocating and make a detailed plan like they did in Paris, and cause more and more deaths. Is it worth taking a backseat to the problem?

It could be argued that ISIS has not actually attacked the United States, therefore we do not have the right to attack the region. However, ISIS has conflicted with U.S. interests and the values of mankind, as well as one of their allies has been attacked. It is up to us to respond, and a firm response sends a message that any threat or attack toward our country will not be tolerated. The civilians need to be evacuated from the region for their own protection, otherwise ISIS will continue to shield themselves with citizens, thus making it harder to justify attacking them. ISIS must be hit hard with many airstrikes at once, not the current plan that Obama seems to think will succeed.

While keeping U.S. troops off the ground and out of imminent danger, the United States needs to be more aggressive in attacking, so that ISIS has to be more focused on defending their territory than planning an attack. Somehow, the world needs to beat them at their

own game; getting into the heads of people. Making ISIS panic is a difficult task, but if successful, it can be the turning point in the Syrian civil war. Because they control a large piece of territory, they can make it difficult for Kurdish and

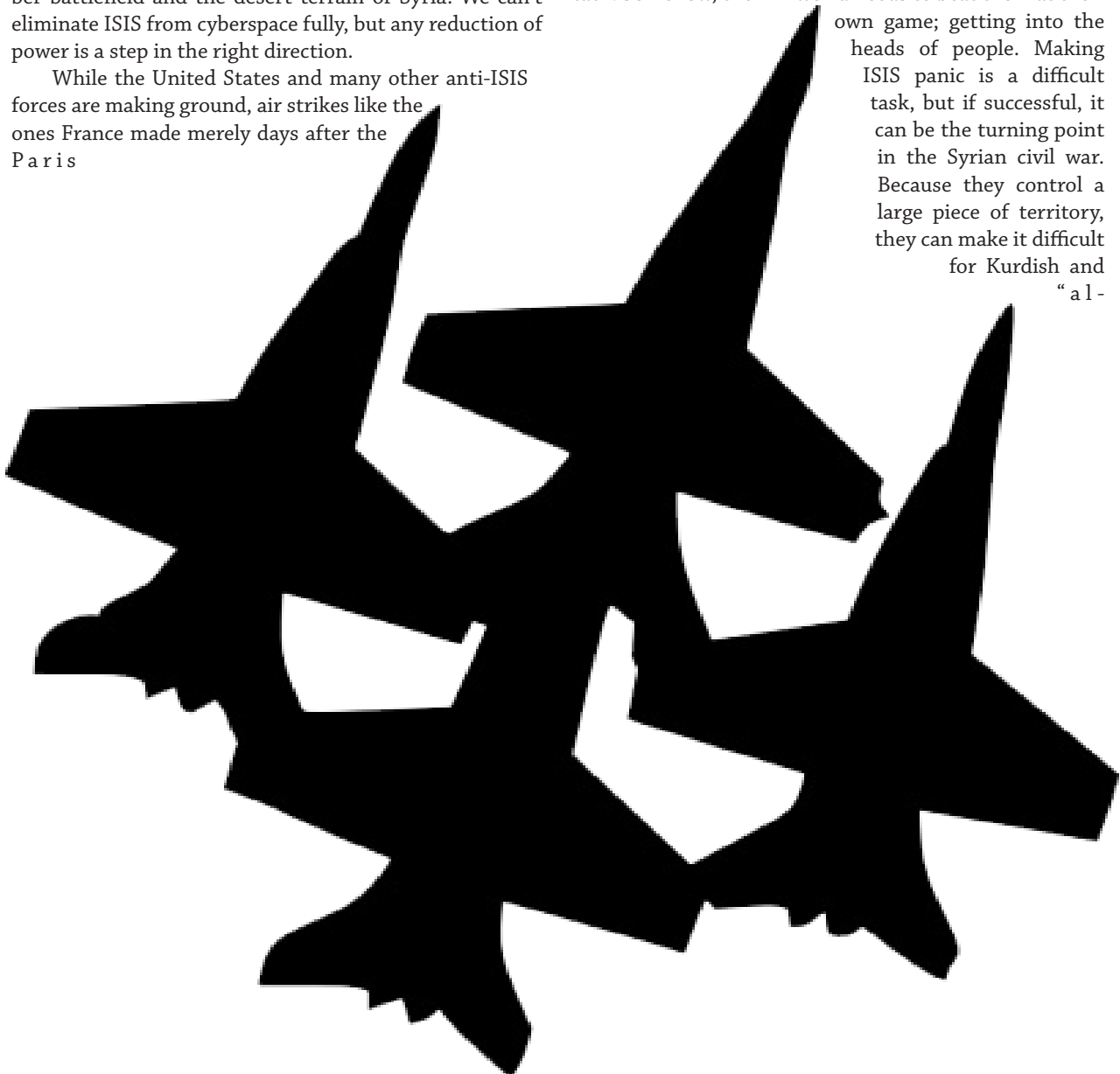
“al-” forces to move close to important areas such as Raqqa, which is known to be the headquarters of ISIS. So, a combination of many target airstrikes and ground support will be able to cut the amount of space ISIS controls and will make them start to retreat.

The idea of taking Raqqa leaves an interesting situation, because it would require them to occupy the area for an extended period of time. Many people would not be in favor of staying in the country for very long, as seen by the public backlash of Iraq and Afghanistan. No matter what strategy the U.S. chooses to employ in eliminating ISIS, it will take years to get the job done. It may require U.S., France and others to stay in Syria and Iraq until ISIS is eliminated.

If the U.S. chooses not to make a permanent stay in the region, they cannot send any special operations troops. While it goes against normal “numbers game” logic, sending troops in the region will only put them in danger of getting killed, due to the lack of supporting firepower from Kurdish. Some are using old AK-47s that pale in comparison to the finances and weaponry of ISIS and its supporters. With that kind of support deficit, those troops are being put in a deadly situation which they don't need to be in. If the U.S. are going to send troops anywhere, it needs to be a place where they have at least a favorable likelihood of succeeding. 36 trained soldiers versus thousands of ISIS radicalists will not end well for the U.S., no matter how skilled soldiers are in combat. The only way to play the “numbers game” is by sending in enough troops so that the fight is reasonable; the logic that “any troops are good troops” is fatal reasoning.

The only solution that would bring results in a quick manner is by sending an army of troops to support those who already are fighting in the region, then making strategic airstrikes that will actually make a difference. Finding the right balance of ground support to ensure all targets are eliminated from a certain site, then continuing to move forward into important ISIS-held cities and areas. Airstrikes must not be few and far between, they need to be purposeful and frequent, only to get ISIS to evacuate and make them keep retreating. Without ground support, ISIS could continue moving while keeping most of its numbers. Ground support is a safety net so that ISIS cannot regenerate once the U.S. leaves Syria. Taking over Raqqa quickly is a must, not only for psychological support but also to give U.S. forces a base where they can have supplies shipped in safely, something that may not be possible with the current forces in Syria. Time is the key; give ISIS less time to react and plan, and keep pushing. If ISIS can't step up and fight U.S. forces, then they won't exist very much longer. The more time spent in Syria means the more money that will be spent on the military effort, more lives that could be lost and more time for ISIS to continue to spread terror throughout the world while continuing to become stronger. This fight will take time, but the less time and the quicker the U.S. starts taking over ISIS-controlled cities the better.

ISIS are an incredibly cowardly organization; they attack innocent people and “act” like they are a force to be reckoned with when in all reality they have not made a real offensive on important buildings and military sites. The U.S. must make ISIS face the music, knock them on their heels and give them no room to breathe. The effort must be relentless and powerful, because ISIS won't be able to keep all their territory for that long. Otherwise, terrorist attacks like Paris will be just the beginning of the destruction of peace and the killing of innocent people. The world must band together not for political gain, but for humanity.



Instead of attacking, America must first halt terrorism funding

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

Following the 9/11 attacks against the United States in 2001, the people of France spent days mourning the losses of American life and vowed to never allow that day to be forgotten in their European land. Similarly, the murders of 130 plus civilians on French soil by the Islamic State this past November has caused many in America to feel a common identity and empathy with the people of France. Alongside this sympathy, the fires of war have also been stoked, as many Congressional Republicans urged President Obama to immediately increase military pressure on the Islamic State and even Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton called for a U.S. led no-fly zone over Syria. For governments, the time immediately following a crisis are the absolute worst times to legislate or take hasty action, because the facts are not all clear and emotion supersedes logic, and regardless of how horrific the Islamic State may be, the United States must take heed of the past and resist the notion that war is the only answer to solving the violence in the Middle East.

Even before considering whether or not the United States should enter into full scale combat with the Islamic State, one must first look the past what has happened as a result of American intervention in the Middle East, the answer, nothing but more chaos and power vacuums. To bring this up, it is often met with the rebuttal of "Well, look what they did to Paris, we can't let that continue." Sure this is a moral concern, but the proposed solution then is to invade Iraq once more and use overwhelming force to destroy ISIS. Sound similar to the prelude to the last invasion of Iraq in 2003? Well that is because it is.

After Saddam Hussein had been toppled in Iraq, the United States quickly discovered that the system of democracy it has wanted so badly to export was entirely incompatible with the culture of the Middle East. Without a constant military presence, a new evil would quickly take over, and take over they did. As soon as American forces were removed from Iraqi soil, ISIS emerged as a threat.

The U.S. had used overwhelming military force to expel an evil dictatorship, but in return they did not find peace and stability, but rather hundreds of dead soldiers and a decade long occupation necessitated by the incompatibility of democracy with Middle Eastern customs. Just the same, if ISIS is removed by military force, what happens next?

Does the United States settle in for the next century in order to enforce simple ideals such as not stoning gays, free elections and education for women, or do they pull out and watch the whole scenario play out all over again? The negative consequences of this intervention continue to be displayed throughout the past, and yet some choose to advocate that maybe just one more try, and the result will be

different. As Einstein said, this is the definition of idiocy.

If Iraq isn't enough evidence for the war hawks, take a look at Libya. Using Hillary Clinton's brilliant strategy of a no-fly zone, Dictator Muammar Gaddafi was deposed, and a coalition of "moderates" took over in his place, supported and armed by the United States. Well, since then, what has happened in Libya? Four Americans were killed, Al Qaeda has free reign and men and material continue to flow to the Islamic State. By now this continuous effect must be proven, every time an evil is removed from the Middle East by American intrusion, a greater evil takes its place. Would ISIS have ever been able to take over half Iraq while Saddam Hussein's Republican Guard and his thousands of tanks were at the ready? I think not. Sure he was evil, but his greatest aspiration was to wipe out Iran, another enemy of the United States, and he was an active deterrent to Iranian aggression in the region.

Lastly, in looking at the past so as to not make the same mistakes in the future, take Afghanistan. U.S. troops were set to leave early this year, however their operational stay has now been extended in order to provide stability to the nation. Why must the American men and women have their lives placed on the line for the liberty of people who won't even fight for their own? If war is the option that is decided upon to combat ISIS, then the American people must be prepared for the bloody and decades long handholding that must take place afterwards.

Now, saying that war should not be seen as the only option left against ISIS is not saying that nothing should be done. There are so many little things that could be done that would devastate the Islamic State, without sending young American men and women over to die. For example, and this one is pretty crazy, why not just stop sending billions of dollars of weapons to the "less bad" terrorist groups? This is exactly what happened in Libya and Iraq, and look who's driving around in those American Humvees and shooting hostages with American M-16s now, ISIS! If the U.S. would just stop with the ridiculous hope that the "moderates" actually want to fight ISIS, they would be starving the terrorists of literally billions in war material'. At a time where the President thinks it should be harder for American citizens to own guns, he has no qualms about advanced anti-tank weapons being given to "less bad" terrorists.

So on one hand, the U.S. needs to cancel and cease to fund essentially every "moderate" rebel group in the Middle East. On the other hand, they also need to drastically increase and streamline their aid to the brave soldiers of Kurdistan. The Kurds are the only opposition fighters who have continually shown their support for America and their determination defeat those who have perverted their religion. Currently, the U.S. sends the Kurds aid via the corrupt and inept Iraqi government in Bagdad, where much of the arms are lost or confiscated. Instead of this, how about the United

States follow the path of Germany and arm them directly so that they can receive the highest quality weapons and make the most of their fight against ISIS.

Another way the United States can help defeat ISIS is by stopping its stance against Syrian dictator Bashar Assad. Although once more, yes, he is an evil man, but he also has an active military in the ground that is attempting to fight both ISIS and the American armed "less bad" terrorists. Dictatorial force is the only system of government understood inside the Middle East, and by doing to him what was done to Gaddafi, Syria will become the next Libya, a radical Islamic paradise where men, weapons and supplies all flow to ISIS.

