



BERNIE SANDERS

8

Sanders' supporters fail to realize the truth when it comes to his socialist policies and their efficacy.



STREET MUSIC

15

The local street percussion group offers learning opportunities to people of all ages and skill levels.



ATHLETE GPA

23

The school board voted to change the amount of time athletes are allotted to change their failing grades before returning to the game.

the REGISTER



Omaha Central High School | Volume 131, Issue 4 | February 11, 2016

omahacentralregister.com

Path to P.E. waivers unclear to students

Kelsey Thomas
editor-in-chief

Confusion surrounding physical education requirements at Central has drawn controversy and a mix of emotions, as many people report that students in IB, MYP, AP, or non-honors classes are held to different standards.

Oftentimes, students entering Central as a participant in the Middle Years Program, the traditional passage to IB, are excused from taking the otherwise required two years of physical education due to their involvement in the sport.

Miles Kay, a junior, was allowed to forgo gym classes as a result of his MYP involvement. "I was allowed to earn gym credits for playing sports, an option that wasn't given to my friends who didn't pursue MYP," Kay said. He did not continue in the IB program, but was allowed to keep his gym waiver. As a result, Kay's GPA has been raised by the ability to opt out of a non-honors course.

IB students are regularly excused from gym courses, which Tom Wagner, data administrator, partially attributes to scheduling conflicts. "IB students have the opportunity for PE substitution because, due to the science and world language requirements, there isn't room in their schedules," Wagner said. However, IB students are also required to play a sport and take a full schedule of courses in order to receive the waiver. These standards are not mandated by the International Baccalaureate program, but were instead implemented by the school after realizing the difficulty that physical education courses caused in IB scheduling.

One AP student, who was never involved in IB or the MYP program and preferred to remain anonymous, received a gym waiver for playing a sport. She was given one semester credit per full year of participation; thus, she was only required to take one year of gym to graduate, an entire year less than a regular student.

Wagner, however, said otherwise. "It is, for some reason, thought that students can simply play a sport and earn a credit... It is not simply play a sport and earn a credit," he said.

The requirements for gym waivers follow a foggy model that seems to vary by student. Due to the confusion, the anonymous student received a gym waiver after weeks of talking to multiple school officials, and involving her parents. "First my parents called a couple administrators and that didn't work. Then I went to my counselor and requested to set up a meeting with my administrator. Then, the next time I went in, [my counselor] just gave me the [gym waiver] forms," she said.

The standards ultimately are handled on a student-by-student basis. For AP students, playing a sport does not always mean they will be excused from gym. For IB students, playing a sport results in a waiver. Wagner recognizes the appeal for gym waivers. For many students in honors and AP courses, it offers a way to boost their GPA due to the non-honors credit that physical education courses require. However, he does not think that students should be so driven by their desire to raise their class rank.

"Colleges and universities are not looking for students who kill themselves for hundredths of points on a GPA. They are looking for students that will bring diversity, integrity, grit and a wide variety of experiences to their campus. They're not after GPA and class rank driven robots," Wagner said.

To students, however, the difference in requirements is a frustrating obstacle to reaching their full potential. The anonymous student said, "Absolutely, the rules should change. If a student is playing a sport, especially a varsity sport, and has a schedule of rigorous classes they should be able to make a case to their counselors to get a waiver." In the following years, it is possible that the guidelines to physical education waivers will be streamlined. Until then, students will be faced with an unclear system that causes confusion.

OBAMA

The President gives a speech at UNO to thousands of supporters, from college students to retirees



CLAIRE LAVENDER | The O-Book

President Barack Obama spoke at the Baxter Arena on Wednesday, Jan. 13. Several Central staff members and students were able to attend the speech, his first appearance in Nebraska since 2007.

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

On Wednesday, Jan. 13, after with giving his final SOTU address, President Obama paid a visit to Omaha, starting off a round of visits to traditionally red states in an effort to connect with all Americans.

Held at the newly developed Baxter Arena, tickets, which were of a finite quantity and also free to obtain, were exhausted soon after their initial offering to the public. Alongside thousands of college and adult aged supporters, many high school students from across the metro also gathered to honor the President, who had not been back to one of the Midwest's fastest growing cities since his first campaigning in 2008. Although no signs were allowed into the auditorium, none were needed, as the president received an almost instantaneous ovation upon his entrance onto the stage.

Sophomore John Woodworth, who attended the event with a group of other Central students said, "As the president came in and the people stood up there was an overwhelming gasp in the arena, everyone automatically acknowledged his presence

and it was an amazing feeling. A true once in a life time experience." The president took little time in accepting the oratory approval, and transitioned quickly to his remarks, which overlapped somewhat with his SOTU given the evening before and also included renewed calls for more bipartisanship.

Nebraska as a whole has traditionally voted red in essentially all national elections, however its largest city of Omaha often crosses the aisle, electing Democrat Brad Ashford to Congress this past year. Even those who may not have been supporters of the president came out to pay homage to the commander-in-chief, as junior Noah Rhoades said, "I spoke to a lot of people who considered themselves seriously conservative but still found themselves waiting outside in the cold out of respect."

As the president's remarks were centered largely on attempting to unite a deeply divided nation, Rhoades also observed this mood taking place in the audience as well when he said, "To see people come together and make the event about the future of the country rather than the future of our parties really helped to assure me that despite all of the mudslinging

CONTINUE TO 'OBAMA'
ON PAGE 4

WHAT'S ON THE WEB



The Indian-native physics teacher is one of the most well-known teachers at Central.

KUMAR FEATURE

STAR WARS REVIEW

This highly-anticipated sequel to an iconic series excited fans and shocked audiences with its female lead.

omahacentralregister.com



For the first time, student chosen as Winter Formal DJ



Photo Courtesy of JUSTUS HENDERSON

At far right, Justus Henderson DJs at an event called the Beat Battle, which took place in December.

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

For the 2016 Winter Formal dance, Student Council voted to allow students to try-out to DJ at the event. In January, announcements were made that Student Council, who coordinates the dance, was in search of an experienced disc jockey.

Rising to the challenge, senior Justus Henderson tried out for the spot and received the position. He plans to use his audio production knowledge to make this year's Winter Formal playlist unforgettable. Henderson says wants to use a variety of genres. He intends to mix popular radio songs with his own list of tracks, to create an interesting array of music that anyone can dance to. Henderson aims to improve upon last year's dance, which, according to him, had a very bland and uninteresting selection of songs.

As an aspiring DJ and audio engineer, Henderson has learned how to get the crowd hyped by utilizing many moods of music. He implements the science of sound to compile a personal cocktail of tracks.

By choosing songs with a specific number of beats per minute, the correct mix of instruments and overall popularity, a DJ can cause crowd excitement almost effortlessly. Henderson teases that he has a few tricks up his sleeve. "I wanna send out good vibes," he said.

Henderson also plans on playing some of his own original material. In addition to some of his beats, Henderson plans to play remixes of well-known songs that he's thrown together. Being a music producer has helped him create masterpieces that will bring the dance floor to life. "It just comes natural to me...I DJ for the people," he said. Henderson doesn't foresee any difficulties with the upcoming dance, and is confident in his skills as an entertainer. According to him, dancing will come easy for students.

Though his priority is keeping the party moving, Henderson's personal taste in music will be blended into his performance. He claims that he has been itching to perform to showcase his beat making and musical production skills. His participation in a live "beat battle" gained the attention of local music industry regulars.

Henderson has been producing and dabbling as an audio engineer since he was about 10 years old. This means he carries tried-and-true experience in the field.

The day of the dance is Feb. 20, and to prepare, Henderson is practicing with his newly-acquired turntables. Being able to run a full-blown DJ setup live is a must-have skill for the annual dance.

For those who are attending, Henderson says that Winter Formal will be a night to remember, and Henderson's exclusive playlist is sure to add to the ambiance.

Thai refugee overcomes difficulty adjusting to American school system



Photos Courtesy of WAH PAW BWEH

Left: Sophomore Wah Paw Bweh at her old school in Thailand. Middle: Bweh is pictured with an older relative. Right: Among her classmates, Bweh smiles at a ceremony in her native country.

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

Wah Paw Bweh, sophomore, is an honor student, a three season athlete and a Thai refugee. She was born in a refugee camp in Northern Thailand in 1999 and lived in the camp until she began boarding school when she was three years old. When Bweh was eight years old, her family was finally allowed to move America.

The Bweh family has lived in Nebraska for six or seven years, but they previously lived in California for a year. They lived in Thailand until Bweh was eight.

The refugee camp was really underdeveloped and the houses were made out of scrap wood and bamboo. Some people didn't have a lot to live with. To make money, the people in the camp would sell food such as chips and drinks.

The emigration process from Thailand is an extremely lengthy one. "My grandma used to live in Burma, and then she moved into the [refugee] camp in Thailand. You have to live in the camp for at least 15 years in order to get through the UN and to get help to go to the US," explained Bweh.

Once Bweh and her family made it to California, they needed to adjust to a new culture. "It was really different," said Bweh.

Even the smallest variations between America and Thailand made a difference. Notably, the American and Thai school systems differed greatly. "In Thailand the teachers were really strict and really mean. They get to hit you, so whenever you don't be-

have, you go in front of the class and [the teacher] either whips you or hits you with the back of the chalkboard eraser."

"I was a nerd and I just listened to the teacher," said Bweh.

Bweh's boarding school in Thailand was a very mathematically focused school. In America, most students learn their multiplication tables in third grade; in Thailand, the students had to learn them in the first grade.

In Thailand, Bweh's school began at 8:00 a.m. and got out

“ I remember the third or fourth day of school, we had a test and the teacher made me take it too and I didn't know what I was doing, so I just copied off the kid next to me.

Wah Paw Bweh

Sophomore

at 4:00 p.m. After school tutoring is required until around 6:00 in addition to extra-curriculars such as sports, clubs and committees. Students' days are long and contain an extremely rigorous curriculum.

Bweh went from difficult and strict schooling and living in a refugee camp in Thailand to a completely new education system and living in a completely new country. "It was kind of hard for me," said Bweh. "I started second grade in California, and I didn't know anything."

"I remember the third or fourth day of school, we had a test and the teacher made me take it too and I didn't know what I was doing, so I just copied off the kid next to me," said Bweh. It was difficult for her to adjust to the Californian environment and she also struggled with communicating with other children. "I didn't have any friends at first, but they were really friendly and they tried to talk to me and communicate with me," she said.

When she initially came to America, she knew very little English. "In Thailand, we would have English classes, but they only taught us simple words like 'apple,' 'balloon' and the ABC's," said Bweh.

In 2009, Bweh and her family finally settled in Nebraska. When she first arrived, it was snowing and she remembers that she was extremely confused. In California, Bweh and her family would go on daytrips to the beach every week, but once they got to Nebraska, they realized that there wasn't much to do.

She didn't like it in Nebraska at first, but she eventually adjusted to the slow pace, another new school and she made new friends. "I found my friend [from Thai school] on Facebook... and we started talking." She plans to visit Thailand after high school.

Today, Bweh speaks fluent Karen, her parents' native language, Thai and English. She also plays soccer and golf and is a member of the girls' powerlifting team. Although her story is an elaborate one, she wouldn't change a thing.

OPS SEX ED CURRICULUM

The comparison between a handful of proposed additions to the sex ed curriculum versus what is being taught now

SOME* PROPOSED ADDITIONS

CURRENT CURRICULUM

media impact

- b. Media may give inaccurate and unrealistic information and portrayals of relationships and sexuality.
- c. Social media can impact communication in a positive and negative way.
- e. Messages and sexual images that are texted or posted to social media can never truly be deleted and may result in legal consequences.

Not a part of the current curriculum standards.

sexual abuse

- a. Sexual abuse is unwanted sexual activity; perpetrators may use force, make threats or take advantage of victims not able to give consent.
- c. Rape refers to non-consensual sexual intercourse that is committed by physical force, threat of injury or other duress. Both men and women can be raped.
- f. Victims of rape or sexual assault are not at fault.

a. Demonstrate ways to avoid sexual abuse.

bullying

- a. Everyone deserves to be treated fairly and with respect, even when they look, act or seem different from others.
- b. If an individual is being intimidated, harassed, or harmed because of differences, including real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, it is important to tell a trusted adult.

Not a part of the current curriculum standards.

gender identity

- a. Gender identity refers to a person's internal sense of self as male, female, both or neither.
- b. Sexual orientation refers to whom a person is physically or romantically attracted.
- d. Teens that have questions about their sexual orientation should consult parents/caregivers and trusted adults.

Not a part of the current curriculum standards.

teen pregnancy

- a. Having children before high school graduation may cause hardships such as medical complications during birth, less educational opportunities, greater chance of single parenting and poverty.
- b. Children of teen parents are more at risk for teen pregnancy, incarceration, health problems, and living in poverty, etc.

Not a part of the current curriculum standards.

Natalie Nepper
editor-in-chief

* These are not all of the proposed content standards for the OPS sex ed curriculum. You can find the full standards at <http://district.ops.org> under "Newsroom."



GREEK ISLANDS

3821 CENTER ST.

Students reflect on opportunity of seeing President Obama's speech

CONTINUED FROM 'OBAMA' ON PAGE 1

and mindless attacks from both sides of our political divide, we are still able to put those things aside and come together when it really comes down to the direction of our country."

President Obama has often been regarded as one of the more "in" presidents, so to speak. He uses Twitter, Instagram and takes selfies.

Consequently, much of his support base come from age demographics that utilize such mass media, for example, college students. As the event was hosted by the University of Nebraska at Omaha (UNO), the university actually canceled all classes for the day, anticipating that a high volume of students would be heading out to support the visiting dignitary.

Representing the whole spectrum of Omaha's diverse inhabitants, members of the audience came from all walks of life and all backgrounds to listen to the president.

"When he [President Obama] entered the arena, everyone was awestruck. His presence was welcomed even before he started speaking. Supporters of all ages and ethnicities had gathered to share this incredible event," sophomore Bennett Jackson said.

Like with most things political, entrance and first impressions are of the utmost importance, and President Obama's was no different. Arriving in an imposing 18 car motorcade, the most powerful man in the world stepped onto the stage to a roar of approval, yet also showed an obvious amount of approachability.

"It was surreal," Rhoades said. It always seems like the president is such an inaccessible figure for most people and I think there's a sort of American mythology that comes with the position, so to see him in person and be able to shake his hand put a lot of things in perspective, [with] the most profound being that he really is just a human being with all the doubts and aspirations as anyone else in that arena."

Even before President Obama made his remarks at the Baxter Arena, he also visited the home of Lisa Martin, a Papillion resident and high school English teacher who had written him a letter one year prior, detailing her fears for the future of her new born son.

He began his time in Nebraska by first meeting Martin and her family giving his word that her son's future looked bright. It was this same message that he had come to Omaha to declare.

Speaking to the over 10,000 people in attendance, Obama ended his remarks in a confident voice saying that "America's been through big changes before, and each time we overcame our fears and we overcame our fears and we overcame our challenges," and lastly, "That's what we do as Americans."



CLAIRE LAVENDER | The O-Book

Obama address the sold out crowd of 7,500 at Baxter Arena. "Supporters of all ages and ethnicities had gathered to share this incredible event," sophomore Bennett Jackson said.



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, Orlando 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:

Thank you for picking up a copy of Issue 4 of The Register. We hope to spark some debate with this issue's stories. Anyone who wishes to voice their opinion about a story to the staff and the student body is welcome to write a letter to the editor, which we would be happy to print and/or respond to in the next issue of The Register. Teachers, parents and students are all welcome to contribute.

If you have any story ideas or if there is a topic you wanted to be covered, please shoot us an e-mail at central.register@ops.org or come down to 029.

We are currently in the process of searching for additional cartoonists and photographers for The Register. If you are interested in drawing, particularly people and political events, or have a knowledge of photojournalism, consider joining our staff and contributing to this award-winning publication.

Once again, we'd like to thank our readers for the support.

Kelsey Thomas
Natalie Nepper
ENJOY!

the REGISTER staff

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Natalie Nepper
Kelsey Thomas

EXECUTIVE EDITORS

Georgia Chambers
Choteau Kammel

WEB EDITOR

Alec Rome

PHOTOGRAPHER

Ann Milroy

ADVISOR

Hillary Blayney

STAFF WRITERS

Julian Hock-Beaty
Anna Kaminski
Carlson Koch
Hayley Raney
Vasilii Sgourakis

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS&ARTISTS

Isabella Filips
Claire Lavender
Emma Peterson
Veronica Wester

ATTN: the REGISTER

124 N. 20th Street
Omaha, Neb. 68102

Phone: 402.557.3357

central.register@ops.org

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.

ADVERTISE WITH US!



Consider advertising with The Register. A large variety of sizing options, packages and pricing available. Choose between color and black & white.

Email central.register@ops.org for pricing inquiries or quotes.

Transgender student participation in sports evaluated on case-by-case basis

STUDENTS BORN AS **male** WOULD HAVE TO GO THROUGH **ONE YEAR** OF TREATMENT & PHYSICAL TESTING BEFORE BEING ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE AS FEMALE.

BUT THIS HAS BEEN LEGALLY CHALLENGED IN OTHER STATES

THE BOARD VOTED **6:1** TO ADVANCE THE POLICY TO A FINAL READING

THE PROPOSAL RESTRICTED TRANSGENDER ATHLETES TO USE LOCKER ROOMS AND BATHROOMS OF BIOLOGICAL GENDER.

physician
psychologist
NSAA member
member from a non-competing school

WOULD HAVE TO GIVE INPUT

Alec Rome
web editor

A new policy implemented in the state of Nebraska allows for transgender students to have more freedoms when it comes to participating in sports. Some believe that this policy is a step forward for transgender equality in high schools, while others think this is a negative for all athletes in Nebraska.