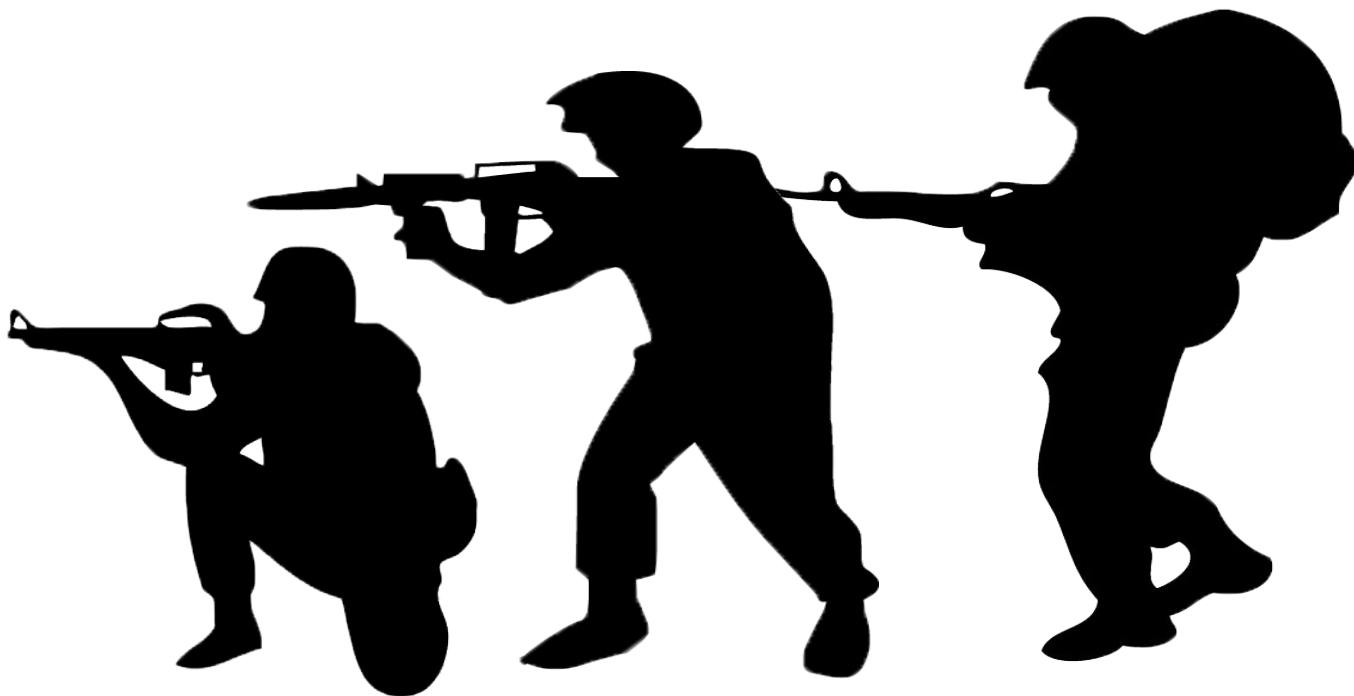
Aside from Egypt and Jordan, no other Middle Eastern nations have joined in the fight against ISIS. Shouldn't they be the ones, as it is their homeland, jumping to wage war against the barbarians? Turkey has one of the world's largest militaries, and yet they do nothing other than covertly purchase oil from ISIS dealers. Interestingly enough, the United States still sends the Turks billions in weapons each year, as well as the Gulf States. Why not the U.S. tell these countries that are even more directly threatened by ISIS that if they would like to continue to receive U.S. exports, they get their house in order and start taking it to the Islamic State.

Ultimately however, if these methods are not undertaken, or even worse, ISIS does strike the United States, war will become justified, in the notion of self-defense. Even then however, there is a proper way to go about this. If an attack is imminent, has already occurred, or NATO declares their Article V mutual defense clause, the president must first seek Congressional authorization to go to war. If it is granted, the armed forces of the United States must be given full discretion to conduct the fight as they see fit, with the goal being a swift and decisive defeat of ISIS.

No more of this four bombs here and 30 troops here, all available forces must be committed to the fight, and the rules of engagement must allow for full freedom of action. Once ISIS is defeated, the United States must then immediately withdraw all forces from the region, following a brief transitional period.

Of course, the likelihood of another evil arising is quite high, and this would have had to have been accepted going in. All in all, in tumultuous times such as these, heed not the words of the fear mongers who scream that war is all that's left, but rather actually exhaust all other options prior to arriving at war as the true last resort.

For Republicans, war is the health of the state, so you can't want smaller government and also be so cavalier about invading other countries. For Democrats, stop acting like you are pro-peace, your president has bombed more countries than George Bush has. America must learn the lessons of its past, if it is to have the hope of a new future.



College safe spaces hinder growth, prove student immaturity

CONTINUED FROM 'SAFE SPACE' ON PAGE 8

will cause people to be less open-minded. Using an escape to avoid hearing someone's side of an argument isn't a part of successful (and effective) debating. In a way, safe spaces can be compared to someone covering their ears in an argument after expressing their opinions. This eventually adds to the trouble and puts people at odds.

As an American, one could say just about anything without legal consequences. But the moment an opinion becomes a threat, the law steps in and punishment is decided. Here's an example. A college student could be a complete jerk, but as long as this individual isn't openly saying he's going to hurt someone (or harassing), nothing can be done legally. This is a reality that people will have to come to terms with. The first amendment can't be used in a person's favor and then violated when they don't want to deal with opposing opinions. To put it bluntly, the whiners need to either grow up or back off.

People all over America (especially journalists) are in agreement: Safe spaces and colleges just can't mix. Encouraging hypocrisy, even if done indirectly, is just unethical. Students should be taught to solve their issues with logic, healthy debate and openness. Colleges should promote more debate-related courses and clubs. This would educate young people how to properly carry out an argument, so the "need" for childish applications of safe spaces goes away. Problem-solving will also become significantly easier. Future politicians will be much more successful in bringing positive change if they learn how to address conflicts professionally.

In short, safe spaces can't exist if intelligent debate is going to survive. Giving an way out to sore losers is babying them. Hopefully, positive action will be made towards education, rather than promoting unnecessary intolerance and poor sportsmanship.

Buying presents need not be a chore

CONTINUED FROM 'HOLIDAYS' ON PAGE 8

your life no matter the holiday. Especially when suddenly it's Dec. 23, and you are informed that family members you've never even heard of will be attending your gift-exchange party on Christmas.

Growing up in the digital age left me completely and utterly clueless when it came to the United States Postal Service. How do you mail packages? How many stamps do I put on this envelope? What if it gets lost in the mail?

For my friends and family cross-country, USPS' Priority Mail flat rate boxes are key. I can testify that mail is definitely not cheap, but hey if it fits, it ships and that's good enough for me.

Here are two tips combined into one: homemade is cool and a little goes a long way.

While your friends may not like your hand-crafted picture frame, parents and other relatives are all over that stuff. Personalization is key. Anything that says "Mom" with a heart will probably pass as the best gift ever. For friends, I spend extra time on the presentation. Decorating the box, writing their name in fancy lettering on the card and delivering it in person gets you those extra points you'll need, especially if you didn't put as much effort into the gift itself.

Gift cards are easy presents for the people who are hard to buy for. But caution, too many will add up quick.

I find it a lot less expensive and a lot more genuine to grab from my generic gift stash for those tricky friends and family members. Mind the extent of this accusation, but I've found prepaid credit cards to be the absolute devil.

As the previous employee of a place that sold these, I have had to explain the horror of Visa and Green Dot cards over

and over. They may seem too good to be true, and that's because they are. They diminish in value over time, they always charge ridiculous extra fees and they're a nightmare to reload. Stay far, far away.

People always say they like to receive "experiences" rather than "stuff" as gifts. Buying tickets for concerts or movies sounds great in theory, but expense is huge. Unless you really love the person (and are planning on tagging along) save those fancy, wallet-emptying holiday gifts until a time in your life when you can really afford it.

Vintage is always in.

If you're looking to save money this holiday season, second-hand antiques and used-item stores are great. There are always hidden treasures in any antique store, plus who doesn't love poking around? Boasting the fact that your present is "vintage" brings a level of thoughtfulness and intrigue that no other gift-giver can match.

No matter what they say, your friends will definitely appreciate food this Christmas. Wrapping an arrangement of their favorite snacks, drinks, gum, etc. is worth the time. Junk food is ridiculously cheap and at any convenience store if you aren't looking to drive too far from home.

The holidays always roll around unexpectedly fast. My trademarked surefire way to survive holiday gift-giving as a teenager (and probably as an adult, although I haven't tested that theory yet) has proven to lighten my load each holiday season.

There's plenty to stress about, but in the years to come, sit back and stress a little less about your gifts, and a little more about what you're going to stay to those relatives you've never met.

Happy Holidays.

“ No matter what they say, your friends will definitely appreciate food this Christmas. Wrapping an arrangement of their favorite snacks, drinks, gum etc. is worth the time. ”

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AT A LOSS

The refugees in the Middle East demand attention from global leaders, but have only received recognition after the deaths of Europeans awakened the Western world to the crisis.

Kelsey Thomas
editor-in-chief

Since the emergence of ISIS in the Middle East in the last few years, millions of people have been forced to flee their homes and the nations of their birth. Surrounding countries including Lebanon, Turkey and Pakistan house most of these displaced persons, but European countries including Germany and France, as well as the United States have begun to accept thousands of people who must leave the borders of their homeland.

Though the power of ISIS continues to grow, the issue of refugees has been at the forefront of foreign relations for many years. The U.S. and their allied European countries have largely ignored the population of refugees in the Middle East, and have only recently begun to consider it a serious issue because of its growing proximity to Western nations.

The attacks on Paris on Nov. 13 awakened Americans and Europeans to the true terrorism of ISIS. Not to say that the group wasn't considered dangerous before the attack, but it certainly made it more apparent. Those who died in France reinforced this idea. Although the bloodshed in Paris was tragic, it pales in comparison to the barbarism practiced by ISIS on civilians in the Middle East. They are the ones filled with fear on a daily basis. They are the ones who are violently thrown from their homes and forced to flee to other countries.

This truth has been brushed aside by the U.S. and its allied countries, who have chosen to operate solely according to fear for their own homelands, with disregard for those who need the most humanitarian aid and intervention.

News sources in America directly contribute to this sentiment. Viewers are constantly reminded of the threat that looms in Syria, and are only taught how it may affect them. They hear about "ISIS target lists" that include the nation's cities, and about American citizens who have been captured and killed by the group.

The effect of ISIS terrorism on the U.S. should not be forgotten, and citizens should be informed on how it directly affects them. However, the American people must be reminded of who it affects the most. Without this information, Americans continue to live in isolation with no consideration of how world events affect other people.

The true victims of ISIS are the refugees. Thousands attempt to flee by sea each year and drown. Even more refugees face dire poverty and unemployment in the new countries they reside in due to discrimination and negative connotations.

The global approach to defeating ISIS must be integrated with the needs of the people of the Middle East. We cannot fight solely to defend our people, instead, we must keep in mind the most horrific crime committed by ISIS; the killing and displacement of thousands of innocent civilians.

Presidential race no longer taken seriously, has become a game

The buildup for the 2016 Presidential Elections has been one of the most massive and entertaining preludes than perhaps any other in history. With a herd of Republican contenders and the Democrats being split by whether to run a woman or a socialist, both sides of the aisle just don't seem to know what they want. Even in the midst of all this confusion, one thing can be certain, due to the likes of Donald Trump and many other humorous anecdotes spouted by these White House hopefuls, this political season has been, and continues to be one of the most hilarious ones yet, and it begs the question, is running for the presidency simply a joke now?

Even before considering the notion that the presidency has lost its reverence and is now becoming nothing more than a "fun thing to do," first one must take a moment to bask in the hair brained stupidity that is almost every word uttered by Donald Trump's cavernous mouth.

From generalizing illegal immigrants as being rapists, to talking about how stupid and dumb his opponents are, or even just that his replacement for Obamacare will be something fantastic and awesome, Trump seems to have a colorfully vague adjective for literally every political issue out there.

His military will be the greatest in the world, if his daughter wasn't his daughter he would date her, and Carly Fiorina shouldn't be president because of her face. In recent weeks when Dr. Ben Carson overcame him in an Ohio poll, Trump essentially begged attendees of one of his speeches to go out and start supporting him so that he could get his numbers back. Poll numbers poll numbers poll numbers. This is the one area where Trump actually gives factual answers. There has not been a speech or interview that has gone by without him declaring his lead in the polls at least once.

For a man who has literally zero specifics on his plan for the country other than deporting 11 million people and building a wall, Trump is actually doing quite well for himself. He regularly polls between 20 and 30 percent of GOP voters. Is it possible that Republican voters are really this naïve? Chances are they really aren't, but they are sick of eight stagnant years under Obama and are gravitating to a candidate who uses water cooler rhetoric and isn't afraid to "roast" his opponents. It is a classic case of pathos beating logos. After slowly watching their party lose its values, most GOP voters just want someone who is willing to speak loudly and not hold back.

Donald Trump is not the only humorous example of a candidate putting his foot in his mouth this election season. In the first Republican debate Chris Christie defended the NSA spying by ultimately declaring he hugged 9/11 victim's families, and that's why shredding the Fourth Amendment is A okay. In one rather laughable display, Jim Webb, in the first Democratic debate, discussed defeating "commies" in Vietnam.

As it turns out, Webb just couldn't do the same to those in attendance at the debate, and ended his campaign soon after. And lastly, could one even forget how happy Lincoln Chaffee looked being up on that first Democratic debate stage? For a guy who only talked about twice the entire night, he sure managed keep up his smile.

Aside from actual politicians and candidates and their many bumbles, several rather interesting news headlines and movements have asked the question, has the presidency become a popularity stunt rather than a reverent quest to be the leader of the free world?

Example number one. Kanye West has publicly stated that he will run for the presidency in a few elections down the way. This coming from the man who also beats handicapped kids in basketball games and thinks he is Jesus, does not bode well for the nation.

Example number two. A "Deez nutz" led for a while in a North Carolina poll. Although started by a young student as a joke, this social media trend actually had people supporting it. This just goes to show that people will support what makes them laugh over what makes sense.

The final example of the lack of reverence in the race for the White House is the very existence of support being Waka Flocka Flame running for president. Although this rapper is under the legal age to run, a decent amount of people on social media thought it was a good idea to support this. In return, Flame's waning popularity spiked back up and his popularity rose.

All in all, this year's presidential elections are proving to be some of the most entertaining in recent memory. However they also seem to be beginning a dangerous trend towards the race being nothing more than social media stunt, which only further prevents an electoral system stained with fraud and dirty money.

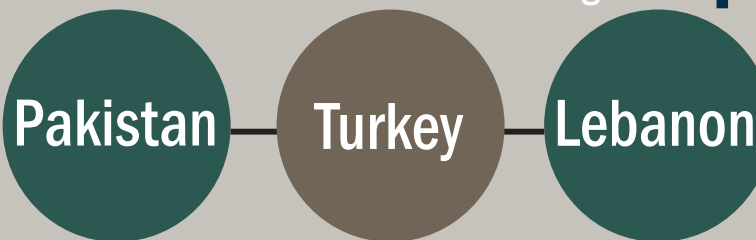


CHOTEAU KAMMEL
SHOW TIME

THE REFUGEE CRISIS

225,500
refugees travelled
by sea in
2014

the three countries with the most refugees are:



5000
people flee
their
homes
each
day

50%
of refugees are
children

countries with refugees

struggle to maintain education and social services. Refugees have an extremely hard time finding employment opportunities, forcing them to rely on government assistance for years.

source: mercycorps.org

Once college students protested for free speech, now protest against it

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

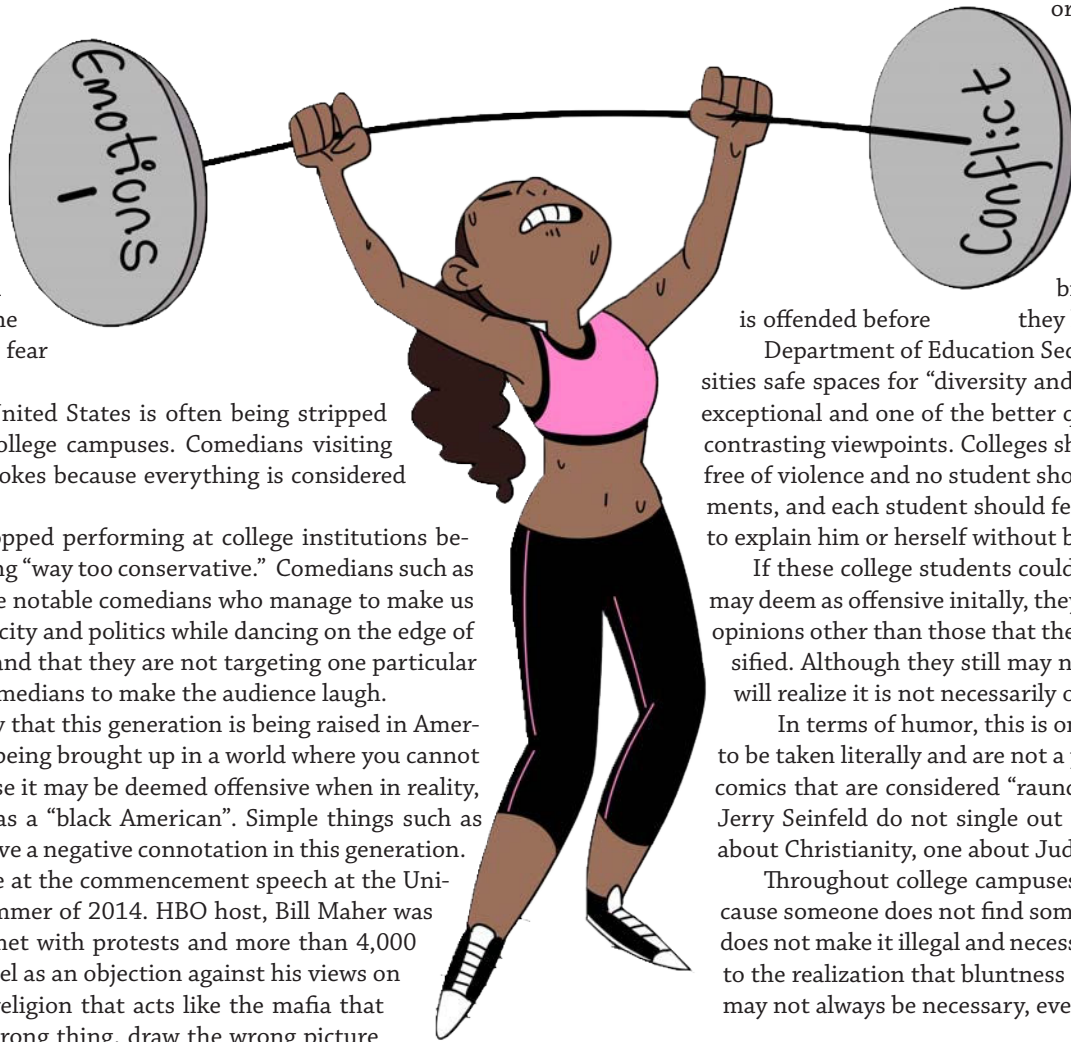
Since the First Amendment was submitted to the states for ratification on Sept. 25, 1789, free speech was a right given to everyone in the United States. Even though some terms such as derogatory racial or sexual phrases have been largely looked down upon by society, it is true that one could say them and not be put in jail or fear prosecution, unlike other countries.

The beauty of free speech in the United States is often being stripped away by easily offended students on college campuses. Comedians visiting campuses often have to monitor their jokes because everything is considered racist, sexist, ignorant or homophobic.

Comedian Chris Rock has even stopped performing at college institutions because he felt the audiences were becoming “way too conservative.” Comedians such as Rock, Joan Rivers and Jerry Seinfeld are notable comedians who manage to make us laugh about race, gender, religion, ethnicity and politics while dancing on the edge of our touchiness. Students must understand that they are not targeting one particular group, but merely doing their jobs as comedians to make the audience laugh.

Much of this has to do with the way that this generation is being raised in America. Rock noted that kids nowadays are being brought up in a world where you cannot call an African-American “black,” because it may be deemed offensive when in reality, this person may rather be referred to as a “black American.” Simple things such as referring to one’s skin tone can easily have a negative connotation in this generation.

Another example of this issue arose at the commencement speech at the University of California Berkeley in the summer of 2014. HBO host, Bill Maher was scheduled to give the speech but was met with protests and more than 4,000 people signed an online petition to cancel as an objection against his views on Islam, which he has called, “the only religion that acts like the mafia that will (expletive) kill you if you say the wrong thing, draw the wrong picture



or write the wrong book.” Though I do not agree with the generalization of an entire religion, I also disagree with the view that the correct course of action is to silence him. As Maher put it, “Whoever told you you only had to hear what didn’t upset you?”

This incident was particularly ironic because in 1960, a student-led free speech movement was held on the Berkeley campus. A half-century later, the new age of technology and online petitions has brought about a notion to silence people because one

is offended before

they have even opened up their mouths.

Department of Education Secretary Arne Duncan suggested making college universities safe spaces for “diversity and a climate of healthy interaction.” Though diversity is exceptional and one of the better qualities of many colleges in America, with this comes contrasting viewpoints. Colleges should be “safe spaces” in the sense that they should be free of violence and no student should fear harm. However, there will always be disagreements, and each student should feel free to embrace these contrasting views and be able to explain him or herself without being deemed “offensive” or “belligerent”.

If these college students could come to terms with being able to listen to what they may deem as offensive initially, they will expand their knowledge. By listening to different opinions other than those that they can immediately identify with, their views are diversified. Although they still may not agree with the other agenda, possible the students will realize it is not necessarily offensive, just a different way of thinking.

In terms of humor, this is one of the beauties of a joke. They are not always meant to be taken literally and are not a personal attack on your beliefs or opinions. Moreover, comics that are considered “raunchy” or offensive such as Chris Rock, Kevin Hart, and Jerry Seinfeld do not single out one race, religion, or stereotype. If one makes a joke about Christianity, one about Judaism would follow, it is not a personal attack on one.

Throughout college campuses in America, there must be a realization that just because someone does not find something particularly satisfying, humorous, or agreeable does not make it illegal and necessary for uproar. Students must be more open and come to the realization that bluntness is sometimes required, whereas “political correctness” may not always be necessary, even in a comedy routine.

ISABELLA FILIPS | Contributing Cartoonist

Positive midwest stereotypes ring true as courtesy, manners thrive

Natalie Nepper
editor-in-chief

The Midwest is the pure definition of the American Dream. What started as a seemingly great land investment from the government, became a sanctuary for immigration and growth. Wide open spaces, the chance to build a family and a white-picket fence home is available at the fingertips, if you head to the Midwest. It is the Heartland, the Great Plains, the Rust Belt, the North and the Great Lakes all rolled into one.

It is a place of family but also of self-dependence, a place of rolling land but also of expansive cities, a place of religion and history and also of industrialization and progress. The Midwest is a contradiction of itself, in everything except for the people: purely, genuinely nice people.

It started as a stereotype. The Midwest is just full of an undeniably enjoyable population. They’ll open doors for others, say please and thank-you, keep their manners intact and put everyone above themselves. They’re not ridiculously sensitive or conservative like the South. They’re not as impatient or as abrasive as the Northeast. They’re the simple, easy-going Midwest.

It then became like a fact, funneled into mottos, logos and clever tourism marketing so that everyone in the world will know: it’s nice here. Nebraska’s previous slogan, “The Good Life” advertised a place of opportunity, family and quality living. In 2014, the state decided to bust out a new marketing campaign, “Nebraska Nice.” The state fulfilled its long predicted and stereotyped destiny. It became just “nice.”

Other states echo this attention that Nebraska is bringing to its mediocracy. Iowa proudly boasts about their “Fields of Opportunity,” Indiana is “Honest-to-Goodness” and South Dakota have “Great Places. Great Places.”

The Midwest stays polite, even with their slogans. Wyoming’s “Like No Place on Earth” and Alabama’s “Share the Wonder” are miles ahead of the creativity from this simple part of the U.S. It’s true that the Heartland isn’t exactly known for its tourism industry.

The stereotype of the Midwest may have originated from the



ISABELLA FILIPS | Contributing Cartoonist

humbled immigrants who settled on the land long ago. Or perhaps, their politeness stems from just simply being in better moods.

The quality of life in the Midwest is unbeatable. Forbes ranks Lincoln, Neb. number nine in America’s Most Livable Cities. Omaha ranks number 6. The ranking is based on unemployment, crime, income, cost of living and arts and leisure. A majority of their choices were in the Midwest.

The Midwest is without a doubt a fairly inexpensive place to live. Why would someone pay \$2,200 per month for a studio apartment in Manhattan when less than 23% of all families in Fargo, North Dakota pay more than 30 percent of their income on housing? Plus, the job outlook in the Midwest is incomparable. Even as larger cities such as Chicago and Min-

neapolis grow in population, the chance of finding a job is still great.

The education and schooling systems are effective, safe and some of the best in the country. Forbes states, “Go Midwest, young families. That’s the overwhelming conclusion from our latest survey of the Best Schools For Your Housing Buck, which found that the best high-performing public school districts with affordable housing are in Ohio, Minnesota and Wisconsin.”

So truthfully while stereotypes float around about Midwesterner’s personalities, maybe these opinions can truly be backed up. Yes, the Great Plains are the ideal American Dream, but it might not just be because Midwesterners are nice. They’re happy.

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JROTC INSTRUCTORS 21

The two teachers of the military science program at Central discuss their careers and background in the armed forces.



REVIEWS 18 & 19

Two movies, an eatery and a local television program are reviewed, providing recommendations on what to see and where to eat this season.

HONK! ACTORS 16

The Register features three students, who each played a lead role in Central's latest musical "Honk!"



arts & style

the REGISTER • December 17, 2015 • Volume 131, Issue 3

HIGH SCHOOL SWEETHEARTS

The tale of two Central alumni, one who was a foreign exchange student from Germany, who were recently married after over a decade of long-distance friendship



Photo Courtesy of **MULLERS PHOTOGRAPHY**

Alumni Alex and Kara Wanitschke, a newlywed couple, visit the school's campus for the first time since their graduation to take wedding photos.

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

Alex Wanitschke was a German exchange student at Central High during the 2004-2005 school year. Little did he know that he would not only experience an exciting and new culture, he would also meet the love of his life.

Both Alex and, now wife, Kara Lambrecht met while Alex was on exchange and while Kara was a sophomore. "I first saw Alex in Mrs. Pfeiffer's Honors Algebra 3-4 class on the first day of school in 2004," says Kara. "Later that day, during lunch in the courtyard I saw him looking for a place to sit, so I ran up to him by the ketchup stand and invited him to sit with me and my friends. I thought Alex was a total babe. Long brown hair. European accent. He had that foreign mystique."

Kara wasn't the only one who was intrigued by Alex's charming and enigmatic personality. "My parents loved Alex. He was this funny and open German boy on his great adventure abroad. They've always thought he is a great friend to me and my family," Kara says. "He introduced me to another part of the world I probably would have never discovered that early in life."

The two began their relationship as friends, and it slowly progressed from there. They went to Central's 2005 prom together, but after that, Alex had to move back to Germany. "I always knew Alex was a friend I wanted to have in my life forever," says Kara. "Living on opposite sides of

CONTINUE TO 'LOVE STORY'
ON PAGE 20

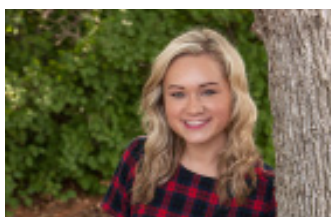
Private education prevents worldliness in students, harms public schools

There is perhaps no greater divide between youth than the rift caused by one's attendance of a private or a public school.

Students belonging to each type of educational institution stay, more often than not, within the boundaries caused by the differing types of schools; friendships between children are primarily made between those who attend the same school, or similar schools.

Socio-economic status, cultural values, and sheer proximity contribute to this phenomenon, yet, the divide between public and private school students is a widely reinforced cultural norm with some heavy repercussions. Students, especially those in private schools, fail to gain experience within a real world environment.

In most local private schools, many students originate from a similar background—a white, middle-class nuclear family unit. Though the students of private schools are unique in their interests and personalities, they lack in differing experience. Thus, there is little to no opportunity for private school attendees to become acquainted with the reality of diversity present in our world.



KELSEY THOMAS
BE THERE IN TEN

The concept of diversity is difficult for children to grasp if they do not directly experience it themselves. Private schools may teach ideals of acceptance and understanding, but, especially for students in kindergarten through eighth grade, diversity is essentially a foreign concept unless they experience it themselves.

Though private schools offer benefits, such as the appeal of a close community of students and perhaps a less distracting

environment to some, public schools offer an enriching experience that is incredibly rewarding to those who attend.

In a public school, students are exposed to people of all backgrounds. They are given the opportunity to interact with those who are far different than them, whether it be in socio-economic status, race, gender, culture, or any other piece of their identity.

Public schools create well-rounded young adults with more worldly views. By opening children's eyes to a world unlike their own, they are more likely to be open-minded and empathic people.