The policy states that transgender athletes who want to play a sport would have to ask a school to participate, then get approval from an NSAA eligibility committee. Two people on the NSAA board voted against the legislation, because they wanted to wait for a later assembly meeting in April before they made any decisions. This policy is only to decide what gender these athletes would play with in sports where both genders have teams. Sports like football and wrestling can be played by girls without having to appeal to a committee. That was decided through two previous lawsuits which says that the NSAA must allow girls to play in football and wrestling without going through the transgender policy.

Soon enough, a committee of doctors and psychiatrists will be assembled to assess each application by a transgender athlete. It is a case-by-case process, however the committee will have a basic set of guidelines. Among those criteria are reports from parents, friends, teachers, and physicians of the student's consistent gender identity and expression with the gender opposite of their birth sex. It would also include medical records of hormone therapy and evaluations that make sure the transgender athlete does not have any physical advantages, particularly if a male wants to play with females.

While it is not known yet exactly how long the application process would be, some believe that this only discourages those transgender athletes from applying, because of a so-called "daunting" process.

Many have voiced opposition from the Nebraska American Civil Liberties Union to the Nebraska Family Alliance. Dr. Jim Tenopir, Executive Director of the NSAA, believes that the policy at least gives transgender students an opportunity to play. "It is difficult to know whether these processes discourage a transgender student from participating," Tenopir said. "The policy makes

it possible for transgender students to participate, something that previous regulations did not permit."

Governor Pete Ricketts has also voiced his opposition, for the reason that he would not want his daughters playing against boys.

Currently, this is the policy in place for the NSAA. As previously stated, the NSAA holds its general assembly in April. There is legislation that may be introduced that would only allow transgender students to play with the gender with which they were at birth, countering the already passed legislation by the NSAA board. That vote would have to be passed by a three-fifths majority, and those bylaws would only become effective on August 1 if approved. According to Tenopir, it would basically disallow participation opportunities for all transgender students.

It might lead those to wonder; if there was a possibility that this new policy could be cancelled out, then why pass legislation at all? Tenopir backs up the decision by the NSAA, stating that it was necessary to make some sort of foundation. "The Board policy gives schools a protocol to start using immediately and would continue if until such time as a bylaw proposal passes," Tenopir said. He also said that some schools have already called for NSAA action, because they have transgender athletes that want to participate, which may be why the NSAA chose to pass legislation right now. Even though the proposed assembly bylaws are a possibility, it is not assured.

As for the policy itself, it is currently difficult to tell how efficiently and how well the process will work. "The NSAA staff, Board and legal counsel have spent considerable time in crafting a policy that tries to tenets of competitive equity, safety and an expectation of personal privacy," Tenopir said.

Whether or not any countering legislation passes, Tenopir believes that not acknowledging transgender students and not giving all athletes opportunities would be discriminating part of the NSAA's student population.

"As educators, we must do all within our power to provide opportunities for all students, not just the varsity or college bound athlete," Tenopir said. "The philosophy 'every student, every day' is the basis for our effort to try to provide participation opportunities for all students, even transgender students."

There's no better time to be a

MAVERICK

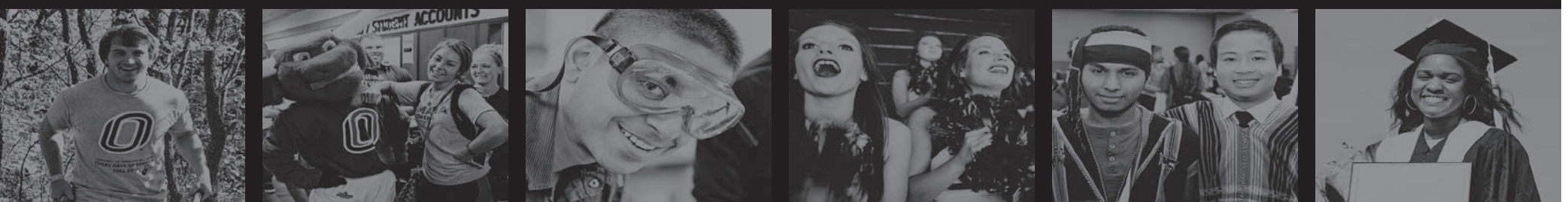
JOIN US FOR OUR **JUNIOR BE A MAV DAY** | MARCH 12, 2016

Mammel Hall | 6708 Pine Street, Omaha, NE 68182

REGISTER AT BEAMAV.COM

During our signature Junior Be A Mav Days, sophomores and juniors will learn tips for navigating the college application process from our own admissions experts. Topics include:

APPLYING TO UNO | PAYING FOR COLLEGE | LIFE AS A MAVERICK



#BEAMAV #KNOWTHEO

Robotics team takes first place, qualifies for state competitions

Carlson Koch
staff writer

Now qualified for the Regional State Competition and the U.S. Open Robotics Tournament, the Central Robotics teams 2349A and 2349B worked as a team to get where they are now, for it is this very effort as a group, to which they attribute their success.

As a team, everyone works together towards a goal of making the best team. It is also imperative to make smart decisions when it comes to alliances. "Everyone must have a job... a builder, programmer, driver, writer and personal skill to build alliances with other schools," said Coach Derek Lodge.

The first win was one for the books, as senior Korby Tilley said, "Since it's our first win ever, it was a big deal to our whole team,"

"Kids went out and competed and played good preliminary matches," said Lodge, and "[They] made good alliance selections, who are those that the team pairs up with at tournaments."

To further improve their skills, the team does what any other sports team would do. "To get better, we go to competitions, check out other teams robots, think about our game strategy and design and improve the robot each match or tournament," said Lodge.

Most memorably, Lodge recalls the winning alliance at the Omaha Gross Tournament where they played as a defensive robot and they were able to block all others teams' shots.

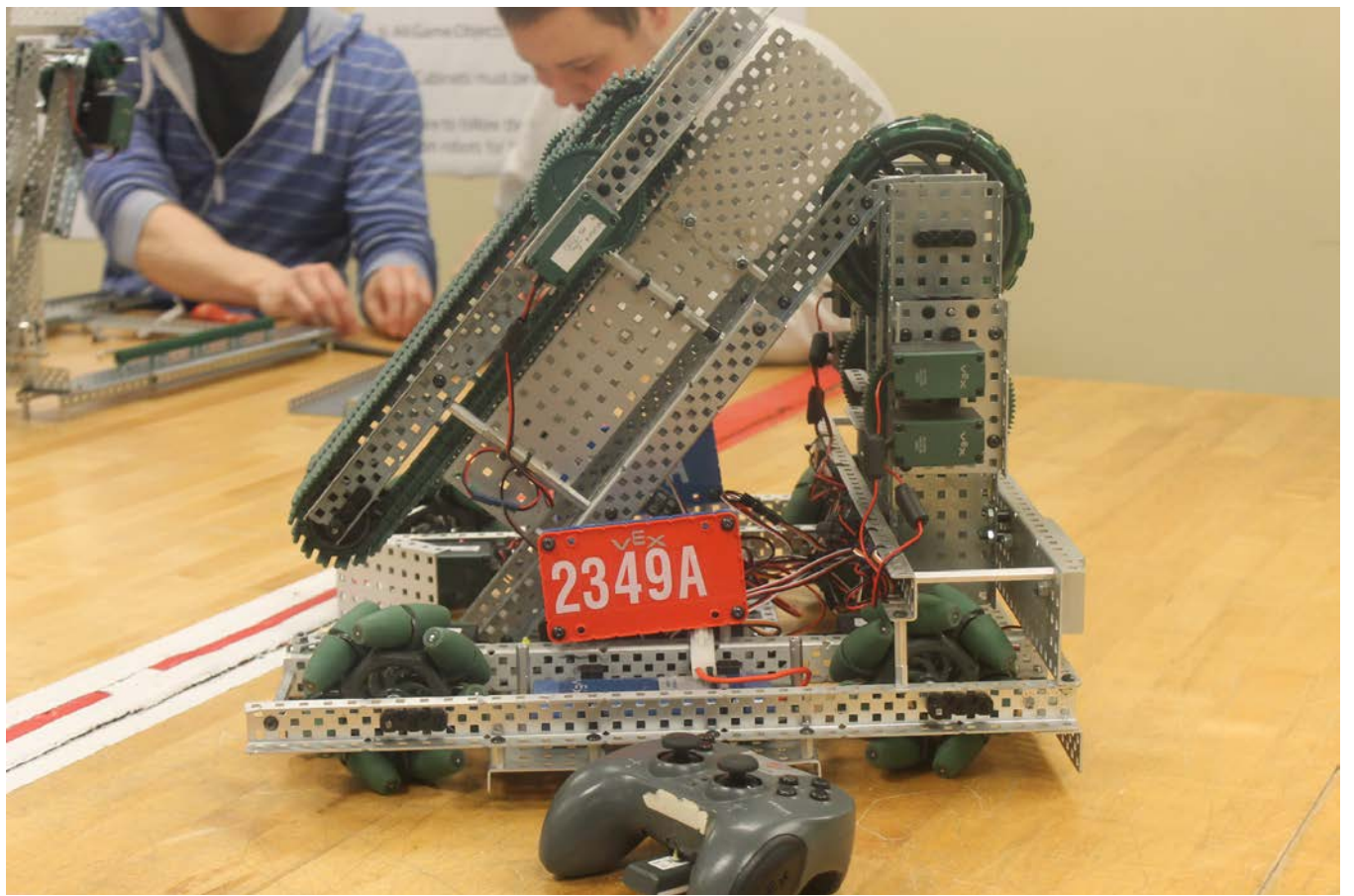
Lodge says that the team can go out and compete with anyone, and for nationals and state he has confidence that "We expect to be in the top tier of teams," said Lodge.

Before being a teacher and coach, Lodge had no previous experience with robotics when it came to Central so ideas keep coming and new plans are being implemented for better robots. "I am very good [at] the building and construction, but not very good at the programming," said Lodge, as he looks to the future for more efficient methods of handling the software and hardware.

On the other hand, students function the same way where some members of the team are good at building and others are specialists at programming, with both skills working in conjunction for the win.

Robots are continuously developing as technology does, and students who are participating in robotics are the ones that often create the newest ones. They have the ability to help those impaired to once again walk, as well as perhaps allowing cars to drive their owners to destinations rather than the other way around.

Constantly, the world is changing all from the new things that technology allows people to do. From the class, students can see some of this in action, "Robotics helps develops interpersonal



BROOKLYNN GRIXBY | The O Book

Two of Central's Vex robotics competition teams not only qualified for regionals but also won awards in two other categories.

team building skills and allows people to truly understand engineering at its core," said Tilley.

"We as a team have developed a skill set that allows us to work fluidly from every angle in a competition, both on and off the field," he added.

Similar to any other sport, robotics is one that the competitors mainly compete with themselves. "We constantly look at what we can improve and what others have that we don't," said Tilley "I'd say our biggest competitor is ourselves."

Robotics is offered at four different levels, each leading to the next with more advanced skills of creating robots. Lodge and Tilley both support taking classes as Tilley says "Robotics is a very laid-back class, it has no set rules or boundaries," he

says.

The class has a mindset of critical thinking and solving problems in a way that others do not think of. All of the classes are centered on designing robots for the competitions each season, and each year the field changes because of new techniques.

Robotics focuses on the STEM, science, technology, engineering and math, and this if a focus of engineering. Many students strive to be an engineer because of its intuitive thinking and the yearly income.

"Scientists find the problems, engineers fix the problems," says Lodge.

Q & A

The Register sits down with British young adult author Rachel Ward to discuss her writing and creative process.

When did you realize you had a passion for writing?

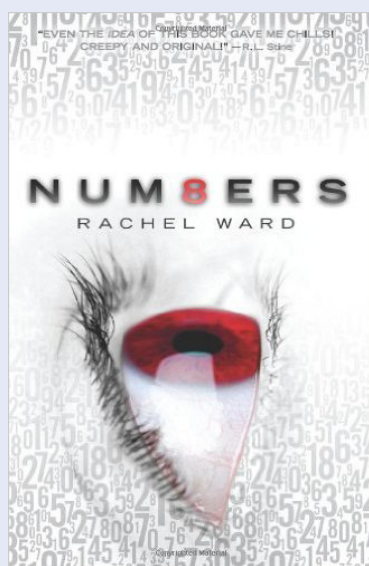
"Hmm, I'm not sure I do have a passion for writing. I find it interesting and challenging. I enjoy it (most of the time). It's frustrating and occasionally satisfying. So many different things. It's also my job, so I have to turn up for work at my computer whether I feel like it or not."

Who has influenced your writing?

"I think everything I've seen, read, watched and experienced influences my writing. You absorb things every day without even realizing it. Before I wrote Numbers, I read Northern Lights by Philip Pullman and I think that had a huge influence on me. He's a brilliant writer."

Have you always wanted to be an author?

"No. It didn't occur to me to try writing until I was in my mid-thirties. I studied Geography at university and did a variety of jobs after that. I only started writing out of curiosity - to see if I could do it. It took a while to find out what I enjoyed writing and then more time until I found a publisher. It's been quite a slow process - maybe I'm a late developer!"



Why did you decide to focus on appealing to a teenager audience?

"I didn't actually decide. I was writing for my daughter, who was fourteen at the time, but really I just wrote the story that I had inside me without thinking too much about who else might read it. When I'd finished it, I didn't know if it was an adult or a teen book. When I met my publisher, they were keen to publish it as a teen/YA book and I've carried on writing for that audience ever since. It's a real privilege to write for teens. It's brilliant meeting readers and getting emails - they give very direct feedback, and sometimes it's clear that my books have struck a chord with a reader and that they mean something very special to them."

Did you have any previous novel attempts before you published "Numbers?"

"Yes. I wrote two novels for younger children. I sent them to lots of publishers but was rejected by all. Quite rightly, because they weren't very good, but I learnt a lot writing them."

What inspired you to write "Numbers?"

"I wanted to write something my then teenage daughter might read, something a bit edgy. I thought that writing about someone with a special gift (or curse) would be interesting. Jem, my main character, just wandered into my head one day when I was walking my dog. All at once, I knew everything about her, including her 'gift' of seeing death dates."

What was the most challenging aspect of writing this novel?

"Numbers was really a joy to write. I didn't have a contract or any particular expectations of the book, so I just told myself the story in my own time. The first draft took about six months to write, and I wrote it in the early mornings before I went to my day job. I suppose editing it for the publisher was more difficult than writing the first draft. I had to work on developing my characters and making sure the plot rattled along, but even that wasn't too stressful."

How did you react to winning the Angus Book Award?

"I'm so lucky that Numbers has won several regional awards in the UK, as well as some in Europe too. I've been totally surprised and really delighted by the reaction to the book. The Angus Book Award was really special, because teen readers themselves vote for the award, and I was lucky enough to go to Scotland and meet some of them. They gave me a very warm welcome."

What are some of your aspirations for the future?

"My main aspiration is to write a better book next time. I want to keep challenging myself and exploring what I'm capable of. (I think that's a very ungrammatical sentence - maybe I should aspire to learn some grammar!)"

What would you advise students hoping to become authors?

"If you are interested in becoming an author, try to write something every day. I didn't do any formal creative writing courses, but learnt through writing. I think it's important to try different styles and genres to find out what suits you. And try to enjoy your writing. If you don't enjoy it, what's the point?"

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

POETRY OUT LOUD

Students push aside any last minute nerves and present their poems in front of judges, hoping to move on to the next round.



Left: Freshman Bria Gilmore recites her first poem, “Kin” by Maya Angelou. Gilmore was chosen to perform her second poem, “The Mothering Blackness” and won the competition at Central. She competed in regionals.

Right: Sophomore Daria Ghegan and junior Peter Hinchey present their poems.

Bottom Left: Sophomore Mylan Coffman recites “A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky”. Coffman was the runner-up.

Bottom Right: Beth Eilers and Christy Flaherty-Colling assist with judging.

GEORGIA CHAMBERS
The Register



Surface tablets modernize classroom experience, adds perspective

Hayley Raney
staff writer

The executive director of Information Management Services and the OPS superintendent made the decision for high schools to have Surface Pro 3 tablets. Over 100 tablets arrived at Central around mid-December, with each costing \$1,000.

“I think they are effective at making lessons in class more efficient and interesting,” Principal Ed Bennett said.

Math teacher Frances Keating and Family/Consumer Science teacher, Joseph DeMilt use the tablets on a daily basis. They are both travel throughout Central and the tablets are fast and convenient to use for the both of them. “It’s nice having it accessible right away,” DeMilt said.

Keating didn’t use the tablet very often before. “I felt like I couldn’t do it, I wasn’t confident in technology,” Keating said. However, now that she has begun using it, she definitely plans on using it more.

“I love them, it’s a great edition to be more prepared for class,” DeMilt said.

The features on the tablet such as, OneNote and the Classroom Dashboard make it easy and accessible for both the students and teachers to assignments and access classroom notes whenever

they need them, which Keating plans on using soon.

“My goal is always to make to students experience to be the best it can possible be,” Bennett said. Dr. Bennett feels the edition of the tablets will help how Central is judged based on education.

Keating and DeMilt both agree it was a good idea to purchase the tablets for education, “But I think it would’ve been smarter to be given them in the summer,” Keating said, so teachers could get them figured out.

The tablets are easily hand accessible in the classroom and Keating has noticed that “students are more attentive and a student that is struggling I can be right there next to them.”

Keating and DeMilt’s only complications with the tablets are the connectivity and sometimes it freezes up.

These tablets will truly determine if this was a valuable purchase if there are “increased test scores and analyze effectiveness by student behavior, scores and participation,” Bennett said.

Keating said, “The only reason people don’t use the tablets is because they’re afraid to change.” The Surface Pro 3 tablets should be used by teachers to encourage education because as Keating said, “If we as educators are afraid to change then we are belittling the younger population.”

“ I think they are effective at making lessons in class more efficient and interesting.”

DR. ED BENNETT
Principal



JULIAN HOCK-BEATY |The Register

English teacher Martha Omar utilizes the surface tablet during her English 6 class.