The rising desire to attend or send one's children to a private school has caused a saturation of tuition-based schools

CONTINUE TO 'PUBLIC SCHOOLS'
ON PAGE 20

Musical stars attribute success to choir, put vocals to use



KELSEY THOMAS | The Register

Left: Grant Koch, in his guise as the evil cat, calls out for the duckling while searching for him. Right: Nicholas Jansen, the duckling, consoles and comforts his mother played by Katie Bohn.

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

Theater has been around since the earliest days of civilized society. Some of the oldest ruins discovered have been theaters. Central's own thespians work to follow the path set by their theatrical forefathers as they perform musicals and other plays several times per year. This past October the drama department put on a performance adaptation of the musical *Honk*, a surprising tale about the apparent ugly duckling, who in his darkest moments is able to find confidence in his mother's love, defeat the evil cat and finally discover that he is not really a duckling after all but rather a swan.

In his role as the ugly duckling turned graceful swan, senior Nicholas Jansen went so far as to model his very own walking style in the musical after a certain species of duck, demonstrating a passion he has developed for theater over the last few years.

While attending Buffett middle school, Jansen was first exposed to drama while working on set design and helping with crafting the stage pieces. He said, "I was kinda afraid to be on stage, but when I saw others up there I was like wow! That actually looks like a lot of fun." Soon after, in his eighth grade year, Jansen auditioned for his first part, and although he said it did not go the greatest, he was made a townspeople in the play of *Aladdin*. During those nights of rehearsal and the efforts put into performing a perfect show, Jansen said, "I did meet a lot of friends that I still have today."

At Central, Jansen had performed mainly from the ensemble as part of the chorus, and the role of the ugly duckling was actually his first "major" part. At the time of tryouts, Jansen already had experience with the audition process, but said that there is still always some anxiety. "I never thought I would get a lead in the musical," he said.

For Jansen, one of the most difficult aspects of getting into the role of the ugly duckling was that the majority of his songs

were to be in a different vocal range than he is used to. He said, "I am not a tenor, so Mrs. Bouma and I worked the music to fit my voice." As an added benefit, Jansen began participating in choir his junior year and he attributed much of his musical success to this experience. "I just look at how much I have improved since then," he said.

Just as with sports teams who are drawn together through hours of practice, all participants in a theatrical production are brought together during the late nights and endless rehearsals. Jansen said, "We really take pride in being a family. We have our issues [like all families], but once we focus on making the show great, it all comes together."

Looking past high school, Jansen would like to continue to express his love of performing. He has looked at both the University of Nebraska at Omaha and also at Lincoln, and described the search as "a work in progress," however, he also said, "I would love to perform the rest of my life, I just don't want it to become my career."

With this mindset, Jansen would like to pursue theater at the university level, however he would like it to remain an activity done for enjoyment and not just to get a paycheck. This opens up the doors to careers such as drama education or directing. "I don't want to go a year without being a part of a performance at least in some way," he said.

To any aspiring thespians who still have some anxiety over fully immersing themselves in theater, Jansen said, "You can't give up. Take pride in any role you get. You never know where it will take you."

Co-starring alongside Jansen and his role as the ugly duckling was junior Katie Bohn as mother duck. Bohn attended Beveridge middle school where she first found her love for performing. In the eighth grade she earned the part of the "rough and tough" Rizzo from *Grease*. "That was the first time I ever had a lead role in a show. It helped me a lot with my stage fright, because honestly it can be nerve wracking at times," Bohn said.

During that time, Bohn noted that the theater kids were all

very inclusive and welcoming. She said, "I met people then who are still my friends now."

Coming to Central, Bohn involved herself immediately in the drama department and also the CHS Singers choir. For her, the choir experience was crucial to success in auditioning for plays. She said, "I just think it's good to have solo performance time beforehand because a show just consists of a bunch of solos for each individual."

For *Honk*, as mother duck, Bohn's music solos needed less adaptation than Jansen's. Other than a few notes and octaves being tweaked, her usual range fit the musical's relatively well. She said, "For musicals, it is very important to have decent range and to be comfortable with the different parts of your voice, whether tenor or soprano."

Although the auditions can be intimidating, Bohn said that once you overcome that first urge of nervousness, it becomes about just presenting a quality show and developing your own abilities.

One of the most difficult aspects of performing is getting into the mindset of the character portrayed. Bohn said, "Most of it is body language. Once you are comfortable with the movements and transitions, the rest becomes easy."

With all of the time spent putting work into a performance, naturally there will be some feuds between the cast and crew. Bohn said that it's very important to take a step back and run a little self-diagnostic, then, "You have to draw together as a family. If there is any disparity between people, it shows on stage." As Bohn looks to the future, she knows definitively that she would like to major in music; however as her interest of choice, choral music, is a very broad ranged field of study including educational and directional applications, she still does not know which aspect she would like to go into.

In conclusion, Bohn said to any interested students, "Theater and singing has something for everyone. Anyone who is even a little bit interested should get involved. It never hurts."

Vintage sports game often overlooked, retains playability after many years

Madden NFL Football was what I grew up with. It was the only football game that mattered, because everyone played it, and it had control of all the NFL licensing. Sure, it is a decent video game, but deep in the history of sports video games lies a hidden gem from SEGA. ESPN NFL 2K5 debuted back in 2004 and gave Madden the stiffest competition in the series' history. Why was it so successful? It's a simple answer that even today's Madden has yet to completely figure out: presentation and playability.

Even for me, it took a long time to figure out what was so special about 2K5. I still played the Madden games of old, but the games themselves were a little weird. Somehow, I continued to turn a blind eye to what many considered to be one of the greatest football video games of all time. That is until I started watching videos of people playing the game and saying how great it was. I finally decided to dig into my vast collection of old Playstation 2 discs and see what everyone was talking about.

From when you turn the game on, the presentation of ESPN and 2K Sports brings you into the game and makes it feel like you are watching on television. I was hyped up to play

this game before I had even gotten to the menus. I played a quick exhibition game, and the presentation was much better than Madden. The loading screen was a little introduction to the game with ESPN commentator Chris Berman, and during halftime, there was a highlight show that had clips of your game. When the game loaded, there were camera shots of fans, the stadium and all of the theatrics. It actually felt like I could have Sunday on any day of the week, and not one Madden game has made me feel that way. The commentators had great pronunciation and voice modulation, and added to the game instead of being a burden.



ALEC ROME
WHEN IN ROME

Running in NFL 2K5 was incredibly realistic. Instead of being knocked down on first contact, runningbacks had the intelligence to push their way for extra yards. Passing was fairly difficult however, both on offense and defense. Receivers had a tough time running intelligent and complex routes, and the trajectory and speed of the ball was overall very weird.

2K5's franchise mode was years ahead of what Madden was doing at the time, and was only recently implemented into

Madden 15 and 16 (borrowed might be the better term). With an entire week's worth of practice and game planning, as well as power rankings and a host of extras, NFL 2K5 was an actual "franchise" instead of a boring simulation.

This game was also a major innovator in head-to-head play with the VIP system. The game gives you a profile, and as you play with that profile, the CPU keeps track of when and where you pass and run, what defender you switch to before the snap, packages and play calls, etc. VIP was essentially a whole library of game film for other people to use against you. Opponents could play a ghost version of your team, and the similarities between how you played and how the ghost team played were unbelievable. This made head-to-head play as well as games against the computer much more competitive and fun.

Fun was the major difference between NFL 2K5 and its Electronic Arts counterpart; a dynamic and great presentation trumped the stale and copycat game Madden had come to be known for. While the game may be outdated and a distant memory, NFL 2K5 will always live in the hearts of hardcore sports game fanatics as the best sports game ever. If you happen to see this in the used section at a video game store, pick it up. Madden will never feel the same afterward.

Choir connects singers from different schools

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

“I got a text from [Sarah] Cowan saying ‘Congratulations, you made it into Regional Honor Choir.’ I jumped out of bed and started screaming; people thought I was being attacked,” junior Maurice Garrett said.

Garrett was one of the six students accepted into the Regional Honor Choir. The Regional Honor Choir is an opportunity for talented students to come together in February in South Dakota and rehearse a performance that they will make together.

To get into the Regional Honor Choir, students had to audition, and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) screened auditions from students all over the region. They had to send in a tape, and the ACDA chair members judged the audiotape and only accepted a few from each school. This choir is very competitive.

The ACDA is a group of conductors from all over the United States that conjoin a group of choir directors. In order for students such as Garrett and junior Emily Gillespie to have this opportunity, Central’s choir director Lyn Bouma had to be approved by the ACDA board.

“I auditioned in October, and we had to produce an audio audition tape where we had to sing scales and then sing an excerpt. It took them a month to screen through all the people that auditioned,” Garrett said.

Going into the audition, the students were quite uninformed. The only thing that the students knew was what they had to prepare. “They picked who they felt were best for the choir. There is nothing that they actually tell before. You really don’t know anything—we don’t know who judges it, they just send you back a ‘yay’ or a ‘nay,’” Garrett said.

Garrett did not know whether or not he would be accepted; he understood when he auditioned that competi-

tion was very tough. Bouma’s husband told him to “not expect to get in, but to be happy if he since it’s so competitive.”

Like Garrett, Gillespie received the news of her making it into this honor choir by text from Cowan. “I was hoping to get in,” Gillespie said, “but I didn’t know for sure.”

Both Gillespie and Garrett expect to meet new people on this trip in February. Not only does Garrett wish to meet new people, but he also wishes to get to know the other students on the honors choir from Central even better. Gillespie additionally hopes to learn new pieces. “It’s always a good experience to be in different honors choirs,” Gillespie said.

Gillespie and Garrett began singing at a very young age, so this is just another highlight of their already extensive singing career.

Garrett began singing at the age of six, and Gillespie began as early as 3-years-old.

“My music teacher in elementary school encouraged me to sing. I was a shy kid back then, but she encouraged me to do it, and I finally agreed,” Garrett said.

Garrett preformed solos for the Christmas and Black History Programs at his elementary school from first through sixth grade. Since then, he has continued to be involved with singing.

Gillespie credits herself as being the reason why she got involved with singing, alongside her musical family.

At Central, both are very involved with the programs offered. Looking into the future, both expect to mature as singers. Gillespie hopes to get involved with as many choirs as she can and has the goal to sing in college.

Garrett further wishes to continue to have music present in his life, in one form or another.

“I just hope to get better, and no matter what career I choose to go into,” Garrett said. “I hope that I have some form of performance in my life.”

Starbucks controversy pointless, red color not offensive to anyone

Starbucks, one of the most well-known chains the world, has become involved in a so-called “controversy” once again. This time, the corporation has been under fire for supposedly hating Christians for participating in an anti-Christmas effort.

Starbucks has been a global phenomenon since its creation in 1971 in Seattle, Washington. Avid coffee-drinkers worldwide revere it as the single most popular café chain. Since its establishment, Starbucks has launched a music label, called Hear Music, and an entertainment company, called Starbucks Entertainment, that co-produced the well-known movie *Akeelah and the Bee*.

Beginning in 1997, Starbucks went away with their regular cups and replaced them with their now signature red cups and festive designs. These designs have included ornaments and snowflakes, which are not solely affiliated with any religion, race or ethnicity.

This year’s cup is a minimalistic, bright red to deep cranberry ombre design that is intended to be a “blank canvas.”

A former pastor named Joshua Feuerstein took to Facebook on November 5 with a video accusing Starbucks of eliminating “Christmas from their cups because they hate Jesus.” Feuerstein went on to say that he “tricked” Starbucks by ordering a coffee and saying his name was “Merry Christmas.” This is because the cup is simply red with no wintry or holiday-themed designs on it.

Feuerstein is calling for a movement involving all “true Christians” to do the same. According to Feuerstein’s logic, this will cause Starbucks to put Christmas back in their cups.



ANNA KAMINSKI
HOW YOU DOIN’

How is this effective in any way? Feuerstein is encouraging people to buy more of Starbucks’ product while simultaneously bashing the brand. How does that make any sense whatsoever?

In response to Feuerstein’s rant, Starbucks’ vice president of Design & Content Jeffrey Fields said, “In the past, we have told stories with our holiday cups designs...This year we wanted to usher in the holidays with a purity of design that welcomes all of our stories.”

Additionally, Feuerstein’s point proves completely invalid because Starbucks stores are donned with holiday merchandise such as ornaments, Advent calendars, holiday-themed gift cards, Christmas blend coffee and mugs.

Countless Twitter users began the hashtag #ItsJustACup, which has been used over 4,500 times. Also, internet and social media users have dubbed the controversy “cup-gate.”

This is an issue in which social media has been highly involved, which can be a good thing and a bad thing. Without social media, Feuerstein’s opinion would have never been so widespread and commonly known. Social media has been playing a more significant role in news and current events, and without it, the way the public receives and investigates news would be completely different.

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump also decided to grace the public with his lovely opinion, once again, saying, “Maybe we should boycott Starbucks. I don’t know.” Several celebrities, such as singer Demi Lovato and satirist Weird Al Yankovic, decided to offer their opinions as well.

But aren’t there much more important things to worry about? Why are we choosing to put so much energy into cups when we could be placing our focus on much more important things? In America, people are discussing the absolute tragedy of these plain red cups; in Paris, 189 people died because of a terrorist attack and no one can get in or out of the country. In Syria, there are innocent people dying. But, Americans have to blow matters way out of proportion because that’s just what we do. It’s a cup.

Starbucks has never been exclusively associated with the Christian faith, yet a certain group of Christians expect everything to be only “Merry Christmas.” But what about Happy Hanukah or Happy Kwanzaa? I have never seen a blue and gold Starbucks cup with a menorah on it.

Red is a holiday color. Not a Christian color, a holiday color. Starbucks’ intent was inclusivity and the promotion of diversity. Christians make up around 70% of the United States’ population, but not everything has to be Christian.

Starbucks respects the fact that Feuerstein is Christian and that he has an opinion. Why can’t this group of people accusing Starbucks of being anti-Christmas be respectful of the corporation’s tendencies? It is not a Christian-based company, therefore, it doesn’t have to abide by Christian customs and regulations. They can if they wish, but the most certainly do not have to.