SNOW DAYS

10

What does it take for Omaha Public Schools to call for a snow day?



IB PROGRAM

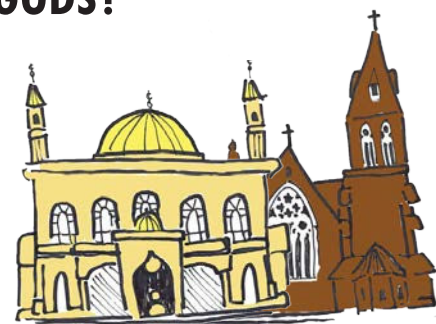
11

The tension surrounding the school's spotlight program can be attributed to students on both sides.

DIFFERENT GODS?

13

Adherents to Christianity and Islam worship different deities.

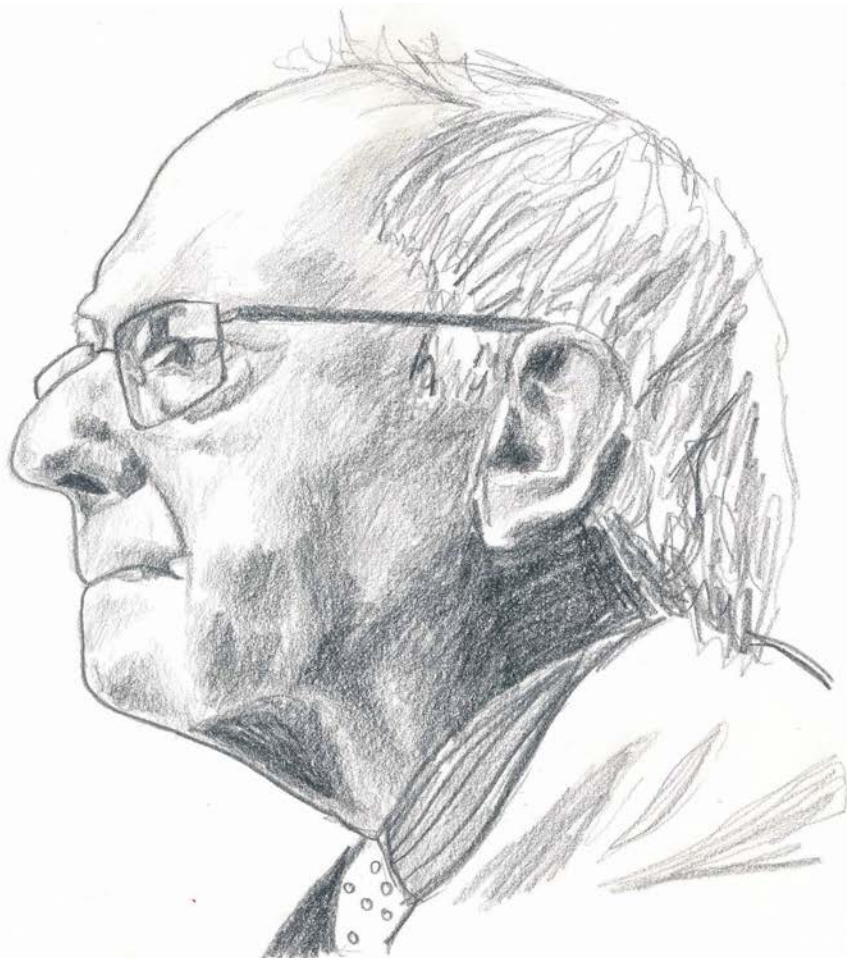


perspective & commentary

the REGISTER • February 11, 2016 • Volume 131, Issue 4

IGNORANCE IS BLISS

Despite Bernie Sanders' claim of Scandinavian countries being socialist utopias, they actually maintain more free-market policies than the U.S.



EMMA PETERSON | Contributing Cartoonist

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

As the months leading up to the 2016 Presidential Elections continue to pass by, the race on both sides of the aisle continues to heat up as well. With Donald Trump leading on the Republican ticket under the banner of deportation and military intervention, the contest between Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders becomes and ever tightening divide between those who want a woman in the White House and those who want a socialist. However, one of many things that the self-described “democratic socialist” seems to misunderstand, is that the Scandinavia he so boldly claims to represent the perfect utopia of socialism actually is nothing of the kind.

First off, even before explaining why the Scandinavian countries are not in fact socialist, but rather are more capitalist than the United States, it must first be understood that essentially as far as poverty goes and the effectiveness of welfare systems go, the two are incomparable. The United States is an ethnically diverse nation of 320 million people, while Scandinavian countries are made up of ethnically homogeneous populations in the low tens of millions. With numerical and cultural disparities such as these, it's not hard to see why the two cannot be compared on equal grounds.

Socialism can be defined as a nationalization of the means of production and government control and regulation of pricing and labor markets. Although Bernie Sanders may claim to oppose nationalization whole industries, he certainly has advocated for more price controls, labor control and regulation of the market place. But what would his favorite land of Scandi-

economic Freedom, Denmark, Finland and Sweden are ranked higher than the United States in business freedom, monetary freedom, investment freedom, fiscal freedom, property freedom and freedom from corruption. Verdict, Scandinavia is actually more capitalist than the “capitalist” United States. Business regulation, even with increasing EU oversight, is more straight forward and less bureaucratic than in the U.S. and collective bargaining is also more common as opposed to federal enforcement.

Bernie Sanders wants the minimum wage in America to be mandated at 15 dollars an hour. Regardless of skill, experience or value produced, it would be evil for a business to pay an employee any less. Would his Scandinavian friends say the same? Once again, no. Denmark, Sweden and Finland all have no minimum wage, and rather have guilds, unions and even individuals that voluntarily negotiate wages with employers and all the government does is enforce the contracts.

“ The United States is an ethnically diverse nation of 320 million people, while Scandinavian countries are made up of ethnically homogeneous populations in the low tens of millions. With numerical and cultural disparities such as these, it's not hard to see why the two cannot be compared on equal grounds. ”

Within Europe itself, the seven countries without minimum wage laws have unemployment rates that are two-thirds what their minimum wage possessing counterparts have, according to Eurostat. This is without even mentioning ultra-capitalism Switzerland that maintains the continent's lowest unemployment rate, and once more, no minimum wage. The countries without minimum wage laws also obtain higher wages for their employees, as employers tend to deal better with individuals or groups of individuals voluntarily

CONTINUE TO 'BERNIE'
ON PAGE 12

Actors, justified in their anger, still wrong to boycott Oscars

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

Saturday Night Live joined in on the #OscarsSoWhite controversy as they created a skit criticizing the Oscars and this year's nominees. The skit showed a mock awards show congratulating actors, who happened to be all white. The point of the skit was made obvious when a white actor, merely a man heard over the phone, was nominated above the black woman who obviously had a larger role.

In all reality, even though the situation was obviously exaggerated on Saturday Night Live, it cannot be overlooked. This is the second year in a row that all 20 contenders for the Oscars are white. Also, this act of racism exceeds nominees for actors and actresses. Some may argue that this is an act of racism, but if you take a look at the board for the Oscars, it is more than just “mere coincidence” that all of the nominees this year were white.

The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences board of governors features only two members that are of minority groups. All of the other 50 members are white.

Recently, there have been many people, including actors, actresses and directors, who have boycotted this year's Oscars due to lack of diversity in the nominees. Will Smith, Jada Pinkett Smith and Spike Lee will not attend the Oscars this year.

It is not merely that there are no black people nominated, but that there are individuals that deserved to at least be nominated based on their outstanding performance. There is no doubt that there was talent that was failed to be recognized in this year's awards. “Straight Outta Compton,” “Creed,” and “Concussion” were among many successful films that will receive no recognition at the Oscars this year. On top of this, even actor Will Smith's amazing transformation in “Concussion” into character Dr. Bennet will be disregarded at the awards this year.

In order to ensure that this “incident” does not occur again the board must add new members representing the minorities, which is being carried out for next year's board. This will offer new, insightful opinions and broaden the views of the board. The board is meant to nominate individuals, and further films and other works, based on talent. Whereas there obviously is much talent in this year's nominees, adding new members will ensure no talent is missed or merely disregarded.

With that said, even though it is necessary to expand the board's diversity, it is not necessary for these actors, actresses and directors to boycott the awards show and not attend altogether. Even though there are not any black nominees, there are still great nominees up for an Oscar, and not going would be disrespecting them. Leonardo DiCaprio, Matt Damon, Jennifer Lawrence and various other well-established actors and actresses are up for an Oscar. On top of this, successful films such as “The Revenant” are up for Best Picture. Not attending the Oscars would disregard the hard work and determination both fellow actors, actresses and directors showcased this year with different works.

The voices of the Smith's, Lee and many others have already been heard. The board of governors are going to add new members broadening the diversity, so their decision to not attend the award ceremony is disrespectful. According to New York Daily News, “The Academy further promised a “global campaign to identify and recruit qualified new members who represent greater diversity.” Knowing this, these individuals, alongside many of the others who were offended by this, can be sure that in the future the nominees picked for the Oscars will not be picked by a board composed of mainly white members. The choices made will be made on who deserved it the most—not because of what color they are.

This year, there was talent that was overlooked by the board. However, now, future Oscar shows will display a wider perspective and will not pass over respectable talent.

2.11.16

Deep-rooted racism inadvertently ignored by white people

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

The concept of discrimination has been in existence since the beginning of time. Whether humans are discriminated against because of their gender, their clothing or their skin color, derogatory judgment has affected, and still affects, people all over the world.

The most common type of discrimination is racism. Generally, when racism occurs, the white majority perceives themselves to be superior to people of color. Although this racism exists, most white people fail to acknowledge it or don't even realize it's happening. Inadvertent and advertent racism is a part of most people's everyday lives. It exists in countless places including America's law enforcement, the medical field, Wall Street, in schools and in the entertainment industry.

Several studies have been done that prove this racial bias and discrimination. For example, in March of 2012, it was proven by the American Journal of Public Health that two thirds of all doctors are racially biased towards their patients. According to psychologytoday.com, "...doctors are not the only ones who express unconscious racial bias. Dr. Phillip Goff, assistant psychology professor at UCLA, showed examples of how law enforcement officials can be influenced by unconscious bias not only when it comes to race, but also in regard to what they perceive to be threats to their masculinity."

Racial discrimination in American politics has been a major topic of discussion recently with matters such as the Freddie Gray case and the University of Missouri protests. This type of racism is intentional and people are aware of their actions.

The type of racism white people don't focus on, however, is inherent racism. Inherent racism is related to the deep-riden teaching amongst white people that suggests people of color are inferior. For example, in the elementary grades, educators simply brush over the matter of racism and the civil war and treat it as if it was merely a silly mistake. Also, the matter of Martin Luther King Jr. is harshly romanticized. He didn't die willingly; he was murdered by a jaded white person.

The issue is that white people don't acknowledge the fact that these teachings exist. Additionally, when people of color point out this inherent racism, white people completely ignore it, but when a white person points it out, they finally decide to take a step back and look at the content of their character.

Individual and communal perception plays a massive role in the matter of racism. People aren't "lesser" because of their skin color, they are just perceived as such. It's difficult to acknowledge and accept, but all people have the history of racism within them, the good and the bad. The memories of the oppressors and the oppressed will be ever-present, and there is nothing anyone can do to change that.

What people can do is take a step back and let people of color "do their thing." Instead of protesting the "Black Lives Matter" movement, realize that it doesn't mean that black lives are superior to others. The "Black Lives Matter" movement's purpose is to draw attention to the racist atrocities occurring today that should have ended a long time ago.

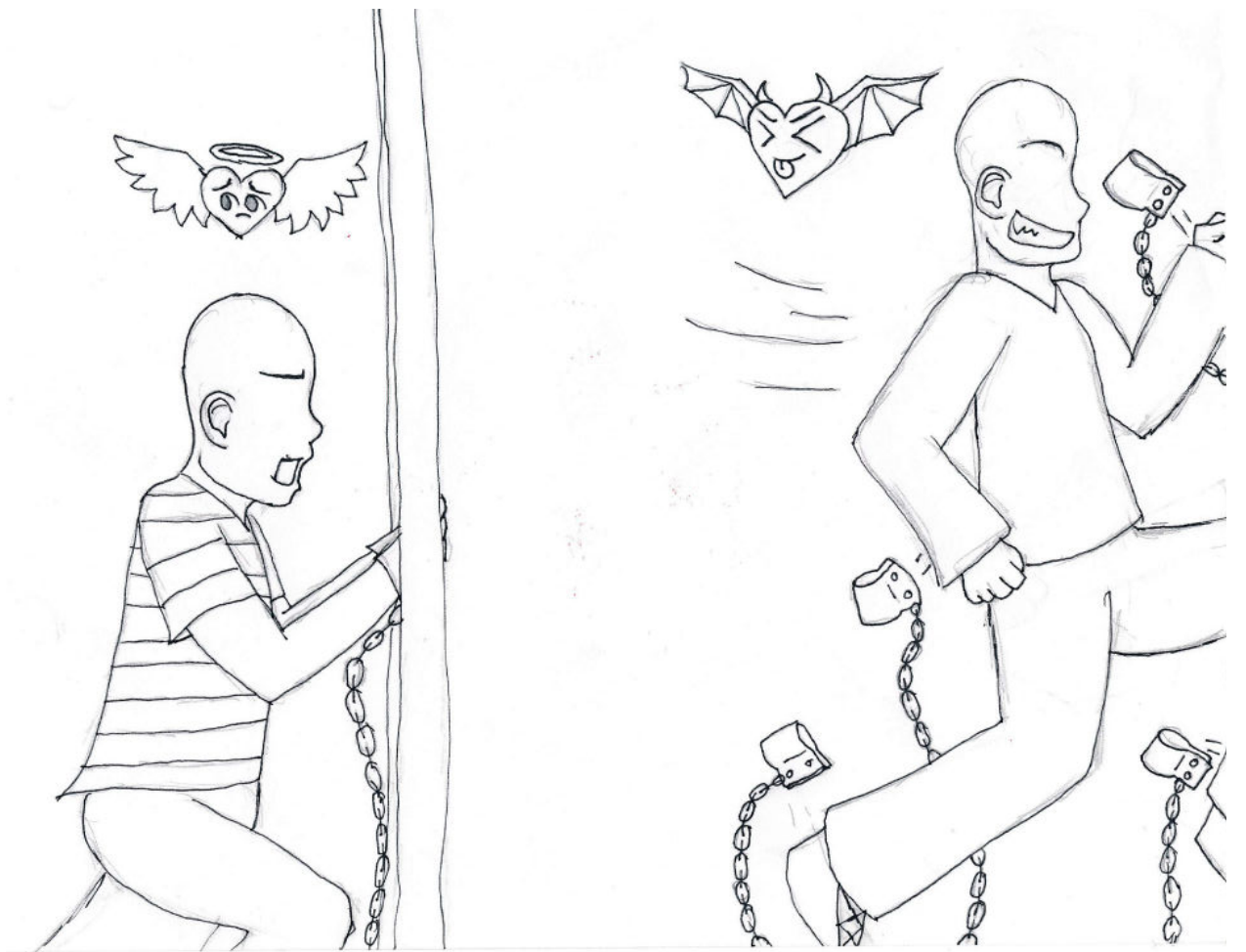
The movement wouldn't have been created if people had stopped oppressing and discriminating against innocent humans. Yes, all lives do matter, but when one predetermined group of people are inexcusably hurting another group of people, physically and emotionally, that is when a specified movement must be enacted.

When it comes down to it, there is only one race: the human race. Skin color is merely a physical trait just as eyes or lips are. The pigmentation of an individual's skin does not determine their worth. Humans are so much more than the color of their skin. They are their beliefs and their hobbies and their philosophies on life, and those beliefs, hobbies and philosophies shouldn't be hindered by the implausible ideology that one skin color is better than the other.

Rosa Parks said, "Racism is still with us. But it is up to us to prepare our children for what they have to meet, and, hopefully, we shall overcome."

GUILTY UNTIL PROVEN INNOCENT

The criminal justice system, which has many strong points, is often filled with corruption, particularly with convicting the innocent



VERONICA WESTER | Contributing Cartoonist

Natalie Nepper
editor-in-chief

The criminal justice system in America today is flawed by bribery, personal vendetta, political influence, racial factors and ulterior motives. The number of false incarcerations in the system has thankfully deteriorated due to the DNA analysis and fingerprinting. However, there are still countless people serving time for crimes they did not commit. What's an even scarier thought is the fact that while innocent men rot in jail, the real criminals are still on the loose.

A study from 188 criminal justice attorneys, members of the police department, judges, public defenders and 41 state attorneys general found that around 10,000 people are falsely convicted of "serious" crimes every single year.

According to The Innocence Project, there have been 337 post-conviction DNA exonerations in the U.S. so far. Exoneration, by definition, is the action of officially absolving someone from blame, in this case for a crime.

Statistically, the races of the exonerates showcase that a little less than half are African-American. 70 percent of those exonerated by DNA testing are African-American.

There are an array of trends that indicated that these wrongfully convicted incidents are not isolated events, but rather a fault of our justice system. The most popular reason for false incarceration includes eyewitness misidentification testimony.

The human mind simply cannot rewind and play back the exact incidents of an event, no matter the weight in a person's life. Memory can be easily contaminated, whether that be from police questioning that leans the interviewee towards

a certain suspect or a massive lapse of time that impairs the subject's thinking.

Witnesses, after all, are only human. And humans get it wrong over and over again. It's absurd to base an entire criminal trial off of a witness statement, especially as "witnesses" may have been sucked into corruption, bribery or just simply have false statements. Why rely on "he said, she said" when there is often scientific fact to prove the accused guilty or innocent.

The wish is for the forensic community to exist without misconduct, as with everything in our justice system, but the reality is that it simply does not.

“The human mind simply cannot rewind and play back the exact incidents of an event, no matter the weight in a person's life. Memory can be easily contaminated... Witnesses, after all, are only human. And humans get it wrong.”

”

According to The Innocence Project, while many in the scientific community are ethical and responsible, "forensic analysts make mistakes that could result from lack of training, poor support or insufficient resources to meet an ever-growing demand. But in some cases, forensic analysts have engaged in misconduct. For example, in some wrongful convictions later overturned with DNA testing, forensic analysts fabricated test results, reported results when no tests were conducted or concealed parts of test results that were favorable to defendants."

But how can society suddenly change the corruption within a system that favors conviction? There's a couple of answers.

Society can encourage the exoneration of the innocent and encourage falsely convicted criminals to file appeals. Laws should be implemented that improve the policies that prevent wrongful conviction and misconduct in the medical field. Regardless of the steps taken, the first move is to recognize this unlawful corruption.



ADVERTISE WITH the REGISTER

A large variety of sizing options, packages and pricing available.
Choose between color and black & white.
Email central.register@ops.org for pricing inquiries or quotes.

Qualifications for snow days are unclear, need revising

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

During the winter season, each student anxiously awaits the first snow day of the school year— an unexpected surprise and break from the stress of the year. Nearly every school day in which there is snow, whispers of “snow day” echo around the halls and social media. Although sometimes prematurely cancelled, on other occasions it is warranted. In certain circumstances, rare enough as is, a snow day is not necessarily given where it is due. With this in mind, what are the specific snow day procedures and criteria?

Dr. Antoinette Turnquist, Chief Operations Officer in the Omaha Public School district, referred to a synopsis of snow day procedures. Everything begins with administrative staff members being assigned to maintain communication with and among the following: National Weather Service, Douglas County Roads Dispatcher, Metro Area Transit, Student Transportation of America, OPS Student Transportation Vehicle Maintenance and Superintendent Mark Evans. Each of these sources is consulted throughout the decision-making period.

Furthermore, OPS completes an evaluation of street conditions from 3 to 4 a.m. in the south, southwest, north and northwest portions of the city. District Operational Services Transportation also test drive streets during the same period and the Transportation vehicle maintenance staff begin checking all buses to make certain they will readily start.

Lastly, between 3:30 and 4 a.m., the following activities take place: OPS district communications access updates from the National Weather Service, district operational services buildings and grounds staff obtain information from supervisory staff with governmental responsibilities for public streets and roads and check on what the City Street Department is seeing on its radar, and operational services transportation staff check information with Metro Area Transit and Student Transportation of America. All information gathered is provided to the OPS Superintendent just prior to 5:00 a.m.

Although this procedure may seem complete in certain aspects, some are left uncovered. For one, as the evaluation of weather takes place between 3-4 a.m. in the morning, most people do not leave their house to go to school until at least six meaning enough time is left for the streets to worsen before



ANN MILROY | The Register

school is called. In two hours, or more in many cases, enough snow or ice can develop causing the trek to school making it more treacherous than the officials initially expected. In order to combat this, the roads should continually be checked until five or six.

Additionally, no specific criterion for a snow day is depicted. Quantitative measurements must be included in the conditions needed for snow days. A map published in the Huffington Post showed that typically three to six inches is needed to cancel school in the Omaha area.

However, in the right conditions, even one inch can cause troubles for buses and those driving to school. As a result, ice on streets and the period in which snowfalls should be taken into consideration. For example, a steady

snow fall throughout the night gives snow plows an opportunity to clear the roads; however, on the other hand, a sudden down pour may catch them unprepared and unable to efficiently plow all the roads to offer students and parents a quick and safe ride to school.

In the future, Omaha Public Schools officials should revise the “snow day” emergency so that there is no gray space and specific quantitative measurements are included. This way, those driving to school are not found scared for their safety on the suddenly icy and snow covered streets. Though a student’s education should take a front seat to most aspects their life, one’s safety should not feel as if their safety is in jeopardy on the way to school.

Misunderstood religion rightfully deserves protection, respect

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

Historically, religion has been the fuel for war, uprisings and disputes that last for centuries. Today, we find religion mixing with politics and social norms. The constant struggle of determining which system of beliefs is “right” often catapults religious people into stressful (and sometimes violent) debates.

In America, the most widely-practiced religion is Christianity. This includes the many denominations of the faith, which carry their own percentages of the religious population. Upwards of 75 percent of Nebraska’s religious citizens identify with some form of Christianity.

On the opposite end of the spectrum, a recent surge in popularity has caused Satanism to gain a sizeable amount of acolytes. Satanism is often portrayed negatively in the media, and many active followers of the religion claim that their beliefs are misinterpreted.

Traditional Satanism follows the concept of self-advancement, as opposed to the violent, cult-like behavior that is seen so frequently in entertainment.

Christianity conflicts with Satanism in the sense that each side has their own idea of good and evil. This religion depicts Satan, or “the devil”, as a villain who intends to trick and manipulate people into losing their purity and morale.

This interpretation causes Christians to immediately associate the devil with negativity, and therefore creating a massive social taboo. Think of it as disliking the antagonist of a book, just as much as everyone else who reads it.

Alternatively, Satanism does not associate with a deity. With that being said, it does not have a respective “god” figure. Instead, the Church of Satan follows a code of morale called “tenets”. These guidelines essentially mirror the ethics of the Ten Commandments, but do not mention or require dedication to a single higher power. So in short, Satanism and Christianity share a lot of the same core principles.

Misconceptions cause judgment and prejudice. Not every Christian is homophobic, hypocritical and entitled. These are stereotypes formed within society that do not do the religion justice.

The same goes for Satanists. True Satanists do not practice “devil worship” or perform violent sacrificial rituals. The very purpose of a sacrifice is to “satisfy” a higher power of some sort. Without an official supernatural diety, this bloody practice doesn’t even apply to the Satanist religion.

The Church of Satan explains their objectives on their website. “We Satanists are thus our own “Gods,” and as beneficent “dieties” we can offer love for those who deserve it and deliver

our wrath (within reasonable limits) upon those who seek to cause us-or that which we cherish-harm.” they said.



In truth, Satanists are actually Atheists. Instead of directing faith towards a higher power, Satanists focus more on their individuality. This basically replaces the “god” figure with themselves. Self-improvement is essentially what they focus on, which is greatly reflected in their tenets. To them, Satan is considered a symbol of rebellion against tyranny and hypocrisy, as opposed to a replacement for God.

Religious freedom is a guaranteed right to any US citizen. However, religious inequality and discrimination are still prevalent issues in American society. It’s not a mystery, religion creates the effect of elitism.

Christian material is taught in Catholic schools, but imagine if a group of Satanists wanted to build an educational facility with their practices implemented into the learning material. Suddenly, the separation of church and state would become a very breakable boundary.

Speaking truthfully, Nebraska’s primarily Christian population would be in uproar if such an institution was even suggested.

The Reformed Church of Satan has its own views on the co-existence of religion and education. “...prayer in school is a good thing, but only when it is fair and balanced across all faiths.”, they said. An accurate understanding of a religion’s customs and beliefs must be achieved for true equality.

With this being said, all faiths have to be considered.

Satanism and Christianity have a lot of contrast in terms of followers (which causes controversy), but other religions deserve just as much attention and privilege.

Although Satanists and Christians are viewed as polar opposites, they have many similarities. With this being addressed, it makes sense for the two to have equal opportunities and rights.

Typical Satanists aren’t bad people. The same goes for Christians. This is why the discrimination and unbalanced connotations between the two need to be put to rest. Prayer in schools, equal praise in the media and adequate religious accommodations can definitely be obtained for Satanists.

Though it is unlikely, we may see the followers of these two faiths at ease in the distant future. This can be accomplished when the hurdle of misunderstanding and early judgment is overcome.

Satanism is celebrating its 30th anniversary this year. Satanic churches and organizations are taking full advantage of this by spreading awareness and education on their practices. This will hopefully desensitize the concept of Satanism in a healthy way, which will eventually help eliminate the awkward taboos created by the society. Unfortunately, the general public still has a ways to go in terms of religious acceptance.

Difficult relationship between IB, AP students must be addressed

Kelsey Thomas
editor-in-chief

I remember attending open house as a prospective Central student in eighth grade. I remember being told again and again by current students not to worry about making friends because Central was a welcoming and cohesive environment. Typical high school woes marked by unpopularity and cliques simply didn't exist here.

For the most part I still feel that to future freshmen. As a senior, I still truly believe that Central is a remarkably accepting and mature environment for a high school. Unfortunately, the International Baccalaureate program installed in 2012 jeopardizes this atmosphere in the school.

International Baccalaureate, or IB, is a separate set of courses that can be selected by students who would otherwise likely continue on the honors or Advanced Placement track. The IB Diploma Program begins in junior year and continues until graduation. Students still take classes such as English or chemistry, but are also required to take etymology courses such as "Theory of Knowledge," as well as complete four years of foreign language. The program offers a more broad and worldly approach to learning, and attempts to connect all curriculum so that it can be understood in a more meaningful way.

Central chose to begin an IB program as a spotlight program for the school. It was meant to draw in more high-achieving students that were interested in a special curriculum outside of Advanced Placement or honors classes. In the metro area, the only other school that offers IB is Millard North, nearly 30 minutes away from Central.

Though International Baccalaureate is a quality academic program that undoubtedly provides many educational benefits for its students, it represents a separation present in Central that divides our student body. The perceived benefits given to IB students, as well as the difficult relationship between IB and AP students, causes tension, bitterness, and dissent, and, unfortunately, it is detrimental to the very morals that Central prides itself on. As an institution home to over 2,000 students from different racial, socioeconomic, religious and ideological backgrounds, we preach sentiments of acceptance and commu-

“ *IB and AP students argue over who has more homework and which classes are more difficult, when, in reality, no one can truly say. No student has been through both programs.* ”

nity, while the IB program currently serves only as an obstacle to these ideals.

Instead of innocently serving as an optional academic program that is no better or worse than another track, IB has transformed into something with a life of its own. Many participants have largely adopted the mentality that IB is an elite group of students in a rigorous program meant only for the best; while IB is undoubtedly difficult, and students must be willing and able to put in the work, it's been forgotten that one may choose to opt into the program. There are no placement exams or

previous intellectual requirements to fulfill. The student who chooses to follow the Advanced Placement track is no lesser in mental capacity than the student who chooses to enter IB, and vice versa. Still, the ramifications of such a belief are present in the minds of student and faculty alike.

IB students and AP students argue over who has more homework and which classes are more difficult, when, in reality, no one can truly say.

No student has been through both programs.

IB and AP students alike must agree that the programs are separate entities with different requirements and different purposes, and to compare them in terms of rigor is useless.

If this is true, the faculty must also cease giving IB students special treatment. Each month, IB students are afforded a day in the library to catch up on homework and study. AP students, similarly overwhelmed with class work, projects and papers to write, are not treated with as much sympathy. When learning opportunities arise, such as student screenings at Film Streams, IB students immediately fill the available slots.

Students can be told time and time again that they are equals, but when they are not treated as such, the effects are readily seen.

The IB program is academically sound, and certainly provides many benefits to Central. Still, the advantages of the program must be reconsidered if the moral fabric of the school is being threatened. We have forgotten what matters to us, or, at least, what students have been taught that matters; Central is a community, not a school with separate groups of students at war with one another.



Accelerere
Focus. Finish. Move Beyond.

Providing students ages 17-20 another opportunity for an "accelerated" high school degree

THREE LOCATIONS:

- Blackburn High School
- Metro Community College South Omaha Campus
- Metro Community Fort Omaha Campus

2506 Hamilton Street
Omaha, NE 68131

Phone: (402) 898-1568
Fax: (402) 898-1603



America, other countries must provide refugees aid

Hayley Raney
staff writer

The most recent crisis encompassing the Middle East is the starvation and suffering of millions of civilians and refugees in Syria.

Because of the rebel attacks in Zabadani, Syria 10,000 refugees fled to Madaya in hopes of finding safety. Since then, Madaya has been surrounded by government forces and stopped receiving aid last October. The world is truly experiencing a migrant crisis.

According to the New York Times, nearly 42,000 people in Madaya were experiencing serious malnutrition, and were living off of only salt, grass and unsanitary water.

In January, the UN and Unicef finally reached the town of Madaya with aid. Forty-nine delivery trucks arrived with relief supplies and were immediately struck by the horror of the situation.

Why should these 42,000 suffer from the rebels attacking their own country? Why is it that whenever a country is in crisis, they cannot rely on other countries to help during this massive influx of migrants?

When it comes down to it, global crises are most of the time saved or helped by some type of organizations or agencies such as, UNICEF, World Food Program (WFP), World Health Organization (WHO), and more. Individual countries do not help nearly as much.

All of these agencies and organizations help countries all over the world every day during a crisis. These organizations make a tremendous impact on saving the lives of these people living in less fortunate countries and yet why do less fortunate countries, or countries in a crisis have to rely on organizations rather than the world's wealthy countries?

What backfires on refugees seeking a safe place are the harsh asylum laws in different countries. Laws including the Dublin Regulation say that refugees may only seek asylum in the first country they arrive in, which isn't always the best option, as asylum seekers may not always arrive in their country of choice.

Germany, however, subverted the Dublin Regulation by taking in refugees no matter which country they initially arrive in.

Regardless of Germany's choice, many of the world's most developed countries favor the anti-immigrant sentiment. Viktor Orban, prime minister of Hungary said, "We have the right not to live together with populous Muslim communities, this is our policy."

Although the U.S. is one of the world's most developed countries and has paid \$4 billion in aid to refugees since 2011, only 1,500 Syrians have been given asylum since 2011. With the U.S. having a proud history of resettling refugees, 1,500 Syrian refugees is a disappointing number.

2016 presidential candidate, Donald Trump's response to the migrant crisis was, "I'd love to help, but we have our own problems." Sad, but true, this is the response for the most developed countries when it comes down to accepting refugees.

The U.S. is not the only nation obligated to help in this crisis, as the nearby Gulf countries that are some of the richest in the world, such as Saudi Arabia, Uae, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and Bahrain are high advocates of backing up fighting groups in the Syrian government, but have taken in zero refugees.

People must stop worrying about inconveniencing their own easy way of life and delegating important acts to others. It is absolutely imperative that the wealthier nations of the globe bestow kindness and benevolence to these victims of war and open up both their hearts and their pocket books to help their fellow human beings.

To Sanders' dismay, Nordic countries prove more capitalist than U.S.

CONTINUED FROM 'BERNIE' ON PAGE 8

working together rather than government bureaucrats who are given the power to enforce their will with arbitrary force. Again, Bernie Sanders seems to be wrong about Scandinavia.

One aspect of the Nordic economic model that has gone alongside its highly capitalist approach to markets has been high individual taxation in order to support cradle to grave welfare systems. The Scandinavian countries have some of the highest individual tax rates in the world going all the way up to 60 percent of a person's income, which is then put mostly into the government run health systems or pensions. However, due to aging populations and the arrivals of many non-Scandinavian peoples, the welfare systems of the countries have been put under consistent stress and in many cases have led to less "generous" benefits and a de-escalation of the welfare state itself. Both Denmark, Sweden and Norway have had to cut into pensions, decrease unemployment benefits and also require beneficiaries to take employment training and actively seek it.

Sweden, once the poster child of successful socialism, and still praised by Bernie Sanders today, again doesn't want Mr. Sanders to speak for itself, as it is hardly the socialist paradise he claims and actually represents everything the man claims to be against. Sweden's energy, telecommunications (Bernie likes Net "Neutrality"), postal service and public transportation have all been massively deregulated and either partially or wholly been privatized as well as with former state monopolies.

Swedish schools have a voucher system which has proven to be quite successful in forcing state run education facilities to compete with private ones in order to increase the level of education provided, and even the Swedish healthcare system, which had once been the single payer model to emulate, has drifted

away from its founding. Led by doctors and nurses unions due to low pay and long hours, many private alternatives to government care have been founded and are becoming more widely available. Even St. Goran, one of Stockholm's largest emergency hospitals, is listed on the stock exchange as a private company.

Although as with all of Scandinavia, taxes on individuals remain high, in Sweden as well as the others, taxes on those evil corporations are far less than they are in the United States...A fact that Bernie seems to forget to mention when he says the U.S. should be Scandinavia.

“Sweden, once the poster child of successful socialism, and still praised by Bernie Sanders today, again doesn't want Mr. Sanders to speak for itself, as it is hardly the socialist paradise he claims and actually represents everything the man claims to be against.”

While corporations pay around 36-40 percent income tax in the U.S., in Sweden they pay 22 percent, and no more than 30 in the other Scandinavian countries. Also, there is no inheritance tax and Sweden maintains a Competition Authority to prosecute bureaucrats from restricting full and free competition in the market place. Sorry Mr. Sanders, but that doesn't sound too socialist.

Even the government of one of Bernie's "socialist utopias" rejected the senator from Vermont's rants in a speech to Harvard University last month where the prime minister of Denmark Lars Lokke Rasmussen said, "I would like to make one thing clear. Denmark is far from a socialist planned economy.

Denmark is a market economy." Yes, it may have some socialist aspects in its welfare state, but those can only exist because it became wealthy from its free market. In fact, due to the heavy taxation of Scandinavians, if the countries were American states, they would actually be some of the poorest, as Americans have, on average, much higher disposable incomes.

It has been said that once a man has satisfied his thirst he turns his back on the well. The same applies to Scandinavia, which became wealthy through the free market, and then established high taxation and welfare states. However, as recent years have shown even these are changing to match the freeness of the market itself due to their being unsustainable.

So basically, Bernie Sanders wants the United States to be exactly like Scandinavia in every way except the ones in which that allowed it to have welfare states in the first place. He wants high taxes and socialized medicine, but not the deregulation, privatization and loosened labor constraints that have made those countries so successful and came before the welfare state. Ironically enough, even as Bernie calls for an expanded welfare state, Scandinavian countries reduce theirs and expand the private sector. Why? Well because welfare states aren't solvent.