The holiday season is a time in which people celebrate Christmas, Hanukah, Kwanzaa and what have you. Starbucks can contribute to the holiday season by offering seasonal beverages, themes and colors. Anyone can go to Starbucks, whether you’re Jewish, Catholic, Presbyterian, Hindu or Muslim. The simple design on the cup wasn’t meant to offend anyone. It was meant to promote ideals of inclusion, joy and friendship. If certain Christians cannot respect that, they really need to reevaluate “the reason of the season.”

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THE REGISTER REVIEWS

A restaurant, a movie, an album and a new TV show are reviewed by The Register staff.

Midtown restaurant offers wide variety, lighter lunch options

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

One looking for more than a restaurant with great food should look no further than Crave American Kitchen and Sushi Bar located in Midtown Crossing. Along with the excellent cuisine, an even more positive ambiance is evident when walking into Crave.

The restaurant is beautifully decorated and filled with unique seating arrangements and décor, which is complimented with a variety of colors that are guaranteed to brighten one's day.

As the atmosphere of Crave is second to none, similarly is the food. Crave has one of the most diverse menus guaranteed to satisfy anyone depending on their selection. From the freshly made sushi to the steaks, nothing disappoints.

Among my favorite dinner options is the crab topped filet served with blue crab, lobster cream sauce, potato puree and heirloom carrots. The steak is always cooked perfectly to order and a knife is hardly necessary because of the tenderness. Along with the main course, these unique sides provide an eloquent mixture of tastes that blend very well together.

For one looking for a lighter, lunch option the Baked Mac & Cheese suits them. It is a lighter and smaller portion with the same blast of flavor. The seven cheeses and cream sauce provide a richer texture while the bacon and optional addition of chicken apple sausage or grilled chicken work to even this out and create the perfect combination.

Along with the American Kitchen options that Crave offers, a sushi bar is also present, which provides for a wider variety of sushi's from the traditional California rolls to the dragon roll (tuna, cream cheese, cucumber, avocado, eel, togarashi, spicy mayo, unagi sauce).

The perfect mixture between conventional and unique is the rainbow roll, which is a California roll, however it is topped with four types of fish specialized on certain days.

In order to properly finish off a meal, dessert is necessary; this especially applies to Crave. The s'more brownie is among my favorites because of the concoction of a rich chocolate brownie and marshmallow ice cream. The blueberry cheesecake provides a good chocolate alternative, while maintaining the succulent flavor.

Though the food at Crave presents few complaints, the service does experience some lapse in quality. At times, when walking in the hostess is not present forcing the visitors to wait for up to five minutes. Also, servers have tendency to not visit one's table for 10 to fifteen minutes in order to fill up waters or ask if there is anything needed.

Besides these infrequent hiatuses in service, Crave is an excellent choice for any occasion. From going out for lunch with a potential business partner to dinner with the family, Crave is sure to satisfy one's needs.



ANN MILROY | The Register

Crave American Kitchen and Sushi Bar offers a variety of foods, including this Baked Penne; they also offer a wide variety of sushi.

Pop sensation, Justin Bieber's newest album sensational, worth a Grammy

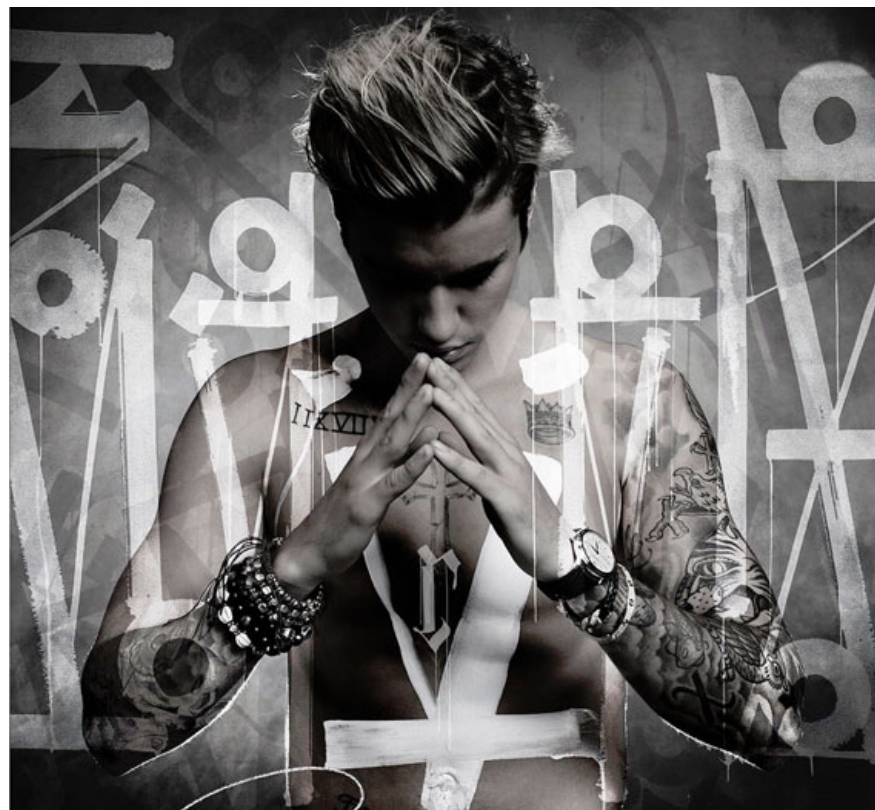


Photo Courtesy of HEADLINEPLANET.COM

Zoia Morrow
contributing writer

Canadian singer, Justin Bieber has skyrocketed through the charts all over the world with his new album, "Purpose." The album begins with a mellow beat and slowly fades more into an R&B genre. With the deluxe version, fans are able to hear 19 songs that feature other talented artists such as Halsey, Big Sean, Nas and Travi\$ Scott. "Where Are Ü now?" and "What Do You Mean?" are summer hits that made it on "Purpose."

Bieber teamed up with Skrillex and Diplo to produce these techno beats that make you want to get up and dance wherever you are. Following the tune of his previous singles, "Sorry" has made itself a home in the number two spot on the US charts.

Despite not being a single, when "Purpose" was released, "Love Yourself" instantly became a number one hit. Beliebers have been on a two year hiatus and patiently waited for Purpose, which exceeded all expectations and more.

Recently, Bieber has been shooting for number one on the charts in the UK, but failed as One Direction's "Made in the AM" released the same day. For years, Bieber and 1D stood against each other, competing for fame and popularity in the media. They have

both released albums within the same time span. His last album "Journals" sold 1.5 million copies worldwide. On this album he worked with R. Kelly, Future and again, Big Sean. "Journals" led Bieber through an exploration to adulthood and R&B.

Unlike any other musician, Bieber released 10 singles, one per week, before giving the world the nine other songs. These songs are what got "Journals" the numbers and ratings that it did. Bieber has not released new music since the end of 2013, with no tour in between. The "Believe" tour was considered the peak of his touring career. It racked up \$69 million over 67 shows.

A few songs such as, "All In It," "Been You" and "We Are," found on "Purpose" sound as if they belong on the "Believe" album, nonetheless they are still lovable. Currently "Purpose" has thirteen songs on the Billboard Top 100. Bieber's melodic voice laced with angelic tunes is the perfect combination.

You have to listen to the album a minimum of three times to get a feel for the lyrics, beat and the sound of Bieber's raspy yet calming singing voice. The album is a blended mix of songs that range from loving yourself to getting used to his company. The release of "Purpose" was just in time to qualify for a Grammy, and everyone knows he deserves it.

Local version of “Saturday Night Live” impresses with each episode

Alec Rome
web editor

It's kind of like Saturday Night Live, but it's not live from New York. This show is live (with a really long delay) from Omaha. Omaha Live! is the personalization of a sketch-based show for the Omaha area. Starring Ben and Matt Thompkins, along with other “celebrities” to the Omaha area, the show presents sketches related to Nebraska and its cities, and makes fun of everything from Jean Stothert to Husker football. The satirical show comes on right after Saturday Night Live on WOWT.

For being a local show with a fairly low budget, Omaha Live! delivers from a writing and visual standpoint. They use locations from around the Metro to create the sketches, and they add to the sketch instead of becoming a distraction. It's not like they make sketches in their basement; they go to places like Dundee or Council Bluffs and base a sketch around the setting. Sometimes, a lackluster background can detract from the amusement, however Omaha Live! takes even a storage shed or a garage and creates a setting that makes sense. The show is a prime example of how fancy props and nice cameras don't make a comedy show; just the foundational tools and some good ideas that people in the area can relate to and laugh at.

During the Halloween episode, Omaha Live! performed a sketch about the Huskers “frightfully” terrible record. They felt like the people of Nebraska needed a place to call and talk about their problems. So, they created a fake Husker Support Hotline to assist those in need of a pep talk. Husker legends including Johnny Rodgers and Eric Crouch were seen on the phones, and they fit perfectly. Crouch por-

trayed a pretty boy attitude, which was funny because Crouch seems like such a nice person. How was Crouch able to come off as he did? It was all in the writing. The skit was not corny, it was well written and funny. It's a hard formula to master, but Omaha Live! does it well.

One of the surprises of the cast is former UFC fighter Houston Alexander. Despite his intimidating look, he turns out to be one of the funniest cast members. He uses his appearance and fighting background to his advantage and makes great comedy, which includes his “Gangland: Omaha” bits. Alexander can also be a silly character, such as Randy Weffey, Presidential Candidate, a one minute sketch of Alexander skipping around and making his “bid” for president. It attests to his natural talent, and Alexander brings a unique dynamic to the show that makes it that much more entertaining.

Even though the show airs at midnight, Omaha Live! has been very popular. Their Facebook page has over 1,400 likes and their Youtube channel has almost 200,000 views. The show posts their full episodes on Youtube, which allows people who want to watch but can't stay awake to enjoy the half-hour program. Another reason why it seems to draw viewers is because it is for Omaha, about the people, places and issues and it's something for people who live here to be proud of. That sort of local connection draws in viewers, but Omaha Live! keeps people watching with their original writing and creative sketches.

From their parody songs to their satirical sketches about local problems, Omaha Live! accomplishes its mission and does it well; without having all of the bells and whistles of a high-end mainstream production.



Photo Courtesy of **OMAHA LIVE**

The cast of Omaha Live make funny faces. The satirical show appears after SNL on WOWT.

‘Spectre’ adds to Bond series, serves as cinematic masterpiece

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

Who doesn't love a good action movie? America craves the intensity of summer blockbusters. These films reel moviegoers in with their fast-paced chase scenes, stylized fighting, ridiculous violence and overly dramatic sex appeal. This perfectly describes the James Bond film series, which has managed to secure a solid 52 years of prevalence in the movie industry.

The latest addition to the Bond series, “Spectre,” was produced with an insane budget of around \$350 million. This modern spy flick pays homage to its predecessors in the way of classic storytelling. The film takes place after the events of “Skyfall,” the chronologically previous film.

“Spectre” unfolds into a cinematic masterpiece right off the bat. An absolutely stunning intro credit sequence leaves the audience with goosebumps. Beautifully ominous visuals are accompanied by Sam Smith's emotionally-heavy track, “Writing's on the Wall.” Many viewers have said that the intro left them gawking due to the sheer intensity of the visual experience.

Bond films never fall short on production value. Locations in “Spectre” were skillfully selected, and the cinematographic techniques successfully embody the individuality of each setting. Breathtaking aerial shots also exhibit the massive scale of the storyline, as shown in several of the mountain sequences. Colorful scenery is shown within the very first seconds of the movie. The opening scene shows Bond undercover at a buzzing Day of the Dead celebration, tailing a nefarious criminal, as usual.

With this being the longest and most expensive movie in the series so far, director Sam Mendes and cinematographer Hoyte van Hoytema decided to go big in every aspect imaginable.

An expertly assembled cast features award-winning actors Danny Craig (James Bond) and Christoph Waltz (Franz Oberhauser). Extensive research and attention to detail went into cos-

tuming, prop selection and fancy Bond gadgets. Bond uses the franchise's trademark Walther PPK pistol as a nod to the previous films, giving longtime fans yet another moment of satisfaction. Additionally, a brief cameo from a past Bond girl, Monica Bellucci, is also featured.

The movie's fight scenes and chase sequences featured some of the best action aesthetics that have been put to screen in many years. About \$36.7 million was spent on custom cars alone, all to be blown up or otherwise destroyed in the heat of a high-speed showdown. A brutal fistfight takes place on a moving train, showcasing complex stunts and impressive fight choreography. Ultimately, these scenes and sequences are tastefully blended into a rollercoaster of a plotline.

In terms of character development, “Spectre” wastes no time introducing new threats, exposing shady pasts, resurrecting old conflicts and connecting the dots on mysterious antagonists. Bond deals with personal struggles, and the viewer sees a more human side to his cold and stoic persona. Past enemies and shocking connections are revealed in the most twisted ways, resulting in a cinematic masterpiece that truly is a fine addition to the Bond lineage.

All in all, “Spectre” deserves the praise it has received so far. It's hard to execute sequels in such a cherished series, but this film lives up to all the hype. A solid 8 out of 10 would do the film justice, and that's being modest. “Spectre” is still in theaters, and is definitely worth the trip.

A sequel is already rumored to be in the works. An even larger budget is predicted, allowing a tremendous margin for production improvement. It is likely that Mendes will return as director, as he has proven himself worthy of undertaking the series with “Skyfall” and “Spectre”. The sequel is supposed to be directly connected with the “Spectre” story arc. Craig has confirmed his participation in the 25th installment in the Bond series, but has not revealed much else.

It seems that this genre-defining film series is already gearing up for yet another round.



Photo Courtesy of **IMDB.COM**

Overcoming distance and hardship, central alums tie the knot

CONTINUED FROM 'LOVE STORY'
ON PAGE 15

the world was some time discouraging. But we made it work.” Kara and Alex have only lived in the same place three times since they met. In Omaha, while Alex was on exchange, in Berlin in 2009 while Kara was studying abroad during college and, since 2014, the pair lives permanently in Berlin together.

“We’ve known each other for over 11 years now. Our relationship progressed from a purely platonic friendship into a deep love over that time. It was hard to define it at times,” Kara says.

The pair have endured a series of difficulties and hardships. Including the fact that they are from two completely different parts of the world with very different languages.