All in all, to Bernie Sanders calls for America to be like Denmark or be like Sweden, the answer from lovers of liberty everywhere must be a resounding yes! Let us be as economically free and as noninterventionist as they are, take heed to their corresponding reductions in both taxation and also entitlements, and follow the words of the wise Bernie Sanders, just not at all in the way he thinks. Just as in *The Princess Bride*, when Bernie Sanders says, "The U.S. must be more socialist like Scandinavia," the only response may be, "You keep using that word. I do not think it means what you think it means."

Adopt-A-School Partners



open happiness™



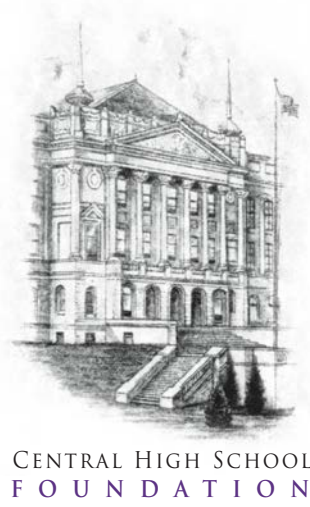
First National Bank



NEBRASKA
METHODIST COLLEGE
THE JOSIE HARPER CAMPUS



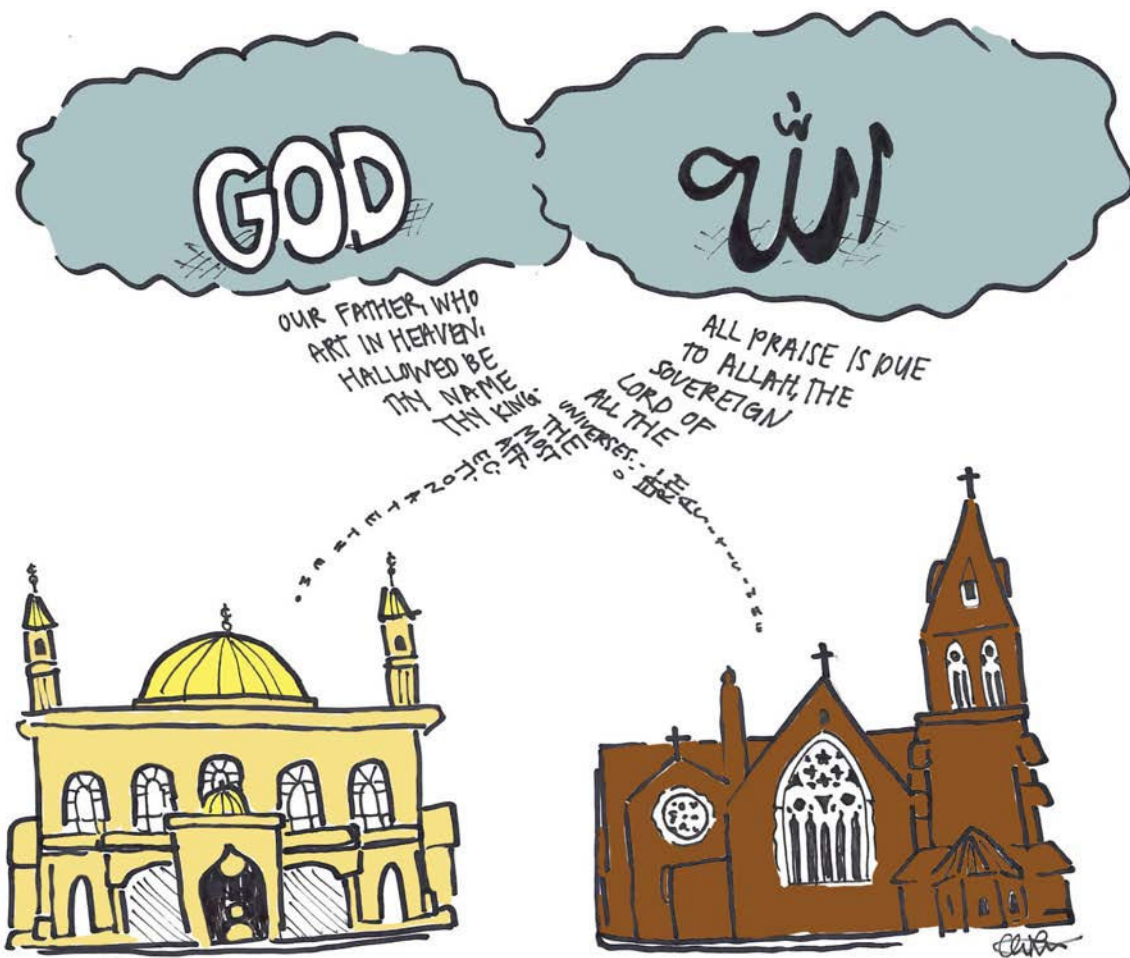
MIDLAND UNIVERSITY



Thank You!



In denial of Jesus Christ, Islamic God not the same as Christian God



CLAIRE LAVENDER | The O-Book

there is no other God than Him. Since these commandments were given to Moses, prior to Muhammed's own development of Islam, the two cannot be said to be the same.

The question of whether or not Muslim and Christian faiths share the same god is answered through their versions of belief. Muhammed had the Islamic belief in one god, rather than the seemingly paradoxical view of the Christian trinity, in which God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit exist in one separate but unified entity.

Yet these contradicting beliefs have been said to be one in the same by the papal authority of Pope Francis. Francis accepts all beliefs as he is both a politician and a keeper of peace, but in doing so he blurs the lines between Christianity and Islam.

In the Bible, God calls himself many different names, but still, they always apply to him and only him. Through the Christian scriptures, God is said to be the only deity and made of three parts. Not one singular being with one high most prophet.

Islam directly denies the deity of Jesus Christ, and in doing so thus denies the Christian God. In fact the very notion of God or Allah having any children, certainly not one incarnate with man, is flatly rejected by Islamic doctrine.

Separation between the two religions mainly exists from the crucifixion and the cross. Naturally, the separation causes the two religions to have conflicts with one another by firmly believing in their own ideals. The Christian god died on the cross out of love, the Islamic interpretation did not, and this difference being one of the two largest between the god of Christians and Allah of the Muslims.

The Trinitarian language from the Bible is what develops the belief that God is made of three parts. Confusing the God of Christianity with Allah is doctrinally inaccurate, as Allah has no trinity.

The Christian god also does not require earthly actions from his followers in order to obtain salvation. According to the bible, salvation is based on faith in Jesus Christ. Quranic teaching however maintains that salvation requires numerous works on par with the importance of faith. The same god would not have differing entrance requirements.

The god of Christians did not call his followers to war or, but rather to love. Throughout numerous contradictions however, the Islamic god calls his followers to both this and warfare against non-believers.

Another blatantly obvious difference between the Christians and the Islamic gods is the men who originated their faiths. Jesus was a poor carpenter who lived on the charity of others, and gained nothing but death from his preaching. Muhammed however gained power and glory out of his own. Not to say that this reflects negatively in anyway, but rather that the Christian god and god of the Muslims began in very different circumstances and carry different connotations.

These personal differences are insignificant when considering the vast doctrinal differences between the Christian and Islamic gods. Biblical god is a triune being, with salvation based in Jesus Christ. Islamic teaching on god denies Jesus's deity, and offers salvation through and equal comparison of both faith and works. Therefore, with all this being said, it is definitive that although Christians and Muslims do share an Abrahamic past, they do not worship the same god.

Carlson Koch
staff writer

“Say this to the people of Israel ‘The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob has sent me to you.’ This is my name forever and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.” *Exodus 3:15*

Here the God of the Christian faith is telling Moses to notify the people of Israel not to tamper with his name. The concept can also be seen in a different verse of the bible where God says, “You shall have no gods before me,” *Exodus 20:3*.

Both of these verses of the Bible support the idea that

Asian-American students represented in honors classes due to parenting

Claire Lavender
contributing writer

Freshman year I took an honors class that I loved that was taught by a teacher of a different skin color than me. I remember vividly the way I felt when one day, my teacher asked if any of us had ever been to a certain restaurant—a small restaurant, the name of which isn't important, but located deep in a neighborhood of North Omaha—and only two people, other than myself, raised their hands. The two who raised their hands were both African-American, and it was then when I realized we were the only three students of minority in the class.

I am proud to attend Central for many reasons, but one of these reasons has always been its diversity. According to the Nebraska Department of Education's online data for the 2014-15 school year, 25 percent of Central's population was black or African-American and 23 percent was Hispanic.

This trumps fellow OPS school Burke High, which had a population of 21 percent black and 15 percent Hispanic. Moreover, it completely outdoes Millard West and Millard North, both of which had combined black and Hispanic populations of less than 10 percent.

But even though the numbers boast Central's diverse school population, the memory of that freshman year honors class has always existed in the back of my mind.

Now I'm a junior, and every class on my schedule is AP or honors. It's hard not to question why I see so few faces of color in my classes. Central certainly doesn't deny students of color entry into AP or honors classes, but the classrooms remain segregated.

Even walking into a regular-level class reveals to me an entirely different setting and a group of students who look nothing like the people in the classes I'm in. It's almost like there's a whole different school simultaneously existing in the same building as my own.

I really do feel overwhelmed by the number of my peers who are white. But can I even claim to be minority? I'm only 50 percent Vietnamese, and even then, Asian-Americans seem to be the exception to the minorities-achieve-less-than-white-people rule.

But why is that? Why are the non-honors classes of Central

filled with African- and Hispanic-Americans while the Asian-Americans, small in number, sit in the classes amongst majority-white peers? And why does the stereotypical Ivy League graduate sport an East Asian's complexion with a perfect ACT composite?

I'm blaming it on the parents.

A couple of weeks ago, my brother was grounded because he received a score of a B- on a homework assignment. He's in 6th grade, and the assignment didn't even count towards his grade in the class. But my parents are tiger parents, and he should have seen it coming.

“The freshman year me that sat in her honors class next to rows and rows of white peers didn't quite understand her privileges.”

CLAIRE LAVENDER

Junior

“Tiger parent” was a term introduced by Amy Chua in her 2011 book entitled “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother.” In “Battle,” Chua compares her Chinese parenting style with those of “Western” mothers. Chua's main argument is that Western parents are overly-concerned with their children's self esteem, while Chinese parents assume their children are strong enough to endure harsh criticism and exceedingly high expectations. Since then, magazines such as TIME and Wall Street Journal have published subsequent articles considering the effectiveness of the Chinese-style upbringing and adopting the “tiger parent” label.

The term caught on, and “tiger parent” is now an expression casually thrown around to describe a parent with extremely strict tendencies. (The phrase “helicopter parent” is used in the same way.)

So, my parents are tiger parents. But this isn't meant to be a hate session where I complain about my parents' expectations of me. I can't deny that sometimes it's irritating when an A-doesn't satisfy my parents. My brothers could testify that the forced cello practicing sessions and one-hour-a-day-video-game limits got old.

But I love my mother, and she and my father have fostered me into the successful 16-year-old Asian girl that I am.

The 16-year-old Asian girl who is the only one of her kind in her Calculus class.

TIME magazine published an article in May 2014 entitled “The Tiger Mom Effect is Real.” The article stated that data opposed claims that social and economic status caused a gap in academic success; instead, it was largely attributed to work ethic and upbringing. TIME said that in a study of 5200 students, the majority of white students considered intellect something one is born with, while the Asian students attributed it to hard work.

Tiger parent upbringing forcefully encourages hard work and nothing but. Because of this, I'm less scared to give a speech in front of a thousand strangers than to my own two parents, and I would much rather let my friends tear my papers apart than let my father, who was an English professor, proofread them.

My parents' expectations of me are ridiculous, but my own expectations of myself are even worse. An A- here and there will fly with my mother, but I'll be disappointed. Anything less than perfection indicates to me that I have to work even harder. Did my tiger parents breed this unreleastic expectation of flawlessness I have for myself? Probably. I'm going to toot my own horn and say I'm largely responsible for my achievements, but my parents have undoubtedly helped.

The freshman year me that sat in her honors class next to rows and rows of white peers didn't quite understand her privileges. I'm proud of the academic advantage I have thanks to my parents. And even though it can't be assumed that all Asian-American parents are tiger parents, I suspect it's a large reason for Asian-Americans' successes.

But while this might solve the mystery of why Asian-Americans seem to achieve academically on the same level as their white friends, it leaves a lot in the dark about other minority groups.

Someday I'd like to take an AP class with friends who are not just whites but also blacks, Hispanics, Native Americans or fellow Asians.

But for now, thanks Mom.

Drones represent misguided foreign policy, death of innocents

With the rise of the Islamic State and its subsidiaries across the globe, foreign policy has found itself in the political spotlight of the 2016 presidential elections. From hawks such as Hillary Clinton and the entire Republican cadre of contenders, Rand Paul aside, the most common pieces of rhetoric range from an increase of U.S. air power to simply spending more on defense and going back into the Middle East. Even with this range of interventionist options available, one weapon of war seems to be a constant in all policies offered, aside from Rand Paul: more drones.

Although drones have been utilized by the United States military and CIA for several decades, they only recently have acquired the capability to seek and deliver lethal payloads to kill those in their digital crosshairs. Drones that had once been used to peacefully garner intelligence and surveillance details from high above the earth, weaponized and semi-autonomous combat killers now rain down bombs and missiles on assumed terrorists across the Middle East.

The wonders, perhaps evils, of modern military technology have on one hand reduced the number of civilian casualties in contrast the older carpet bombing techniques and the use of “dumb” ordnance. On the other, they have made it extremely easy for the United States to project power into other nation’s sovereignty and yet deny the actions and their consequences. This is not to say that the existence of drones is inherently terrible, nor that the military does not have a purpose for them, but rather that the mission to which they have been assigned, the global killing of any and all who may be a terrorist, live near, walked past or happened to be in the same market place as a terrorist, is entirely immoral and represents a further extension of the misguided and militaristic foreign policy that the United States has conducted for the last 50 years.

In Vietnam, with the advent of laser guided weapons, it became common place for “surgical strikes” to be undertaken to eliminate higher ups in the communist’s chain of command. However, these strikes, both conventional and precision, killed over 14,000 South Vietnamese civilians in attempts to root out suspected enemy enclaves. Similarly, the unmanned and fuel efficiency of drones represent a technology as versatile as laser guided weapons, but also carries with them the same capability

to be used in haste and for indiscriminate killings.

Now, in the 21st Century, drones are continuing what manned fighter air strikes have done since the First World War, with one glaringly large exception: drones are operated largely by the CIA and involve one human being, pulling the trigger on another, from 7500 miles away, and with no absolute certainty that the person being targeted is even a threat. Many reports continue to surface regarding the trauma inflicted upon drone pilots due to hours upon hours of blowing away fellow humans with the click of a button, as if in a video game, even before mentioning the destruction wreaked upon the unknowing populace below.

Under the Bush Administration, drone use in the lethal rule was kept to a minimum and only with permission from the country they were being flown over. This is not to say that Bush’s foreign policy was a constitutional and rational set of ideas, but the usage of unmanned aircraft was used largely for its intended role as surveillance craft and not tools of assassination. During Obama’s terms, the number of drone strikes within Pakistan and Afghanistan has risen to record highs, along with a string of proud announcements regarding the many “high value targets” that had been eliminated with “minimum civilian

casualties.”

Of course, to governments, “minimum civilian casualties is highly subjective, and is extremely euphemistic. Government estimates from the DoD place the number of civilians killed at less than a thousand, while Senator Lindsey Graham has stated that the real number is closer to 5,000, and then research studies from several groups such as Larry Lewis of the Center for Naval Analysis, who speculated that drones have killed ten times the number of Afghan civilians than traditional air strikes have.

Declassified reports have also issued figures regarding the number of fatalities involving children, and found that almost one third of drone strikes result in at least one dead child. Killing children will not fight the extreme perversions of Islam running rampant. In fact it only serves to increase the rise of insurgents as it brings up new generations to hate the United States because their parents and siblings were killed from an unknown entity in the sky. The carnage only increases as there have been reports that military drone units operate on a quota

system that bases career advancement and promotion on the number of targets “neutralized,” in essence meaning that civilian fatalities could be counted towards a “kill count” of sorts when high value targets were reported as being taken out.

Aside from the barbaric violence that the drone campaigns in the Middle East have carried, there are numerous legality issues. President Obama’s use of the drones over other nation’s air space violates their sovereignty, considering that rarely are those nations given much notice on when and where the strikes may occur. The strikes are also extremely unconstitutional as they are acts of war conducted without a formal declaration. So far the only justification for the killings has been the decade and a half old authority Congress gave to President Bush in 2001 regarding the invasion of Afghanistan, a legal document which has long since expired.


Lastly, there is the issue that arose as several American citizens have been killed with drones while in Middle Eastern countries. Although evidence does show they had supported jihadist movements, it does set a dangerous precedent, because it leaves the definition of a terrorist in need of targeting up to the federal government, which according to their own list of threats against the homeland, includes both Christians and gun owners as “domestic extremists.”

Senator Rand Paul filibustered over this point for over ten hours to make the President state that he would never use armed drones on American citizens over the U.S. Even as then Attorney General Eric Holder issued the president’s response, it came more so as something he didn’t want to do, rather than something he would never ever do. Similar to the “indefinite detention without cause” clause in the National Defense Authorization Act of 2014. The President doesn’t want to use these powers, but he can’t say he’d never use them.

Although drone technology is a fantastic evolution in the capabilities it could present, its usage to hunt down and murder individuals suspected of terrorism has resulted in thousands of dead civilians in nations where no formal declaration of war even exists. Drones should be used as minimally as possible or when used in the air support role against forces like ISIS rather than suspected individuals. After almost a half a century of meddling in Middle Eastern affairs and attempting to spread democracy with bombs, the U.S. must accept that these efforts are in vain and that continuing the destruction in the name of democracy is only furthering the cause of the jihadists.