“We both speak English and German fluently now, but that wasn’t always so,” says Alex. “Teaching each other our languages and through that our cultures has always been and remains to be the source of many good conversations and laughter.”

Additionally, becoming accustomed to the different countries and cultural situations. Alex says, “I’ve come to realize that we treat each other with great respect and understanding, also because we acknowledge that the other person is from a different cultural background...I still find that I am more accepting and respecting of her and what she says or does because I can’t judge her culture by the standards of my own...”

Differences in culture aren’t the only struggles the couple has faced. In 2013, Kara was diagnosed with Stage 3 Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma (a type of blood cancer). “As you can imagine, my world was pretty much flipped upside down,” says Kara. “But guess who was right there by my side? Along with my family and amazing network of friends, Alex was there.”

This autumn, after 11 years of friendship and long-distance dating, Kara and Alex decided to get married. They wedded in Omaha on October 2, and they had a wedding reception in Germany on October 24.

“It [the wedding] was truly one of the best days of my life,” says Alex. “Having both of our families together in one place...



Photo Courtesy of MULLERS PHOTOGRAPHY

Returning to where they met, Kara Lambrecht and Alex Wanitschke took some of their wedding photos on Central’s lawn.

sharing each other’s cultures and celebrating our love was very special to me. Kara was the most beautiful bride I have ever seen. Eye candy for sure.”

Kara and Alex revisited Central for the first time since graduation to take wedding photos and to tour the school. Alex’s family also joined to see what his life was like while he was on exchange in Omaha.

“I guess I never really thought I would marry somebody from a different country,” Kara says. “But once I legitimately thought about marrying somebody, a difference in culture or citizenship didn’t really impact me in anyway. Our difference in cultures is something that keeps our relationship so interesting, something we both truly value.”




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Public schools offer much more than free education

CONTINUED FROM 'PUBLIC SCHOOLS'
ON PAGE 15

within the nation, the harmful effects of which do not only harm students attending those schools, but also makes it nearly impossible for public schools to operate successfully. The downfalls of public school systems are not only greatly overestimated by wealthy parents, they are exacerbated in the process.

Parents bemoan the “dangers” of public schools, and complain over low standardized test scores and graduation rates. They wish to save their child from the quicksand of the public school system; attendance of such a school first results in a low ACT score, then quickly spirals to become an opiate addiction and a rap sheet marked with misdemeanor charges.

By deciding to buy a private education for one’s child, upper middle class adults are destroying a vital component of the American school system- the guarantee of a free, public and high quality education for all young people.

The drain of students from public schools who originate from families with middle to upper class salaries and post-secondary education has caused an unending cycle of disadvantages for federally-funded institutions. As less students attend who are motivated by their families to do well in school and behave well, standardized test scores simultaneously dwindle. Lower scores means lower funding and fewer students, and the cycle continues. Students from affluent families are less likely to attend their local public schools, and the system becomes worse for those who cannot afford to attend a private school.

Public schools are a hallmark of American education; without well-funded, high quality public grade schools and high schools, students within a lower socio-economic class will be offered even less of an opportunity to find success and achieve their goals.

Parents must begin to truly consider the facts when it comes to private and public education. Private schools offer benefits, many of which may be more rewarding for certain types of people than for others. Still, many consider private schools to offer the best education simply because it requires tuition.

Not only do many public schools offer a superb academic education, they also offer an education that spans beyond the classroom. In addition to being taught to be accepting individuals, public school students are directly exposed to the cultures and backgrounds of people unlike themselves.

'MORE THAN A UNIFORM'

JROTC instructors Dwaine Sutter and Michael Melvin share military experiences with students and teach the value of citizenship, loyalty and leadership.



Sergeant Major Sutter

Hayley Raney
staff writer

Army veteran Dwaine Sutter is one of the Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) teachers, better known as Sergeant Major Sutter. Originally from Chicago, Sutter moved to Norfolk, Neb. when he was eight years old to be closer to his mother's family.

"I wanted to get out of Nebraska," Sutter said. He decided to join the military at 17 years old, which ultimately would punch his ticket of exodus.

When Sutter enrolled in the army, he went to Fort Leonard, Mo., but spent the majority of his time overseas, mainly in Europe. During Sutter's servicem, he spent 21 of 25 years out of the United States.

The longest time Sutter spent in a combat zone was 18 months serving in the First Gulf War.

When it comes to combat Sutter said, "It's not something every service member wants to do, but when it comes down to it we're pretty prepared." Being in combat takes "courage" Sutter said. "It makes a person come to grips with their worst fears."

Sutter feels many aspects of the military have shaped him to be the person he is today. "I think it's had a great impact on my leadership, communication skills and mostly shaped me into three words that I hold dearly: duty, honor, country."

Life lessons Sutter learned from the Army were "patience, problem solving and decision making."

Sutter's career choices would be the only thing that would have been different if he never joined the Army. He said that had he remained in Norfolk he most likely would have gone into plumbing or welding.

According to Sutter, common misconceptions about people in the Army are that they are not able to think for themselves and that they are "robots."

"We create self-starters," Sutter said. "A soldier comes out with a work ethic and are a smarter individual, it makes them more marketable in a civilian sector."

Sutter's favorite memory of serving in the Army was "the opportunity to travel and go around the world." People, food and different cultures were also some of Sutter's favorite memories. "Those are the types of stories I love sharing with my students," Sutter said.

To be an ROTC teacher, one has to have retired with the rank of a Sergeant First Class or above, so that the candidate has spent enough time in the military in order to explain the organization and disciplines to the students.

ROTC class is a "citizen based program" that tries to lead students in the right direction by stressing values such as camaraderie, leadership and a sense of pride in teamwork.

Sutter prepares his students to be better citizens for their future. He does not encourage his students to enroll in the military, but will gladly lead them in the right direction if his students wish to join.

"The students, Colonel Melvin and I work hard," Sutter said. "We are more than a P.E. credit and more than a uniform."



Lieutenant Colonel Melvin

Carlson Koch
staff writer

With the training provided by Lieutenant Colonel Michael Melvin, students enrolled in the Junior Reserve Officer's Training Corps (JROTC) gain the opportunity to compete in events and create a sense of leadership.

Melvin grew up in Valley, Neb. According to him, there was "little adult supervision" which allowed teenagers to do what they wished. Melvin found his most fond memories while riding bikes with friends, playing sports and adventuring into the woods near the Platte River.

Melvin's father served in the military during both WWII and the Korean War, but his inspiration to join the military came from reading a novel, "The Green Beret."

When stationed in Neb., Melvin's wife found a job and they decided to settle down. The Central JROTC at the time was retiring, so Melvin filled the spot of commander.

"I have had a couple opportunities to move within the district, but I would have been in administration and not around kids," said Melvin.

A steady 30 to 35 percent of students in the JROTC program at Central take their skills to the military. Students frequently come back to visit Melvin and give updates. "It is a rare month that I don't have a former student stop by to say 'hi' and let me know what is going on in their life," he said.

JROTC is not a military preparation program, but those who do join are given feedback in case they do decide to enter a military branch.

In his time with the military, Melvin commanded a squadron of 776 men along with 61 M1 tanks, 40 Cavalry vehicles, 18 Apache helicopters and six Kiowa helicopters. "[My] organizational skills, decision-making, personal responsibility, leadership and personal articulation [were] developed over a 30 year career," said Melvin.

Melvin begins each year of JROTC by saying, "I hold you to a higher standard than anyone else in this school. I expect you to set the example in effort, behavior and respect."

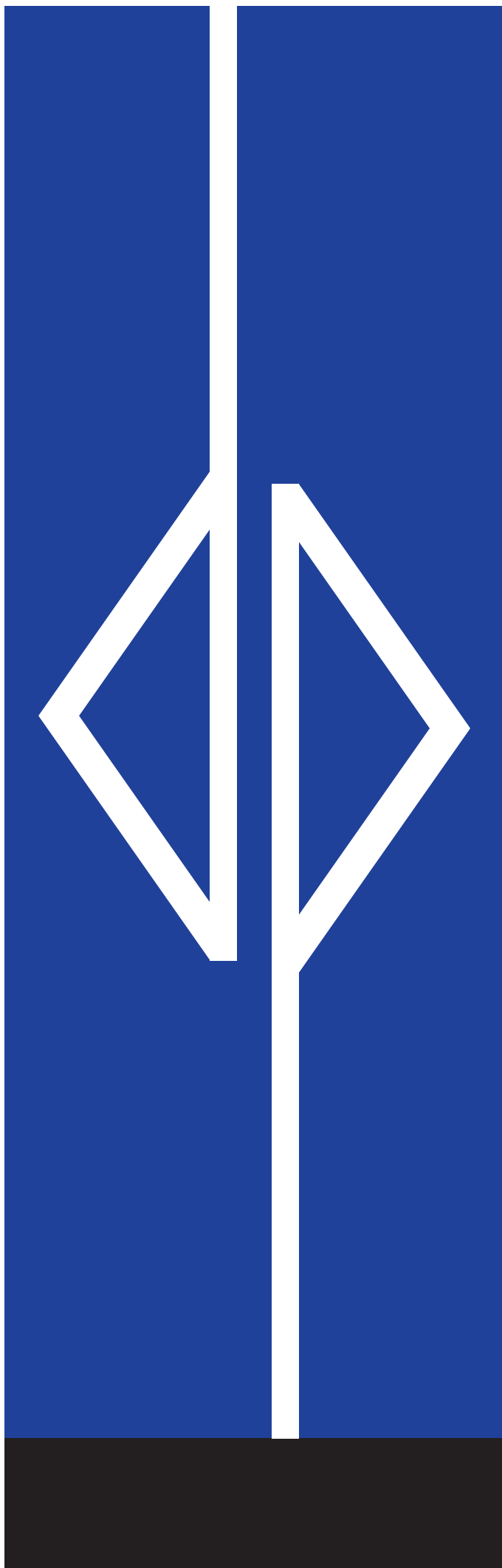
"Sutter and I act as mentors," Melvin said. "As long as what the students do is legal, ethical and moral, we let them learn from their actions and decisions."

In 2011, the leadership team ventured to Washington, D.C. for the national competition and placed 18th. There are many different teams in the JROTC program that participate in a variety of competitions. Melvin said that the teams do so well that they have "several more boxes in storage."

"I have been blessed working alongside Sutter all these years," said Melvin. "I appreciate all of the cadets that have passed through the door of room 020 and know they will represent the Eagle Battalion well."



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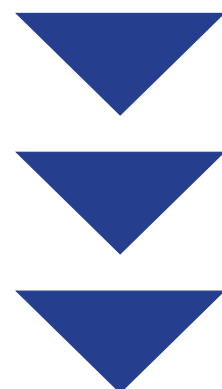
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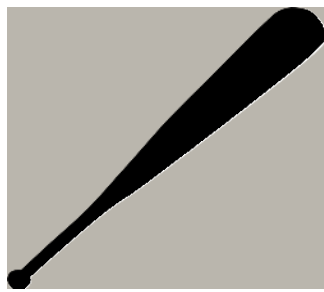
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ATHLETES TO WATCH 24 & 25

As the winter sports season approaches, The Register features top athletes from each sport. These are Central's players to watch.



PINE TAR 26

Editorial: Should pitchers be allowed to use pine tar to give them a better grip on the ball? Does this break the rules of the game?

MELANIE DRYAK 27

Senior spends her free time hunting with family. Melanie Dryak enjoys bow-fishing and shooting turkeys.



sports & leisure

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IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Two sophomores take their love for theatrical dance to the stage in each of their studio's rendition of "The Nutcracker."



Photo Courtesy of KYLIE CARRICO & SIMONE DAVIS

Left: Sophomore Kylie Carrico has been performing on stage for the last five years. Right: Practicing intently, sophomore Simone Davis has dedicated many hours to improving her dance.

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

Two sophomores, Simone Davis and Kylie Carrico, will be performing this year in "The Nutcracker" after years of training and prior dance experience.

Davis performs with Adair Dance Academy and Ever After Productions. She is performing for the sixth time in "Nutcracker Delights," which is essentially a simplified, more unique version of the original ballet. This year, Davis is a Spanish soloist, which is her favorite role thus far. Previous parts include a rosebud, an Arabian dancer, mistletoe, and Waltz to the Flowers.

The whole process begins with auditions in August and then rehearsals are one or two times a week until tech week. After a rigorous and exhausting tech week, Davis and the rest of the dancers have three performances, another tech week, and then three more performances.

"My favorite part is getting the role and learning the choreography," says Davis. "It's really time-consuming, so you miss out on a lot of stuff, like just hanging out or finding time for homework."

Kylie Carrico, also a sophomore, with Motion 41 Dance, performed this year for her fifth time in Ballet Nebraska's "The Nutcracker." This is Carrico's fifth time participating in the production; in the past, she has been a Chinese dancer, a Little

Drosselmeyer and this year she was a French baker.

In October, rehearsals start and each role has their own practices one or two times a week, much like Adair. Then a week before tech week, they run through the whole show altogether in the studio. During tech week, some of the dancers' duties entail spacing (coordinating the performance they did in a smaller studio space to a much larger stage), a full run-through of Acts I and II separately and then together. The company has one performance before Thanksgiving at Iowa Western Community College and then, after Thanksgiving, the dancers have two

CONTINUE TO 'DANCERS'
ON PAGE 26

Regulation and rules weigh heavily on wrestlers

Alec Rome
web editor

As the number goes up and down on the scale, so does the heartbeat of a wrestler. While it may seem insignificant, what the scale says makes a huge difference in how an athlete could perform and whether they can compete.

Why is weight so important? It determines the weight class a wrestler competes in. Ideally, a wrestler would like to compete with opponents close to their own weight, which is why classes were established. Just as in other combat sports such as boxing, weight classes keep the sport fair and competitive.

Since the National Federation of State High School Association rules on maximum weight cutting were implemented in 2006, a wrestler could not lose more than 1.5% of their body weight per week, and a wrestler could not have less than 7% body fat for males and 12% for females. It can be a lot to manage, however according to Jimmie Foster, one of the head wrestling coaches at Central, it has made the sport [fairer] and more fun. "It's made wrestling more enjoyable for coaches as well as athletes," Foster said. "Because a coach can't make you go at [some] weight."

Regulations also have affected weigh-ins on a competition day. Originally, wrestlers could weigh-in the morning of the competition. Now, wrestlers can only weigh-in an hour before a meet, which reduces the chances of wrestlers gaining weight on the day of competition in order to gain an advantage.

While regulations have helped the sport become [fairer], it has also had somewhat of an impact on athletes' health. "There were no regulations when I wrestled," Foster said. "Now you are being healthy the whole time." However, some of the claims that losing too much weight at a time can become exaggerated, according to Foster. "Even back then you are losing ten pounds a week," Foster said. "It makes your life suck, but I don't think you are in any danger. Nobody was doing an excessive amount of weight gain."

Foster understands that cutting weight is not a fun thing, and during the period he wrestled, those regulations did not help him enjoy the sport. He says that he usually makes wrestlers change their weight class if losing or gaining weight becomes a distraction. "You should be going to wrestling practice to try and get better," Foster said. "Those days of getting to wrestling practice and losing a lot of weight, those coaches that think like that have fallen by the wayside. You should go to wrestling practice with the idea of 'I am going to get better,' not 'I am going to lose five pounds today.'"

Through his own personal experience as a former wrestler and a coach, he has seen why regulations for weight cutting have benefitted the sport on an emotional and competitive level. "Most of those guys hated wrestling back in those days, because they had to cut weight," Foster said. "The only part they liked about wrestling was winning. I want you to like all of wrestling, [from] the drills to winning too."

“ You should go to wrestling practice with the idea of 'I am going to get better,' not 'I am going to lose five pounds today.' ”
JIMMIE FOSTER
Head wrestling coach

Volleyball coaches retiring after dedicating many years on the court

Hayley Raney
staff writer

"I never felt like I could step away," said math teacher and freshman volleyball coach Brent Larson. Larson, along with BMIT department head Jodi Brown and German teacher Erica Meyer all coached their last volleyball games in November. All three coaches have decided to retire from volleyball and move on to different things.

Brown, who has been coaching varsity for 17 years said, "I'm now the department head of BMIT and there was extra responsibilities so it was difficult to find time for coaching."

Larson, who has been the freshman coach for 13 years said, "My plan is to work the elementary volleyball program at my daughter's school."

Meyer, who has coached junior varsity for 15 years said it was a "natural" decision, but Brown did help her make her choice to leave, as the two have been friends for many years.

Some of Central's newly hired teachers have volleyball experience and Larson said, "It's a good opportunity to let other coach." The coaches do not know who will be taking their places, but they hope for the best for the current players and the future of the volleyball program.

Brown and Meyer may plan on coaching again in the
CONTINUE TO 'COACHES'
ON PAGE 26

PLAYERS TO WATCH

As the winter sports season approaches, The Register features top athletes from each sport. These are Central's players to watch.

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

Senior Adrian Taylor is not new to the wrestling program. Having wrestled since he was 13 years old, Taylor has been a promising member of Central's wrestling team for all four years. Taylor credits his older cousin with igniting his passion for wrestling.

Taylor's cousin was a very successful wrestler and had a positive influence on him. The unique thing about Taylor's cousin is that his cousin is a girl; there are not many girls apart of the wrestling program. However, this did not limit Brittney Taylor from competing with North High School's wrestling team. "My big cousin placed at state, and was one of the first girls to place at state," Taylor said.

So far, Taylor is more than content with how the wrestling seasons have been going. But, Taylor still has goals for himself that he has this season to accomplish. "It has been great. I have never qualified at state, but I've come back every year, ready to battle and be the best for my team," Taylor said. For this season, Taylor is determined to accomplish his goal of qualifying for state.

His goal does not stop at qualifying. Taylor not only wants to qualify for state, but he also wants to place at state. If Taylor places at state, he will be remembered in Central's wrestling team legacy forever. After high school, Taylor wishes to continue wrestling in college, but does not know yet what college he wants to attend.

Coach Jimmie Foster has been Taylor's coach for all four of his years. Taylor has a good relationship with Foster, and credits him with aiding in his career a significant amount. "Foster has influenced me outstandingly as a coach, and has taught me many things during my four years of high school," Taylor said.

Out of everything Foster has taught Taylor coaching him these four years, Taylor has taken away a motto that still continues to shape him as a wrestler. "Pain is temporary, pride is forever."

Whether he wrestles in college or not, wrestling has served much more than just a competitive sport for Taylor. "Wrestling has taught me that no matter how tough something is, the worst that can happen is you lose," Taylor said. "There will always be a tomorrow."



ANN MILROY | The Register

ADRIAN TAYLOR

MAKENSEY PANKERS & GARRISON BROWN



ANN MILROY | The Register

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

During the brief intermission between fall and spring sports season's many athletes take time off to rest and recuperate or pursue a winter athletic. Although power lifting may not be an official district sport, it certainly does attract many a student-athlete during the winter months, and has carved itself a rather impressive niche in teaching the fundamentals of weight lifting and building up participant's muscles to allow their game in other sports to also improve.

One of the many example athletes who personifies the cross-training that power lifting provides is junior Makensey Pankers. Pankers has been an active member of the team since her freshman year, "I started powerlifting mainly to help get me stronger for softball," she said. "Powerlifting helps with softball because all of the strength I've gained helps me hit the ball harder and throw harder. It also keeps me in really good physical shape." and thus

explaining one of powerlifting most helpful attributes, building muscle for other sports and helping the athletes to better their all-around performance.

Entering into her third year on the squad, Pankers said that the results one gets from putting effort into power lifting really are worth all of the effort. "I have continued powerlifting because I ended up really enjoying the competitiveness and getting stronger. I also really love my coaches," she said. Among the three lifts that the team competes in, bench press, squats and deadlift, Pankers personally prefers the deadlift, as it work numerous muscle groups and also helps to build more overall strength.

As the 2015-2016 season begins, Pankers has high set several high goals for herself and her lifting. She said, "My overall goals this year are to beat some school records for my weight class and to hopefully win state." Due to her striving for these achievements, even Pankers' free times is often fitness related, as she uses it to improve her lifting form and technique through hours at the gym.

Looking forward to the future, Pankers would like to attend

Creighton University and continue to play her beloved sport of softball, and also pursue her dream of becoming a physical therapist. Of course though, she doesn't plan on forgetting about where she is now, or her power lifting team, as she said, "Central is easily one of the best schools in town. Ever since I have gone here I've loved it. I honestly couldn't see myself attending another high school. [On the powerlifting team] we all support each other."

Junior Garrison Brown is entering his second year of power lifting, and for the football lineman, it has certainly been a very useful asset. He explained how the lifts, clings and diamond pushups that the powerlifters do all serve to build up more and more strength, and that not only do they improve the team's chances in meets, but they also better prepare the athletes for their other sports.

Brown also helped to explain how powerlifting works, as it isn't commonly understood by the student body. He said, "We have three meets a season, and the meets are divided by the athletes max weights. Max weight is determined by your performance in practice. The meets will also consumer your whole day because after your lift you hang out and support your teammates. The girls are always hype."

Like many sports, powerlifting is not only a competition against the other schools, but it is also an event to push one's self to continually beat the previous max weight. "You get better for the team, but you also get better for yourself," Brown said.

Brown's goals for this year, like Pankers, are top all his numbers from last year, and also to make it to state and hopefully win. "I'm healthy and I'm just trying to do the best that I can," he said.

Along with powerlifting and football, Brown also throws shot put and discus for the track and field team. He said of how lifting helps him in his other sports, "It feeds into both, and it betters me for the throwing in track which then helps me for the offseason in football."

Although Brown is still unsure at the moment of his college plans, one thing about his future is certain, he would like to "obtain currency," as he said. And of course, he will always be proud of his alma mater as he said, "I think Central is a lovely school. They push you to better yourself and to strive for excellence in all you do. Top athletics, and top academics."

TAYLOR GUNTER & ROMAN BEHRENS



ANN MILROY | The Register

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

As the season starts in less than three weeks, the girls basketball team will be looking to grow and their progress from last season and hopefully make it to state and claim the trophy. In order to accomplish this, the success of one particular player will be crucial to the team succeeding.

Senior, Taylor Gunter is looking to prove how far she has come in her four years and that she can lead the team to victory in different ways than last year. "I guess I really have to score this year, last year I did really everything but score and I think we might struggle this year scoring," Gunter said.

Since the team will not have much size, Gunter and co will be looking to prove that this does not make a difference. "The biggest thing is that a small team can go far because we don't

really have a post this year but we have a team full of girls who have been playing together for a long time," Gunter said.

In order to prepare herself for her final season, Gunter went the extra mile in her preparation. "I've been working with an old coach of mine who really pushes me and he's pushed me outside of my comfort zone so that I'm ready for game like experiences," Gunter said.

The grind of basketball season continues to entice her and gives her something to look forward to. "All the teams around the metro are pretty equal this year so the competition throughout the season will be exciting," Gunter said.

The team dynamic this year is much different than it was in previous years. "I think we have different groups of girls who were close but this year's team we were all playing together since 5th or 6th grade so we are all pretty close and I think that's gonna help us," Gunter said.

Gunter has goals for the team in the upcoming season in her mind, "We need to be more together and play together even if we are losing," Gunter said.

For those thinking about attempting to make the team, she has a message for you: "Come out for tryouts and if you miss tryouts, talk to coach cause we don't really have many people coming out," Gunter said.

Since the boys basketball team did not make the state tournament last year, they will be looking to prove that the program has not diminished in its dominance throughout the metro. More specifically, golden boy sophomore, Roman Behrens will look to help the team restore this mindset of basketball tradition and supremacy. "Central basketball has been written off in the last couple years and we're no longer looked at as the powerhouse we once were, I'm looking to prove that we're still the best high school basketball program and we are going to be contending for a state title the next few years," Behrens said.

Individually, Behrens is looking to be more of a leader for the team this year than last. "My individual goal is to be a good leader for the team and to help the team to as many wins as possible," Behrens said, he added the team goal is the same as always, "As a team our goal continues to be to make it to the state tournament and try to bring home the whole thing."

Being a freshman on varsity is a challenge in and of itself. However, with a sport such as basketball especially, it is easy to be outmatched in athleticism and physicality with your counterparts. "I think I have improved since last year, as a freshman it's hard to play varsity because everybody is stronger and faster than you but I think I have improved overall since then and more importantly, the team has as well," Behrens said.

Though the team has lost some of its key pieces through graduation and transfers, they seem to have turned out positively. "The team has changed in a very positive way from last season, we are a much stronger team than last year and we have more talented players, we also have played as a cohesive unit so far unlike last season," Behrens said.

This season will be one to remember if the team reaches their full potential and there is great optimism surrounding the team. "I'm looking forward to hopefully a great season," Behrens said, "it feels great to represent your school and I am really looking forward to it."

JESSICA FERGUSON & DEREK SMITH

Hayley Raney
staff writer

For senior Derek Smith and sophomore Jessica Ferguson, swimming has always been a part of their lives. "I've always swam since I was little," Smith said. Ferguson has been swimming since she was four and follows in the footsteps of her older sister, Claire Ferguson, Central swimmer and graduate of 2008. Both have been swimming all years they've been in high school.

For Ferguson, swimming is "super relaxing" and she enjoys her teammates. Smith is more self-dependent. "You push yourself hard and it's a good exercise," he said. Both of the dedicated swimmers plan to make it to state this year and place in the top three of their events. Ferguson won fifth last year at state.

Ferguson looks forward to "getting to know new people" and going to invites, which are duals swimmers compete in against other schools. For Smith, he's more serious this year, and he looks forward to "making it to state, faster times and improvement."

Obstacles come and go in every sport, but for these teens they take their obstacles into serious matter. Ferguson has a bad shoulder which she hopes to push through when the time for swimming comes. Smith says the one obstacle he has is competition within the team. He plans to beat other Central swimmers to make it to state.

Ferguson participates in the 100 butterfly, individual medley and the mid-distance freestyle. Smith participates in the 50 free, 100 free, 200 free relay and 400 free relay.

On top of their involvement in swimming, Smith participates in club soccer year round and Ferguson participates in Central's music choir.

Turning swimming into a career hasn't crossed the minds of the students. Smith will probably stop swimming competitively after high school. Ferguson wishes to, but understands the difficulty of moving to the next level with the sport. "Everyone would like to, but realistically it's hard," she said. Ferguson aims to swim at Stanford.

"[Swimming is] hard, not for everybody and it's not as easy as everyone says it is," Smith said. Even more importantly, it is about the bond the team creates. Swimming isn't just a sport here at Central. As Ferguson says, "It's really a family."



ANN MILROY | The Register

Dancers learn delicate balance between studio, studying, social life

CONTINUED FROM 'DANCERS' ON PAGE 23

school shows, and then they are required to repeat the process of tech week and do spacing again and do the same full run-throughs, but in correspondence with the Orpheum stage.

Davis began dancing when she was three years old. She started with just ballet and tap, but now she does ballet, modern, musical theater and tap.

Davis' favorites are modern and ballet; consequently, one of her biggest inspirations has been her modern teacher Carly Sinn.

Regularly, Davis takes eight classes and dances an average of 14 hours a week. After high school, she'd like to minor in dance, preferably at Kansas University, possibly join a company and then become a kindergarten teacher.

"I love performing...I just love being in a theater and on a stage," says Davis. She also says that dancing has always been a part of her. Her advice to student dancers is to find a balance between school and dance and to simply manage your time well.

Like Davis, Carrico says, "My favorite thing is performing because you finally get to show off everything you've worked on for weeks or months."

When she was three years old, Carrico's mother tried to put her in gymnastics, but she didn't "fit the qualifications," so her mom decided to place her into a dance class

instead.

Carrico was at a more competition-based studio until she was about 12 years old. After that, she switched to Motion 41, her current dance studio, and began jazz, lyrical, contemporary, and ballet classes.

"I love ballet because of the structure and because it challenges me. Dance wouldn't really be fun if it wasn't hard," says Carrico, "Also it's just a really beautiful way to dance. The moves are elegant and precise at the same time."

Two people who have majorly influenced Carrico are Misty Copeland, the first black principal of the American Ballet Theater, and her ballet instructor Natasha Grimm-Gregory.