CHOTEAU KAMMEL
SHOW TIME




JOHN
BAYLOR
PREP

Test Preparation

Preparing
Eagles for
the ACT
and SAT.

Helping Schools & Families Create
College Graduates With Minimal Debt

JohnBaylorPrep.com





First graduate in her family.

Thanks to the Central High School Foundation
for their commitment to students in our
community.

How do you put community first?
#UnforgettableFirsts • UnforgettableFirsts.com

1 First National Bank

Member FDIC firstnational.com



PLAN YOUR DATE 16

Wondering what to do on Valentine's Day? Follow our guide for a fun night, whether you're in a committed relationship, or just started to date.



JAMS REVIEW 21

The Register visits Jams, a modern American-style restaurant with two locations on 78th and Dodge and in the Old Market.

LOCAL ARTIST SPREAD 18 & 19

Three local entertainment groups are featured, and they discuss their beginnings as well as future plans.



arts & style

the REGISTER • February 11, 2016 • Volume 131, Issue 3

POTS AND PANS

Omaha Street Percussion offers a way for children and adults to uniquely create music



Photo Courtesy of **OMAHA STREET PERCUSSION**

A member of Omaha Street Percussion produces music using pots, pans, trash cans, and other random objects.

Alec Rome
web editor

Banging on pots and pans is not just for kids anymore. Omaha Street Percussion has brought a concept to the Metro that both kids and adults can enjoy. The group, started three years ago, has found quick and immediate success with their Broadway-inspired music created with regular, everyday objects. The group was originally started to raise money for band member Jeff Babcock, who wanted to adopt a child from South Korea. As a way to earn extra money to cover the adoption fees, Justin Fisher, the group's director decided to drum in the Old Market using buckets and other items. After the success of their first performance, they decided to do it again. The rest was history, as drumming with ordinary items became a weekly occurrence. Omaha Street Percussion currently consists of seven members: Fisher and Babcock along with Chris Sikkema, Tony Lever, Josh Meyer, Henry Fernandez and Dakarai White.

The group was inspired by STOMP a Broadway production that does drumming and dancing in their performances, with some of the same ordinary items as Omaha Street Percussion uses. "We saw them do it, I thought it was really cool, let's do something like that," Fisher said. "It's unique, you don't see it a lot, and it's really cheap to come up with all of the instruments." People were intrigued by the idea according to Fisher, and the sound of trash cans and other things as instruments.

With most musical groups who are just starting, it can be a struggle to find gigs and places to perform. As for Omaha Street Percussion, it was quite the opposite. The group developed quickly enough that the instant growth was inevitable. "We had people coming up asking us for business cards before we even had a name," Fisher said. "We didn't have any struggles at the beginning. We found out that people like it and people want to see it. We were not prepared for it." What was originally an activity that was done for fun has turned into a full-time commitment for Fisher and the group.

Omaha Street Percussion has played at many different venues, from the Henry Doorly Zoo to Vala's Pumpkin Patch to even the Omaha Marathon. One of their favorite events

was performing at Purple Feather Day at Omaha Central High School last year. It happened to be the group's first high school performance. "It was a new territory for us," Fisher said. "There was an energy [at Central] that you don't find at many venues." The group has also played over one hundred school performances, mostly on the elementary and middle school levels.

Education and community are some of the group's biggest ideals. When they created the group, each member had some sort of experience in teaching drums already, so they had a motive to teach through some of the workshops Omaha Street Percussion organizes. In fact, Fisher used to teach Central's drumline years ago. As with some of their performances, schools began contacting them asking if they would ever run any classes to teach drumming. Instead of using regular percussion instruments, they use street percussion instruments to teach kids teamwork and creative expression.

Why do those workshops work? Fisher feels that someone picking up a pair of drumsticks and hitting a bucket is something anyone can grasp, regardless of age or skill level. "When you pick up a trumpet, you can't just start playing. But with street percussion, it's cool because you can start teaching rhythms even if you have never been in percussion or sang in choir or played in orchestra," Fisher said. Their goal with some of their school workshops is to encourage kids to get into orchestra when they are in middle school or high school and they continue in music because their workshops motivated a child to keep going.

While it is quite obvious that not everyone drums on buckets and trash cans, Fisher feels like there is more that separates Omaha Street Percussion from a normal band. People can feel more energy compared to a normal band, as well as people feel a part of the show when they see Omaha Street Percussion play. "We engage with the crowd a lot," Fisher said. "Simple things such as eye contact, going out into the crowd, giving someone a bucket, something to get the crowd into the show. It's an experience." Those connections with the audience can happen in some of the most interesting of venues, and it's usually a

CONTINUE TO 'STREET PERCUSSION'
ON PAGE 17

Classes could rebuild creativity ruined by technology

The various capabilities of cell phones, ranging from texting to social networking sites, require almost no intellectual capabilities. As a result, the cell phone has taken the place of many in-person interactions. As cell phones are construed as a seemingly a necessary "extension of the hand," it is understandable how public's receptivity to creativity has seen a steady decrease.

Creativity is a phenomenon in which something new and somehow valuable is formed. The created item may be intangible, such as an idea, a scientific theory, a musical composition or a joke or a physical object.

In other words, creativity is much more than the simple doodles produced by toddler or the imaginary worlds thought up by kids. Creativity is the exchange of ideas between people.

The benefits of creativity are very impactful. Creative people consistently yield ideas that propose solutions to problems seemingly unsolvable. In today's society, problems such as border control and the daunting thought of ISIS taking more innocent lives loom over the United States. With peoples' receptivity to creativity decreasing, less people are producing promising solutions. Political, environmental and other matters demand attention. Without promoting creativity, our society will not see these various issues resolved.

A possible resolution to the issue of developing more creative people is actually quite simple: offering an elective class on creativity. Cell phone popularity does not seem likely to dwindle any time soon, so offering a class on creativity seems plausible. The class would not follow a traditional class structure, something that would appeal to many students.

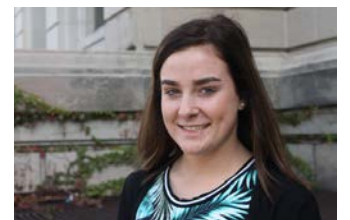
A textbook would not be necessary since creativity cannot be simply taught, but rather a skill that must be strengthened through practice. Students in the class could participate in intellectual conversations and would form their own opinions on the subject. By considering the opinions of their peers, they can build off of the ideas of others and expand their thinking. These discussions would provide students with the capabilities of forming their own unique opinions on matters not simply answered through reading textbook pages.

A creativity class would aide in developing quick-witted, leadership skilled people many corporations and political offices need.

At Central specifically, since a speech class nor a debate team is available for students, the addition of this elective would be a beneficial opportunity to students. More importantly, this class would shape students into more creative people that would further benefit society. Problems that seem to be impossible to attempt to solve completely, such as ISIS or even global warming, would now be presented to more people with a different way of tackling the issue. Every step should be taken in effort to produce realistic solutions to pressing matters.

The decrease in the public's receptivity to creativity can be halted, and with the addition of creativity elective classes, receptivity can grow again.

Out of any demographic, teenagers use their cell phones the most, and it is important to incorporate intellectual conversations into their daily lives. Texting the fastest is not a skill valuable to society, but being creative enough to come up with solutions to solve major issues is.



GEORGIA CHAMBERS
GO DAWGS

Local alum rapper sets sights high, aims for national recognition

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

For Lorenzo Fuller, 33, who goes by Donald Profound “aka Xoboi,” music is much more than just a hobby. After partnering with Marcey Yates, 31, who goes by Op2mus, they have transformed music making and rapping into a lifestyle.

Fuller began producing music when he was young and started rapping in the early 2000s. “It was my friends who got me into doing what I do. I have always had support from my family side. The friends I keep are close enough to be considered family, so it is kind of all tied into one,” Fuller said.

Fuller had been a part of another group previously before his collaboration with Yates. “The group I was with before was a local group that was basically a band, but it dissolved, so I am not really into that anymore,” Fuller said.

Fuller met Yates before the band splintered through networking and began working together quickly afterwards. “We just happened to meet, and we lined up afterwards just to continue. He liked what I did, and I liked what he did,” Fuller said. The group Fuller is involved with now, STDNT BODY, is a collaboration between the two.

Since Fuller and Yates are locally based right now, the hardest obstacle they have to overcome is “breaking through the local scene and getting enough exposure.” One of the benefits of breaking away from the local setting would be encountering more “die-hard, core fans” from outside their hometown. Fuller hopes to get to the point where fans are waiting outside just to get into the event they are hosting.

Producing the music is not one of the more difficult aspects for the two artists. “With him and I, how we work is very similar. He does all of the production— he makes all the



Photo Courtesy of MIKE MACHIAN

Lorenzo Fuller, 33, and Marcey Yates, 31, collaborate in their rap group STDNT BODY, but also spend time working on solo music.

CONTINUE TO ‘RAPPERS’
ON PAGE 17

Plan your date for Valentine's Day

Are you in a committed relationship **OR** going on a first date?

What kind of mood are you aiming for?

Fancy

Mark's Restaurant



A fancy dining experience that will make your date feel pampered. Be sure to make reservations ahead of time, because this restaurant has become highly popular in the Dundee area. 4916 Underwood Ave.

The Flatiron Cafe

The Flatiron Cafe offers American-style cuisine in an upscale downtown location. The price ranges from moderate to expensive. 1722 St. Mary's Ave. #110

Casual

The Mark Bowling Alley

The Mark Bowling Alley in Elkhorn consists of a massive entertainment complex featuring bowling, laser tag, go karts, food and more. The price range is moderate and the alley is open 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily, and until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. 20902 Cumberland Rd.

Zio's Pizzeria



This New York-style pizzeria uses hand-stretched dough for an authentic experience. 1109 Howard St

Adventurous

Downtown Slides



Riding the infamous downtown slides is like a rite of passage. Walkways around the ponds and fountains provide an interesting stroll through downtown. For added adventure, check out the local attractions, restaurants and public art displays while you're in the area. 1203 Farnam St.

Ice Skating

Ralston Arena features upscale indoor skating rink with concessions available for purchase. Their large facility offers skating until midnight and free ice skate rentals as well. 7300 O St.

Romantic

Trini's Mexican Restaurant



Trini's Mexican Restaurant features Omaha's finest Tex-Mex. This quaint little restaurant resides in the historic Old Market Passageway. Their inexpensive menu features all the specialty Mexican cuisine as well as vegetarian options, soups and salads. 1020 Howard St.

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

Rap partnership independently produces music, videos for projects

CONTINUED FROM 'RAPPERS'
ON PAGE 16



Photo Courtesy of MIKE MACHIAN

beats, and he will either send it to me blank, like a blank canvas, or with a concept already in mind," Fuller said.

The process does not take much time for them. "He has been doing what he does for so long, same with me, so production is like me showing up at the studio, us possibly writing for half an hour or so and then spending another hour recording," Fuller said.

Yates does all of the post-production on his own. "It's a really simple process for us, unlike a lot of stuff that I've heard," Fuller said.

STDNT BODY continues to work on projects, and has had one completed for a while, but they are waiting for the right time to release it. They want to get as many visuals and videos as they can for it, with a few videos already made now. A couple of their duo projects they hope to release very soon.

Fuller and Yates are both working on solo projects as well. Also, looking into the future, Fuller admits he wants to "definitely continue" their partnership, but also to try and branch out into other avenues. "We aren't just trying to make music; we have started filming. The future looks like we will continue to just do creative things together," Fuller said. Yates acts, attends school and takes drama classes.

In the near future the duo hopes to get the most exposure as they can in their hometown. As for long term, Fuller is not as certain. "I don't know because I like what's going on [now]. I'm not into speculating," he said.

Throughout their experiences so far the group has vowed to stay humble. Fuller advises anyone wishing to follow in similar footsteps to do the same. "It's cliché, but it's so true," Fuller said, "[The music business] will either eat you alive, spit you out or you'll come out a different person. Create and stay humble."

For students interested, Fuller and Yates' website is raleighscience.com. The website showcases all of their music they have produced, as well as some of their videos.

Lorenzo Fuller prepares for his performance on stage. He has been interested in rap since a young age and started rapping in 2000.

Percussion group plans to try out for America's Got Talent

CONTINUED FROM 'STREET PERCUSSION'
ON PAGE 15

pleasant surprise for the group.

One of the special things for Fisher is when people tell him that the group's performance was able to change their mood. When Omaha Street Percussion played for some special needs children at the Munroe-Meyer Institute, one child in particular stood out. "One of them came up to me and said it was one of the most incredible things he has ever seen. That's what makes it worth what we are doing," Fisher said. "That is going to stick with me for years."

Fisher cites times when people were unsure of having a street drumming group playing at a certain event like a company fundraiser, but after the performance people were completely into it. "We did one show in the middle of Iowa where I don't think there was a single person under the age of fifty-five," Fisher said. "We were walking around before the show and [everyone] is looking at you wondering what you're doing. But, people stayed for the entire performance and we had people telling us it was the best show they have ever seen."

Even though the group has had a short and prosperous history, their future looks just as bright. Just recently, the group decided that they would audition for the talent show America's Got Talent. The group had been asked by countless friends and family about auditioning for the show. The main reason why the group had not tried out for the show is due to time constraints and expenses. This year, America's Got Talent is coming to Kansas City, and Fisher felt it was the perfect time to show what Omaha Street Percussion has to offer. "We have evolved as a group into something we think America's Got Talent would appreciate," Fisher said. "We are not just guys who drum. We entertain." The group is ramping up for the audition with a specific set list that they have never performed before, along with some other new instruments and moves that they have not done before.

The group's ultimate goal is to gain exposure from the auditions. Even if the group doesn't make it any further than the audition, Fisher believes that trying out will have been completely worth it. After three years, they now feel that their skills are good enough to showcase their talents on a national stage. As Omaha Street Percussion has shown, anyone can pick up a set of drumsticks and make something magical.

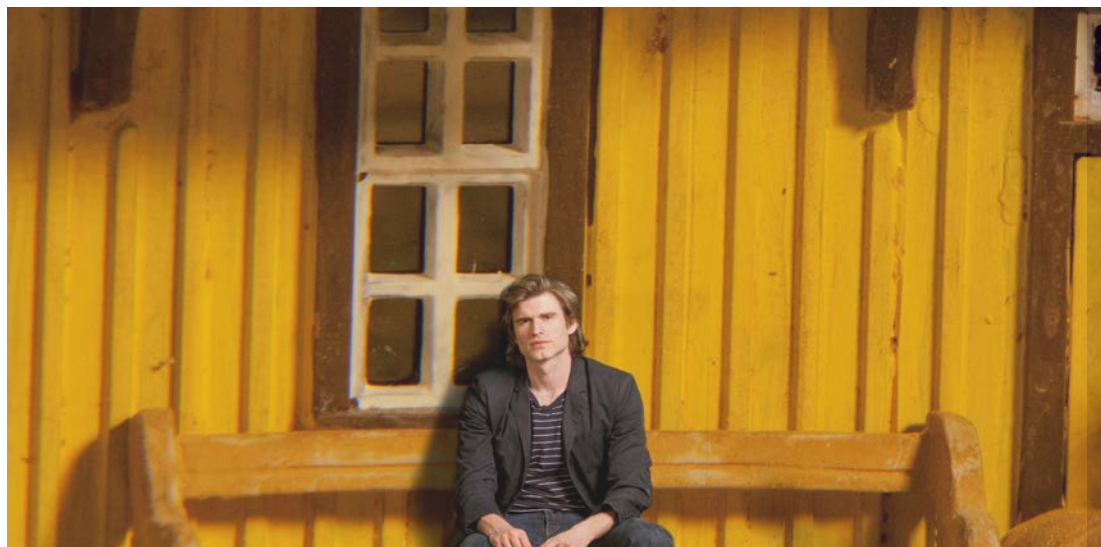


402.334.2301

6328 GROVER STREET
OMAHA, NE 68106

24 HOUR TOWING ■ ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE ■ WRECK MASTER CERTIFIED
DAMAGE-FREE TOWING ■ FULLY INSURED OPERATORS





LOCAL ENTERTAINMENT



LIVE

3D in your face

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

Rocker Sam “Spade” Morris from local glam/punk band 3D In Your Face balances being a full time musician and band member a guitar and bass instructor. Additionally, he has a radio show on a local classic rock station called 101.9 The Keg, formerly known as The Big O. 3D In Your Face was formed in 1999 by lead vocalist Alan “Hot Rod” King. King originally recruited Morris, the bassist, Morris’ best friend, Chris Hinline, the lead guitarist and a drummer who would later leave the band. Hinline is a two-time combat veteran in Afghanistan and Iraq. His nickname, ironically, is “Sniper.” Morris describes him as “the musical quarterback of the band.” The drummer of the moment is John Lovings. 3D In Your Face has struggled for years to find a drummer who wants to stick with them in the long-run.

“The idea was to kind of give people a show,” said Morris “...when [3D In Your Face] first formed, bands weren’t giving the audiences a show. They were standing up there in their everyday clothes just playing music and we kind of wanted to bring an over the top spectacle to our performance, and that [is] the whole idea from the beginning that carries over to now.”

The band started off as a “party band” of sorts, in which they were more focused on having a good time. “I don’t want to say that we grew up,” said Morris, “but we kind of grew out of the whole ‘drugs and drinking’ and the trappings that come along with being in a rock and roll band.”

“We don’t really drink or do drugs anymore, but

that’s kind of the way we get off and the way we get high, through creating music and playing live,” said Morris. Over the years, the band has not only matured, but they evolved from primarily doing cover songs to writing original music and putting on a quality performance.

Not only has 3D In Your Face gained an abundance of local attention, but the band sells records all around the world. “Every time we put out an album I’m just completely blown away by the response that it gets and [the fact that we’re] selling albums worldwide,” said Morris. “I think it’s really cool that people spend their money all the way in Spain [on] an album from a band in Nebraska...And the music that we play really transcends into this whole global community of people who are into glam music, and to be a part of that is really cool.”

In addition to selling albums globally, 3D In Your Face also has the opportunity to play all over the world. “I am so happy just to be able to travel with this band that anytime we go out I just try to kind of soak it all in,” said Morris. “My favorite [times] are those really long hauls where we’re driving 7-8 hours and we’re all together as one big family on the road. Everybody’s tired and they smell and they’re hungry and cranky. Those are the ones that I really love...I never really want to come home.”

3D In Your Face has previously released four albums and they are currently working on their fifth. Their most recent album was put out in 2013; it was titled “Midnight Devils.” The band plans to begin recording their newest album within the next month.

3D In Your Face does all of their recordings in-house meaning they have their own studio and they use their own equipment and instruments. “It’s a very cool pro-

cess where we’re right in our studio,” said Morris. “We set aside a week or two and set up camp in our studio...we’re around each other [24/7] and it’s basically this big, giant catfight. That’s kind of how the magic of the album comes out; they say it’s like harmony through dysfunction.”

The band finds inspiration in wildly popular rock and roll band Kiss. Everything from 3D In Your Face’s style of music, clothing, makeup, hair and performance stems from Kiss.

In preparation for a show, first, Morris gets his makeup done, then the hair, then his costume. “It takes me the longest to get ready out of anybody. It takes me about an hour and a half,” said Morris. “I do everything the same every night...[I] make sure it’s consistent...It kind of makes it seem like everything’s not so crazy all of the time.”

Morris didn’t really know he wanted to be a musician until he was 17 or 18 when he joined his first band. He initially played in a few punk rock bands that had national success. Morris ended up fusing punk rock and glam rock and that’s how he became interested in 3D In Your Face.

Their biggest show to date will be this year in May. They’re going to be performing at Rocklahoma, which is a three day music festival essentially in the middle of nowhere in Oklahoma. “When they released the flyer, we were on [it] with [bands like] Five Finger Death Punch [and] The Scorpions,” said Morris.

“Success is a weird thing, and everybody defines success differently,” said Morris. “I define success as to keep playing, no matter what the odds are...to keep that career going, no matter what. That’s what I hope to achieve.”

matt whipkey

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

Throughout history the wonders of music, whether in lyric or rhythm, has consistently been a unifying factor for people of all different backgrounds and stories, and have done so across the world over. Similarly, therein lies in the Midwest of America the city of Omaha, Nebraska, which has produced many a musician in each and every genre. City native Matt Whipkey is one such artist. Currently on tour with Dwight Yoakam, Whipkey has spent over half his life performing in one form or another and ceases to remember where he came from.

Although he began playing guitar and experimenting with singing and songwriting at the end of junior high, Whipkey actually saw himself becoming a journalist throughout his years at both Gross Catholic High School and the University of Nebraska at Omaha, and even obtained his degree in the same field. During high school, Whipkey entered the world of performing by singing each month at the Stage Right Coffee House's open mic sessions. Citing classic rock artists such as Bruce Springsteen, Nirvana and REM, Whipkey said, "I was inspired by what they were doing, and it was inspiring to see rougher more genuine performers." Drawing from these artists as well as his own unique sounds and preference, Whipkey has crafted his own take on classic rock and roll.

When he was 20 years old, Whipkey began recording with his first band, The Movies, and his first album came out during 2000-2001. As he had already performed in front of crowds before this, he said that there wasn't a lot of stage fright, but actually that's come as his music progressed. "When you're young, you're ready to take on the world, and you're not aware of not being good. But you still gotta get up there with some confidence."

Even after more than a decade and a half of performing and finding more spotlights in recent years, Whipkey says there are still times he can be a little uncomfortable,

but that when the music starts playing, the energy just begins to flow. However, he does describe himself as a "social introvert, and a pretty shy guy with a tight knit close circle of friends," and that he works to convey this real persona in his own music. As with many musicians, especially ones who have begun to reach higher levels of stardom, the media attention only increases. For Whipkey, although there may be the occasional stress, it's more about focusing on what's personally important and making sure to be involved in impactful issues. Beginning in high school with the Omaha Student Democrats club, Whipkey gained experience in both local issues and also elections, often dealing with the media in the process.

In a time where celebrities and many musicians just seem too far out of touch to be relatable, Whipkey writes both his music and lays out his performances to provide not only the feel of a concert, but also a very human experience. "We're show business, but that's really just for effects. The music is very genuine. It's about insecurities and failures that a lot of us can relate to," he said.

When he's on tour, Whipkey also plays his guitar and sings with his live band. Made up of 12-15 other musicians, the lineup can vary depending on the show and performance, but to Whipkey, "It's like a family. They are all very important people in my life." While on tour, the long drives, flights and hours spent together in close proximity can understandably rub some people the wrong way, but Whipkey works to maintain the most cohesive and positive work environment possible. He said, "You just have to learn to give people their space, even when it's a small space."

Since beginning his full career in college, Whipkey has performed with three music groups, beginning with The Movies, then Anonymous American and also the Whipkey Three. Even as the years have passed, he said that they have remained close friends. Once more harkening back to his earlier days, Whipkey still likes to play some of his original music, and those songs seem to continue to be a

fan favorite.

Fans, or lack thereof, can often make or break an artist's career. Even as his own stardom continues to grow, Whipkey still said, "I will always gladly take more fans." For him, it is about the effort and the hard work that must be undertaken in order to achieve success. Like all roads however, this one hasn't been total smooth sailing, and Whipkey described the attacks that can often come from critics as being "jarring and strange, but also that you just can't be bummed out." "It stings a little bit, but then you move on," he said. Regardless of the stresses and temporary slights that may come from a life in the spotlight, Whipkey said he does not regret it in the slightest as he said, "It's not a stable line of work, but I took this one and it's nice to know that it wasn't in vain."

When he's either not on the tour map, or finds some respite during an off hour, Whipkey can be found teaching guitar lessons in his home town of Omaha, watching his favorite baseball team the San Francisco Giants or writing free-lance articles for various publications, as he said, "[I have to] put that degree to use." With such a rigorous schedule in terms of both performing and studio time, Whipkey doesn't have many off hours. "The idea of a vacation is very foreign to me," he said.

Looking to the future, Whipkey hopes to continue to expand his fan base and also explore new states and venues. As with any job, money is what allows him to continue doing what he loves, so he also looks forward to exploring more creative methods of marketing and public appearance.

To any young aspiring musicians or sing song writers out there, Whipkey encouraged them to persevere and continue to pursue what they love, when he said, "If you want to write a poem or wrote a song or write a story, if that excites you, do it. Not many things can do to a person what a song can do. Invest in yourself."

big canvas

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

Lindsey Theis is a Big Canvas cofounder and also works for KMTV Channel 3 News. Big Canvas focuses on exhibiting and teaching improv and comedic skills. "Big Canvas improv is a nonprofit organization with the mission that comedy is for everyone," said Theis. "We're more than just a comedy troupe. We perform shows and teach comedy classes across Nebraska..."

If you know Saturday Night Live, you know improv comedy. SNL has a base in improv, as does Big Canvas. Theis, her fellow cofounders, Doug Rothgeb, Heather Jones, Eric Green, and Tracie Mauk, students and other members take audience suggestions and then perform skits based upon those suggestions.

Theis said that nearly anyone can become a part of Big Canvas. "Our classes and shows are for people who like to laugh and have fun. You don't have to be the next Amy Poehler to take the classes," she said.

Big Canvas was created in 2014 and has consistently developed in nature. Big Canvas is always changing and evolving as new students, members, and performers are added. "We consider our students, featured players, even our audience all members of the Big Canvas," said Theis.

What sets Big Canvas apart from other

entertainment groups is the fact that it is such a diverse group. The cofounders all come from different backgrounds such as theater, speech, standup comedy, etc. Additionally, the group has members from all over Nebraska with a large variety of skills.

Big Canvas is an all-inclusive organization. Students range from 10 year olds to 70 year olds. Despite the significant age difference between students, classes are extremely beneficial to all participants. Performing or learning the practice of improv leads to the acquisition of better social and coping skills. The classes can also be advantageous when creating college applications or resume. Whether people take the classes as a hobby or to gain a certain skill, there is no doubt that partakers will reach their established goal.

Big Canvas' classes are specific yet flexible. They promote an open environment where students can be original and expand on their individuality through improv. "In our classes, Big Canvas teachers instruct about its important to say 'yes, and,'" said Theis. "This is the number one rule in improv. If we're not saying 'yes' we're not open to what comes our way. That idea of saying 'yes' has an impact on your life too. For me, personally and professionally, it's lead to a more open mindedness."

"There's nothing more gratifying than watching these students, in a show, having fun and

thinking on their feet," said Theis. "It's a joy and rush that can't be matched."

Big Canvas' visions for the future include expanding on the idea that is Big Canvas. They wish to perform in locations where they can serve the community (i.e. hospitals, nursing homes, and/or rehab centers). "Big Canvas will be around for a long time! I'm excited to be a part of it," said Theis.

On background: I wouldn't consider it a comedy career. Each of the Big Canvas cofounders donates our time and money to the nonprofit. Think of it more like volunteering or a hobby

On record: I got into improv when I lived in South Carolina. I was covering a story about a woman who was running an improv theatre. She encouraged me to take a class, and the rest is history. Improv is a fun hobby and I truly believe the skills you pick up from a class can be universally helpful no matter who you are. Personally, it's helped me think better on my feet when I am reporting live.

"We really are a family," said Theis. "It's a bond and blast that you build with other members and the audience."

"Improv is an art that is part theatre, part standup comedy. It's all fun!" said Theis.

Thespians come together to celebrate theater, learn new skills

Hayley Raney
staff writer

The International Thespian Society (I.T.S) is a group that inducts high school drama students based on their experience and skill. It also hosts festivals where students can both socialize and compete.

The I.T.S theater festival is “one of Central’s drama students’ favorite time of the year,” according to sophomore drama student Maddie Kane.

The I.T.S. theater festival is an event where students who are involved or interested in drama go to compete in a variety of team or individual events such as monologue, duet scene, musical theater and tech and improv. Students also learn different aspects of being in the drama department.

“It gives students more confidence in their own acting abilities,” Central’s drama teacher Scott Mead said.

The ITS event was held in Lincoln, Neb. and over 700 people from across the state were in attendance. Drama students spent two days at the festival while their officers spent three. Mead looked forward to seeing students perform and compete in group competitions.

Kane and junior Ben Ross were two of the 31 Central drama students that attended this event. Kane and Ross attended the festival last year as well.

Kane, who is an I.T.S officer, participated in an individual event, duet musical theater. She participated in the leadership conference, something very important for an I.T.S officer to attend. She also did two leadership workshops and a dance workshop.

“Anyone can go. It gives everyone a chance to travel with our department,” said Kane. According to Kane it “brings leadership back to Central.”

Ross said that I.T.S. is just one of many activities available for drama students.

“There are many opportunities if you do go into theater in high school,” Ross said.

Ross is a part of the tech and improv team. He participated in an individual event, technical challenges in theater. He also attended two different workshops, called microphones and partner dancing, where Ross learned how to salsa. Mead also helped out with the im-



Photo Courtesy of SCOTT MEAD

The I.T.S Festival consisted of students engaging in both educational activities and creative competitions with friends.

provision acting team challenge. He taught and discussed acting skills, rehearsed individual events and helped teams practice for their events.

“I think it helps kids get to know other drama kids outside of Central,” Ross said.

In the individual and team events, the winners get to show their work off at the showcase performance. Even though not all of the students win, they still have the chance for special recognition. Lisa Grabowski, Mallari Hangman, Roman Peterson and Claire Mahoney were some of Central’s drama students that received awards.

The festival is very important to drama students. Accord-

ing to Ross, it’s important because “it’s a chance for us theater kids to showcase our talents and skills.”

Central’s drama department has been attending the festival for four years and the department plans to keep going.

“I think it’s a great opportunity to see theater, to participate in theater and [to] meet other theater students,” Mead said.

Mead hopes the students learned to increase their acting, technical and theater abilities while developing an appreciation for the art of theater.

“I encourage all drama students to go even if you’re not in I.T.S. because it’s a really great experience,” Kane said.

Sushi spot offers endless all-you-can-eat menu satisfying for the cost

Natalie Nepper
editor-in-chief

Located on 12th and Howard, Tokyo Sushi is the perfect place for delicious, familiar Japanese food. But it’s not for anyone with a small appetite. Thanks to their easy, all-you-can-eat menu, Tokyo Sushi keeps the plates coming.

The entire concept of an all-you-can-eat sushi place fulfills every problem I had with eating sushi in the first place: the cost. Instead of paying for expensive, \$6 a la carte at Blue or Ponzio, I can devour as much as I want for \$18.99- and it’s not mediocre either.

Their sushi is prepared fresh at the sushi bar, you can watch the chefs do it, and it tastes great. The waiter leaves you with a stack of menus so you can order as you please and eat until your stomach is full.

Normally, sushi restaurants have maybe a dozen rolls on their happy hour menus, but Tokyo has more than 60 different kinds of rolls and nigiri to choose from. Their most interesting menu additions include their Mexican roll, which is a unique concoction of spicy crab, avocado, jalapeno and hot sauce. They also have the Golden Dragon Roll which is salmon layered on top of a shrimp tempura roll.

Not in the mood for just sushi? They offer soups, salads and two dozen appetizers.

We started on the appetizer menu, ordering edamame, calamari rings and gyoza deep fried dumplings. Salted edamame is my favorite at any Japanese restaurant, but because of the conscious portion sizes Tokyo Sushi sticks to, I wasn’t given much. We could’ve ordered another bowl, but I was too busy stuffing my mouth with the tasty calamari rings. There were only a handful of the dumplings, which weren’t my favorite part of the meal due to the fact that they were essentially just miniature eggrolls (and I hadn’t come here to eat Chinese food). The appetizers were satisfying, and accurately portioned so I wasn’t too full. It definitely got me excited for the endless amounts of sushi I was about to try.

We marked down the rolls on the menu and I’ll admit we played it safe. Tokyo Sushi charges for the extra food on your plate that you don’t consume and I wanted to make sure every last bit was eaten. My absolute favorite sushi roll anywhere, the Philadelphia roll (shortened to Philly at this place), was equally as delicious as any other spot in Omaha. We also quickly consumed a Cali roll, Alaska roll and crunchy roll before succumbing to the rice filling our bellies. I’m a big fan of salmon, which is why three of our four orders contained the fish. Trust me, I was not let down.



NATALIE NEPPER | The Register

The gyoza fried dumplings weren’t the most appetizing thing on the menu, but the all-you-can-eat sushi did not disappoint.

Next time, I’ll be a little more adventurous with my ordering considering the small portion sizes and unlimited sushi at hand.

I hadn’t come very hungry, but I know now that Tokyo Sushi is the ideal place for those with an empty stomach.

The restaurant also offers a la carte options for those wishing not to embark on the all-you-can-eat journey, which would be a loss, really.

The service was fast and the atmosphere was casual, quiet and not very crowded.

The booths were nice and cozy, but not very comfortable as the man in the other booth behind me was leaning so far into it that I was nearly chest to table. Other than that, I enjoyed the

space and Tokyo Sushi as a whole, and would recommend the spot to any Japanese food lover.

Tokyo Sushi is open 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and are open until midnight on Fridays and Saturdays. They recently enacted a new time schedule, however, as the restaurant is closed from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m. during weekdays, which essentially stops any students from grabbing a bite to eat after school.

Besides this fact, the all-you-can-eat menu is without a doubt worth stopping by, even if you have to adjust your schedule a little to get it.

Jams blends modern vibes, good service, wide variety



ANN MILROY|The Register

Jams' parmesan chicken sandwich and grilled chicken enchiladas are two of their more well known dishes. Along with a variety of classic eats, the atmosphere also conveys a modern vibe.

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

Jams American Grill is an Omaha restaurant legacy, offering a melting pot of different styles and varieties of food and dishes containing high quality ingredients. With a location on 78th and Dodge Street and a newly opened location in the Old Market, Jams is looking to expand its customer base. Undoubtedly, with the quality of food it will not be a difficult challenge.

Immediately when walking into Jams, it is apparent that a cool, modern vibe flows throughout the restaurant. Everyone is welcoming and pleasant to the point that even if the food was mediocre, one might still give it another chance.

In relation to many other restaurants, the menu at Jams is quite small; however, there is still great diversity on the menu. They have everything from carnitas or grilled chicken enchiladas to short rib tacos and poblana mac and cheese. Through all

these choices, I was impressed with the beef tenderloin special, which is only available after 4:30 p.m. The meat did not even require a knife to cut and on the side were hashed potatoes and veggies with cream cheese butter. Everything on the plate blended together well, especially since the cream cheese butter helped to add tartness and a diverse taste to the steak.

Though one might be eager, he or she must not rush to order the entrée before trying out the appetizers at Jams. A couple of my personal favorites are the Bruschetta and onion rings. The only complaint one could possibly have with the Bruschetta is the portion. As it only comes with four, a standard table of five there will not be enough if each person eats one. However, with the onion rings this is not an issue, with one order of onion rings a hefty amount is served which is well over enough to satisfy a large group.

In addition to the food, the service is quality. Never did anyone at the table sit for more than a minute with an empty water cup. Also, the waitress repeatedly asked if there was any-

thing that we needed or if the food tasted good and the orders were correct. Our waitress did not hover too much, but instead visited when she saw that water glasses were empty or extra napkins were needed for example.

When looking at the menu, one will notice that the prices are relatively high. While this is true, Jams is not a place that one goes every day of the week; although, their salads and sandwiches are fairly reasonable. Instead, Jams is a nice place to go for a Sunday family dinner or special occasion that can easily rival with Charleston's for example.

Jams is open every day of the week. Both locations open at 11 a.m. until 10 p.m., except on Fridays and Saturdays when they are opened until 11 p.m. Furthermore, the Dodge location opens at 10 a.m. Sundays for brunch and 3 p.m. in the Old Market.