Carrico dances about 13 hours a week and, with that dedication, she says she sacrifices time with her family, time to do homework and study and her social life in general.

"For me, it's just a hobby," says Carrico, "I love it, but I can't see myself dancing professionally."

Although the two dancers dance at two different studios and in two different shows, they both agree that hard work pays off.

They put in the work and they have the drive to perform in big shows such as "The Nutcracker," but they don't do it without dedication and without a passion for their sport.

“ Dance is a huge part of my life, and even though I don't want to do it professionally, I wouldn't trade it for the world. ”

KYLIE CARRICO

Dancer in "The Nutcracker"

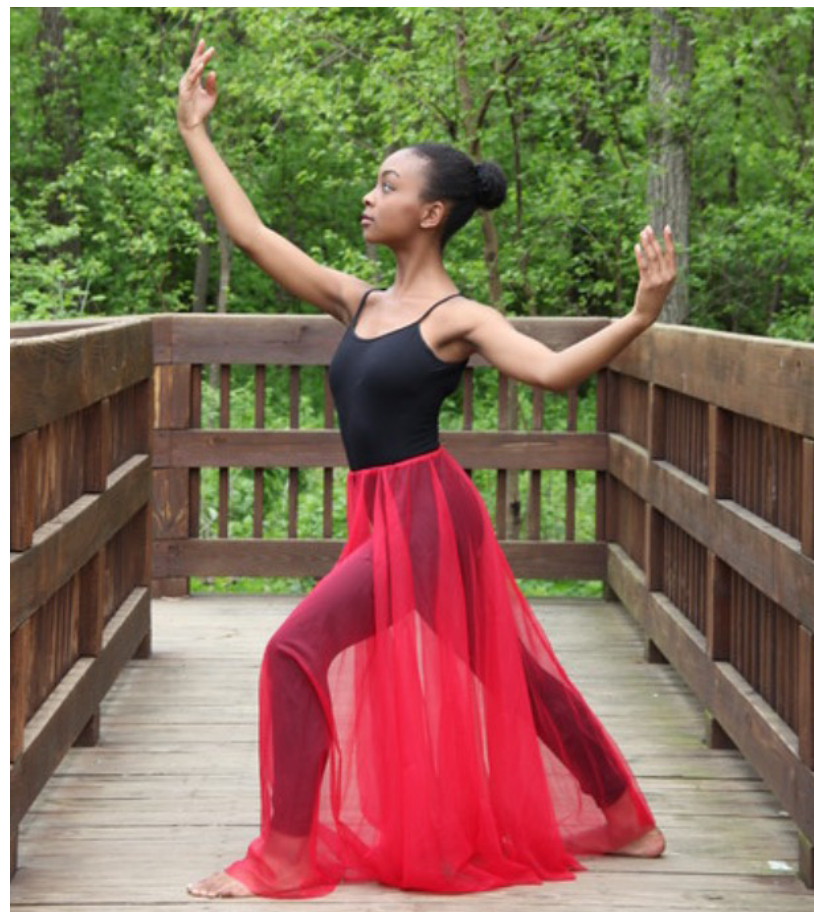


Photo Courtesy of SIMONE DAVIS

Simone Davis has learned to manage her time between school and dance.

Editorial: Pitchers should be allowed to use pine tar, offers advantages

Javier Lepes
contributing writer

Using pine tar in baseball has many restrictions. Over the many years baseball has been around, most baseball players have been using the "sticky" substance pine tar. Even though the players are allowed to use it, it is only allowed on the "on deck" circles for the batters and the fielders. According to the rule book of Major League baseball it is illegal for pitchers to be found using the substance. Rule 8.02 states: "The pitcher shall not apply a foreign substance of any kind to the ball."

Pine tar is found in trees and is a sticky material produced by the high temperature carbonization of pine wood only in certain conditions. Today it is used in soaps, shampoos and treatments for certain skin conditions. It is used in baseball to allow the batter to have a better grip on his bat. They would allow batters to use the substance due to the batter occasionally losing grip of the bat.

But wouldn't the same happen with pitchers losing the grip of the baseball? Particularly in colder weather, it is increasingly harder to grip the baseball. Baseballs are usually made out of two strips of white horsehide or cowhide and in lower temperatures the baseball tends to get a little more slippery. So if batters get to use it for grip, why can't pitchers?

Many skeptics would say it gives the pitchers an advantage over opposing batters. There are many ways to alter the flight of a baseball. Some of the many ways would be gripping the baseball along or across the baseball seams or gripping the ball with your knuckles, but those are said "predictable" flight paths for a hitter to hit. But, if a pitcher would apply a foreign substance or "scuff," the baseball it would alter the flight of the pitch in an unpredictable manner.

Making the pitch an unpredictable flight path would make the pitch harder to "track" and make contact with the ball. Even though many say that it does make a drastic change in the flight pattern, many Major League baseball players don't really mind pitchers using such substances. The Boston Red Sox designated hitter David Ortiz spoke his mind about the issue, "Everybody uses pine tar, no big deal."

There have been many incidents of pitchers being caught using pine tar during games. April 10, 2014 Michael Pineda was pitching a game against the Boston Red Sox. Pineda made it obvious that he was using pine tar. He had put pine tar on the neck of his dark brown colored skin. Everyone noticed it due to the glare the pine tar made from the ballpark lights. Violation of MLB rule 8.02 results in immediate ejection from the game, and he was later given a 10 game suspension.

A.J. Pierzynski, currently an Atlanta Braves catcher, but at the time with the Red Sox organization, spoke about the situ-

ation and how he feels about Pineda using pine tar. "I'm all for it, you just can't do it that blatantly. Catchers have pine tar on their shin guards all of the time, it's not a big deal. As long as it's not blatant, and you're not putting it out there for the whole world to see."

If many batters say it's not really a "big deal" or it doesn't really change the flight of the ball, along with not putting the hitter at a disadvantage, many would say pine tar should only be used for safety precautions. Like, helping the batter not lose his grip of the bat. Many pitchers often lose grip of the baseball which sometimes leads to pitches being thrown "wildly" around or at the batter.

In order for pitchers to get a better grip, pitchers are supplied with a rosin bag located behind the mound and can be accessible at any time throughout the game.

The rosin allows the pitcher to dry his hands, but doesn't give the pitcher a better grip of the ball unless it is mixed with sweat or another liquid, such as sunscreen, another form of cheating some pitchers use.

Unless something is done about the rule of not allowing pitchers to be able to use pine tar, there will be many more incidents like Pineda's. Overall, pitchers should be able to use pine tar to ultimately give them a better grip on the ball. If nothing is done about the issue, pitchers would still be left at a disadvantage against batters and batters will still be at a safety risk.

Brown, Larson, Meyer all stepping down from coaching, will continue teaching

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future. Larson, on the other hand, will become the head boys golf coach this spring.

Larson hopes his daughter will attend Central and play volleyball, so he can be there to help out. "If not, it's okay," Larson said.

Some of the coaches' favorite memories include the dance off against Millard North at Papillion invite and the "fantastic" win the junior varsity team had over Bellevue West. Larson's favorite memory this year was watching each of the teams and seeing girls he had previously coached become better as they played on the junior varsity and varsity teams. "Each one of the teams have been something special," Larson said.

All three coaches say they will continue to be big supporters and fans of the volleyball girls for the years to come. Brown, Larson and Meyer hope the girls continue to work hard and improve next year on volleyball.

"I would love to see them do better with a new coach," Larson said.

Both the team and the coaches became nostalgic when they discussed the coaches leaving. "Some were shocked and sad, but they understood," Brown said.

"I was shocked when I heard that she was retiring after this season," senior Chloe Madigan said. "It's hard to imagine her (Brown) not being a coach, since she's been coaching for basically my entire life. I know she'll continue to support the teams

and enjoy the extra time with her dogs."

The three all have specific games which they consider their favorite. Meyer's favorite game was one against Bellevue West. Brown's favorite was when this year's "Leap for a Cure" game versus Westside. Larson's favorite was a tournament against Roncalli.

Larson's last thoughts of his final game were, "This is it." Brown was more concerned about her players. "It's the end for the seniors," she said.

"I just hope my first year out they win that trophy," Larson said, referring to the trophy at the OPS volleyball tournament. During Larson's time coaching his team has never won the trophy, but have come close. "I hope the freshman down the road will have the same positive experience," Larson said.

Meyer said coaching allowed her to get to know another side of Central outside of the classroom. "Coaching let me meet kids I didn't have in class," she said. According to her, the highlight of her coaching career was building relationships with the students.

Larson is proud to say that the team "had a string of winning seasons" and that they "won more games than they lost."

Brown's highlight of her coaching career was "having the first state qualifying team."

"I've had a tremendous time with these ladies over the years," Larson said. "It's time to focus energy on other things."



ANN MILROY | The Register

Brown is retiring from coaching after 17 years on the court.

Senior dedicates free time to hunting, bonding with family

Carlson Koch
staff writer

Hunting has been a part of human history for thousands of years. Similarly, in today's modern age, senior Melanie Dryak has been using both a bow and arrow and a shotgun ever since she was 12.

Other than preparing for next year's challenges that college will bring, Dryak finds time to spend with her family and make memories that cannot be forgotten, including pursuing her love of hunting.

The process of waiting and waiting for the perfect opportunity can be agonizing for hunters. "Hunting has taught me to learn patience, and that you can't control everything," said Dryak.

Other than the typical animals people hunt, such as deer, Dryak also hunts fish. Bow-fishing consists of an arrow launching from the string of the bow and hits its target. While most hunters may search for white-tail deer, big game such as elk and small game, Dryak focuses her time on bow-fishing and "has shot too many times to count."

Dryak also likes hunting other game. "I enjoy going turkey hunting the most and have shot multiple turkeys," she said.

Although controversy does exist over the morality of hunting, most of this is due to the possibility of hunters killing solely for the thrill. Dryak however says that when she hunts, she hunts to provide food and ensures that the animal is not killed in vain.

In recent times, the debate over whether or not private citizens have the right to own firearms has become very divisive, but as a hunter Dryak's opinion is that "Guns don't kill people. People kill people."

"I know the animal's life that I'm taking is going to good use to feed my family. I don't hunt just to kill, it's for a good use," said Dryak. Unlike some who may hunt in order to gain a boost of adrenaline or simple thrill, Dryak

strives to utilize as much of the animals as possible.

The many hours of patient waiting requires that hunters spend long stretches of time in close proximity of each other. For Dryak, these hours helped her build the bond with her father. "It has really strengthened my dad and my relationship with him."

Hunting is a tradition that normally is passed down through generations. Dryak is no exception to this as she said, "My dad is a very big hunter and so I grew up with it. All my family is into hunting, and something related to hunting is always being talked about."

Both her and her father hunt with one another and through the years, she found that she has a unique relationship with her father. "We sit in the wilderness together for hours with no service, but we always find something to talk about," Dryak said. She also explained how the time spent away from all the hustle and bustle helps to improve personal communication.

The stereotype that hunting is solely for males proves false for Dryak, with her both bow-fishing and hunting turkeys and deer, she says, "Girls can hunt too."

Dryak enjoys telling people that she hunts with her father. "When I tell people I hunt, it's a joy because it's something that they didn't know about me," she said.

Although Dryak takes pride in hunting, sometimes school is more important to her.

"Managing school and hunting is difficult, but sometimes I have to sacrifice my time hunting for school," said Dryak. Doing well in school requires a lot of attention and Dryak has to manage all the things in her life taking place, such as studies, preparing for college and other activities.

"I go hunting because it is something my dad and I can do together," she said. "But I also have fun doing it."

"The worst part about hunting is waking up, but once you are up and out there, everything is worth it," said Dryak, "even without getting an animal."



Photo Courtesy of MELANIE DRYAK

Melanie Dryak carries a turkey she hunted. Dryak has been hunting with her family since she was 12 years old.

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With changes made, NBA season will not upset

Since the NBA began its latest season, more differences now exist in the league than ever before. The Los Angeles Clippers held on to Deandre Jordan this summer to keep their big three of Jordan, Chris Paul and Blake Griffin intact, the San Antonio Spurs added Lamarus Aldridge to their entourage of veterans, Oklahoma City's roster remained much the same while acquiring Billy Donovan as the new coach and nursing Kevin Durant to full health, and the Golden State Warriors are back to prove that their title was not a fluke.

The Chicago Bulls have gone different directions with former Iowa State head coach, Fred Hoiberg, the Miami Heat re-signed Dwayne Wade and acquired point guard Goran Dragic while adding Justise Winslow in the draft, and Cleveland has resigned all their major pieces while looking to make another run at the title with LeBron James at the helm.

As the season marches on, four teams stand out. San Antonio and Golden State stand out as league powerhouses.

San Antonio added yet another star to pair with their organization's constants. Lamarus Aldridge will help the Spurs' depth on the front line while adding another double-double threat to pair with Tim Duncan. Furthermore, David West was acquired from the Pacers and is guaranteed to show up with enthusiasm and a spark to a Spurs team that sometimes can look disinterested.

Golden State has real star power. When Andre Iguodala is coming off the bench, your team is loaded. Also the electric backcourt tandem of Steph Curry and Klay Thompson will undoubtedly continue to provide points, and a perimeter presence.

The Cleveland Cavaliers and Miami Heat both have the potential to separate themselves. The trio of James, Irving and Love dominate the game and cover each other's bad days. Mo Williams is just another threat at point guard and Richard Jefferson provides much needed experience and a back-up to James.

Miami has equipped another team able to make a run at the NBA Finals. Dwayne Wade and Chris Bosh are back to lead the Heat back to relevance. Hassan Whiteside brings size, perimeter defense, and athleticism that Miami has lacked. Goran Dragic at point guard possesses aggression to complement Wade that Miami has never had before. Unlike many previous years, Miami has great depth on their team. They once again have the players to keep up with the best in the league.

It is unquestionable that more teams than ever can contend for the title, and this NBA season will be one for the books. The race for the NBA championship will undoubtedly be as deep as ever due to the star power and depth of so many teams in each conference.



VASILI SGOURAKIS
THE GYRO HERO