Anyone looking for a nice Sunday meal, or even brunch, should ponder Jams American Grill because of their exceptional service and wide variety of quality choices on the menu.

Local entrepreneur persistent, establishes successful comedy club

Carlson Koch
staff writer

Dylan Rohde has taught and improved the way comedians perform and has been doing so ever since the creation of a comedy club in 2011.

He has impacted comedy in Omaha largely with his company known as The Backline Comedy Club. Rohde brings both the aspects of teaching and allowing comedians to perform in his building located at 1618 Harney St.

He became an entrepreneur and took this idea of comedy and turned it into a business. As of right now, he ranks the school to be in the range of the top 20's. These ranks are given to schools who teach comedy, similar to how colleges are ranked for the majors they offer.

At one point, Rohde was part of the Upright Citizens Brigade, with locations both in Los Angeles and New York. Rohde was able to do some of the demo-reels for the Upright Citizens Brigade, which proved to be a great opportunity and experience.

After leaving the brigade, he chose to begin teaching, and now Rohde focuses more on the school and teaching portions. "I work 40 hours a week, dedicating my time to everything," said Rohde.

He teaches his students the five levels that each needs to be completed to graduate and become an overall performer. The first begins with intro, following up with information on call-backs, then the herald form, advanced forms and finishing it with advanced herald.

After completion of all courses the newly committed comedian will have learned many of the things to shape them into a more successful one. "So far, we have had 70 graduates and about 350 students overall," he said.

Other than these classes for comedy, there are some for improv. Improv is a type of comedy where people go on a stage, and comes up with the material on the spot, or are given topics from the audience to create the show. Then, with completion, "the students will complete five to six levels of improv," he said.

Not all people finish the program, similar to how many college students change their major several times before finding the one that is for them. Along with the program, the club adds a unique aspect to a festival that is held in May for those inter-



ANN MILROY|The Register

The Backline Comedy Club has been open for locals since 2011. Owner Dylan Rhode has turned comedy into a successful business.

ested.

He said, "The goal is to become one of the best improve schools". Rohde does this in hopes to someday turn Omaha into a more known city for this type of art.

Despite the thriving teachings, there are aspects such as those where comedians attempt to become recognized and praised for improv or overall funny performances. With Friday night attendances reaching numbers of 50, comedians get a taste of a respectable crowd size.

With schooling and acts throughout the week, Backline continues to grow things headed in the right direction, and to top it he has interns and volunteers. These interns are given work experience which furthermore leads to a better resume.

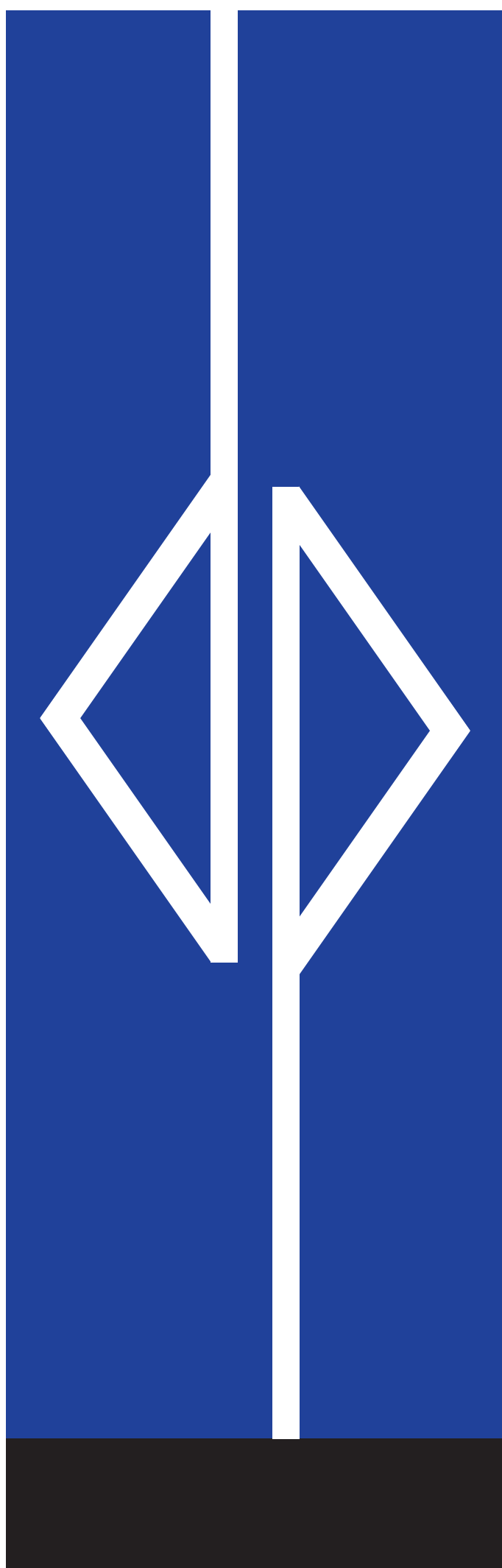
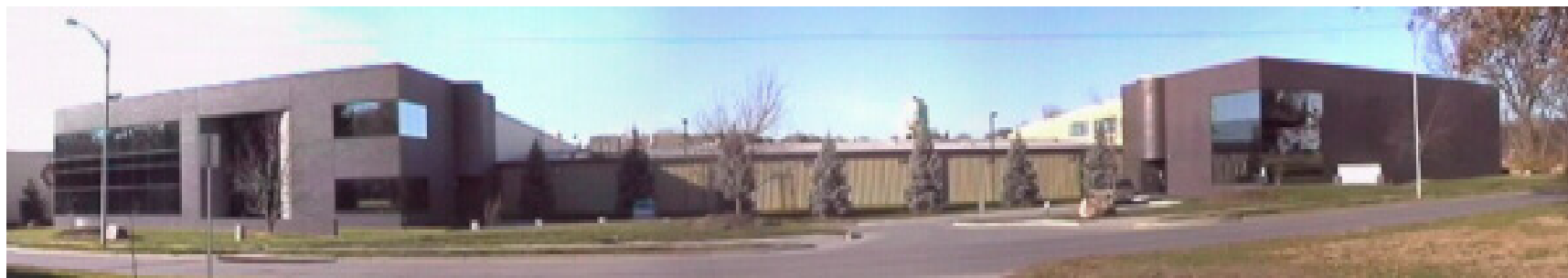
Beginning the week of Feb. 14, Thursday through Saturday will have shows scheduled and will have open opportunities for comedians to practice. All students that are apart of the program do not have to pay anything to perform for the audience.

On Thursday, starting at 8 p.m., graduates of the third level are going to be performing for at least an hour. From 8 p.m. until 10 p.m. there will be showings open for audiences.

Friday and Saturday will also have times where people can go and perform as a comedian. Even without being a student, people can perform for a small fee.

"Whether your goal is stand-up or sketch," Rohde said, "The Backline helps."

DESIGN PLASTICS INC



*PAID BOOKS AND
TUITION TO
METRO AND UNO.*

MUST BE 18 TO APPLY.

Quality Plastic Parts for
Worldwide Industry

(402) 572 - 7177

3550 Keystone Dr
Omaha, NE 68134
Apply in person.





Q&A 24

The Register interviews Jay Landstrom, an assistant basketball coach and P.E. teacher.



TENNIS SCANDAL 27

Corruption in professional tennis requires attention from referees and industry officials.

ERON HAYNES 26

With his family's support, a junior wrestler looks to find success on the mat this season.



sports & leisure

the REGISTER • February 11, 2016 • Volume 131, Issue 3

STAR ON THE COURT

Senior basketball player Brandon Reed succeeds in his first and last year at Central



BROOKLYNN GRIXBY & CLAIRE LAVENDER | The O-Book

Left: At a home game, Brandon Reed scans the court for a teammate to pass the ball to. Right: Reed attempts to pass an opposing player during a game against Omaha South.

Carlson Koch
staff writer

Averaging approximately 14 points a game, one assist and three rebounds during his three years at Benson, it is no surprise head basketball Coach Ben Holling recruited senior Brandon Reed. After donning a Bunny jersey, Reed came to Central for his final year of high school basketball.

Growing up, Reed was initially inspired by his brother to play basketball. "It started in fifth grade and my brother took to my first practice at King Science Center." Before that, Reed played football.

In middle school, he attended Morton and ran track, participated in basketball and football. These were the years that Reed said he found himself loving basketball more and more.

By playing other sports, Reed naturally is himself athletic and as a result good at basketball. "Playing basketball with

friends made [it] the most fun and I felt like I could do it forever," he said.

In middle school, he found a coach who is also a security guard at Benson. As his first coach, he helped Reed learn the

“Playing basketball with friends made [it] the most fun, and I felt like I could do it forever.”

BRANDON REED

Senior basketball player

fundamentals and learn all things necessary when first starting the sport.

Though this is only his first year on the team, Reed is al-

ready contributing significantly. On Jan. 27 Central played Burke and coming out of halftime, Reed drained three 3-pointers in a row and scored a total of 21 points. During the game his performance helped the team to rally from a deficit to defeat the Bulldogs in overtime. Other than the game at Burke, Reed has constantly helped the team by being one of the highest scoring players.

In regards to the entire team, Reed said, "We could improve on our rebounding as a whole, it's not the best." While playing Burke, Central was able to rebound enough to win. "I don't like losing at all," said Reed, as he hopes to make it to state.

Other than the clutch shots against Burke, Reed scored the game winning shot with three seconds remaining in the Bellevue East game, with a final score of 65-64.

Defensively, Reed points out that the team as a whole

CONTINUE TO 'BRANDON REED'
ON PAGE 26

Student-athlete academic standards change, allowing "grace period"

Kelsey Thomas
editor-in-chief

The OPS school board recently voted 8-0 to adopt new standards on academic requirements for student-athletes.

The previous requirements, adopted in 2013, followed an algorithm that varied by grade level. Freshman were not allowed to be in failing status of more than one class without punishment, while sophomores were allowed to have an "F" in two classes. Juniors and seniors were not held to pass/fail standards, and instead were checked on their GPA per quarter. All students participating in an NSAA-sanctioned extracurricular activity, whether it be a sport, band, or drama, were held to a 2.0 GPA minimum.

Regardless of grade, if students did not meet the specific requirements for their grades, they were required to sit out of the sport or activity for nine weeks.

According to Lou Ann Goding, school board president, "Many of the administrators, coaches, athletes [and] parents believed the former policy was a step in the right direction, but that it could be improved upon."

No matter their GPA, all student-athletes were required to attend academic coaching, an after-school study hall, for up to two hours per week. Missing four or more academic coaching

sessions, even if a student was passing every class, resulted in a suspension from the sport.

When the current complicated system of student-athlete grading requirements was passed three years ago by the school board, it was initially regarded as "one of the toughest" standards in the state, according to an Omaha World-Herald article from the time. The largest aspect of the proposal was the adoption of a 2.0 GPA requirement, a standard far more demanding than the NSAA rule of passing only four classes per semester.

After only two school years of the past system, the school board introduced a new bill that would simplify the system and give student-athletes more of an opportunity to boost their grades.

In order to draft a new policy, a focused group of educators and school administrators were put together.

"A committee was formed, AD's (Athletic Directors), Supervisors and Directors, and the proposed changes were presented to the Board of Education," Goding said.

According to an informational document prepared by the school board, students who have one or more grades of a "D" or an "F" will now be required to attend one hour of academic coaching per week. Students who are passing all of their courses will not be required to attend. Students will still be required to sit out from their activity if they are failing a class, but only in two-week increments rather than nine. This way, students are

allowed a "grace period," meaning that they have more time to improve their grades without missing a majority of the sports season.

Luke Dillon, Central's Athletic Director, welcomes the change in policy. "I feel this current policy is much better than the first one. The new policy gives kids hope that are failing as they know they can eventually play once their grades are up, instead of having to wait 9 weeks," he said.

Additionally, the punishment for having a "D" in a course encourages students to stay on top of their grades, and to raise them before it is too late.

"By tracking D's students are constantly reminded on how they are currently doing in class, and we are being proactive by getting them in academic coaching to try and prevent a student from entering failing status," Dillon said.

The new standards represent a change in perspective for the school board.

"The goal of the new policy is to be proactive, [and] provide more frequent grade checks and assistance, rather than punitive," Goding said.

With a clearer system designed to help students succeed both inside of the classroom and in their respective sports, the change in grading policy is a welcome one for many coaches, administrators, and student-athletes.

Varsity quarterback performs for national combine, showcases skills

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

Only 600 athletes in the U.S. were given the opportunity to showcase their talent at the U.S. Army Football Combine, and junior Jordan Flowers was one of them.

Flowers being chosen to attend was based on a few different factors. "First, I had to send in some game film that I had created through Hudl (a website used by athletes to upload film), and I also had to be recommended by several coaches throughout the metro. I was lucky enough and fortunate enough to be chosen," Flowers said.

The program also features scouts throughout the country who continually look for possible athletes to attend the combine.

Flowers did not know any of the other athletes before attending the combine, but he knew that he would be amongst many talented players.

"It was mind blowing. I knew that the talent was out there, and I expected there to be a lot of great players in my class, but to actually experience and witness it was a different experience, but it also pushed me to keep improving on my game," Flowers said.

He further expected the environment to be very professional and beneficial to his development as an athlete. "I expected it to be a NFL and college type environment with a lot of scouts there and a lot of recruiting agencies around. It did live up to what I thought it would be and even more.

There were a lot of new things that I experienced there, a lot of new technology that they used at the combine that I was introduced to," Flowers said.

The majority of the combine was set-up mainly as a try out for the game that took place at the end of the combine. Flowers did experience some one-on-one training, but he did not get to participate in the game since the game is just offered to seniors.

"It was a lot of combine training, and what I mean by combine training is that things such as your vertical, the L-cone drill, pro-agility, power push up, which is a new exercise that they implemented into the combine instead of doing bench-press because of the high risk factor... It was a great set-up with the NFL technology that they use," Flowers said.

Noting that this was, in essence, a tryout for the senior game, competition was very high. "Hopefully if you compete at a high level, you will be chosen your senior year to play in the All-American game," Flowers said.

The coaching staff at the combine varies annually. Usually, local coaches help out with the combine, but occasionally coaches from outside the local area will be representing the west and east



Photo Courtesy of JORDAN FLOWERS

Junior Jordan Flowers, bottom right, was one of only 600 high schoolers selected to play in the U.S. Army Football Combine.

teams, varying from Miami to any other major city. "Just any of those legendary high school coaches," Flowers said.

However, college coaches were not allowed at the combine because it was a "dead period." At the time of the combine, college football season was still going on. Since the college football season had just ended, coaches are not allowed to look at players officially until spring.

Having said that, there were still recruiting agencies at the combine that were evaluating players. These agencies recorded all of the measurements and are able to relate these measurements and their recommendations to college coaches. "They pass on the message of elite players and what they are looking for," Flowers said.

Flowers has not officially received his first college football offer, but he has earned a lot of looks. "Unfortunately, I have not gotten my first offer yet, but I feel like it is coming soon here from a few schools. I feel like they are just a tad bit just to see how I improve a little bit more," Flowers said.

To improve his chances, Flowers will have to separate himself from his competition in one way or another. "You have to add different components to your game that aren't necessarily required, but great characteristics to have as a player," Flowers said.

He says it is hard to get recruited out of Nebraska in any sport, so players "have to separate [themselves] and not just be elite."

The combine improved Flowers' mental game the most. Being a football player, Flowers already trains and meets the physical demands of the sport.

However, the mental aspect can always be improved. "Being mentally strong was a key component to being in that combine due to the simple fact you're going against some of the best players in the country," Flowers said. "Talent alone is not going to cut it."

Q & A

The Register sits down with assistant boys basketball coach Jay Landstrom to discuss teamwork and this year's season.

Alec Rome
web editor

How has the season been up to this point?

"It has gone well. We are currently 11-6, and we are looking forward to keeping things going and rolling."

The team had a tough stretch with some losses to Omaha North, Hogan Prep and Lincoln Northeast. What have you guys done to come back from that?

"Coach Holling and I have joked that we have been in pretty much every situation possible this year. We had a great overtime win against Burke. We're happy so far with where we are at, and we are hoping to get more big wins."

The team went to Kansas City recently. Describe that experience for you.

"Kansas City was a lot of fun, going down to the College Basketball Experience. I enjoyed it, I know our players enjoyed it, and it was the first time I had been there. We played a good Hogan Prep team and we came up a little short. They are a good team, one of the top teams in Missouri and overall it was a great day. It was all possible because of the Central High School Foundation."

We have talked to some of the players this season, and they have felt that they have become more of a family. What have you seen that would agree with that statement?

"They are a good group of guys who definitely get along, much better chemistry than last year, the guys seem to really play hard for each other and for Central High. And, they are fun to be around. So, we are hoping to make a run deep into March."

One of the big keys to the Central offense is Isaiah Poor-Bear Chandler. You had a little bit of trouble getting him the ball in that bad stretch, but how have you tried to implement him back into this Central offense?

"We try to get him as many touches as possible. We really want him to work hard for the ball and post up big on the block. We talked to our guards about getting him the ball and then moving off of it. He opens up our offense, because teams have to collapse when he is a force down [low], and he can be one of the best players in the state when he wants to be."

Along with Isaiah, what are some of this team's strengths?

"We feel our perimeter shooting is good, we have some guys that are making some shots, we feel like we are a pretty athletic team and overall our defense has done pretty well this season. We are a little undersized, so we have to make up for that by playing hard, getting to the glass and [boxing] people out. As you mentioned earlier, playing as a team, playing for each other and working hard together to achieve our goal, and that is to win a state championship."

As a coach, what is the most important thing you try to teach the players along the way, other than just basketball?

"As coaches, we try to do as many life skills as we can, and Coach Holling does a great job with that as well as holding guys accountable. Whether it is from just being on time to making sure you are taking care of business first in the classroom, being there for one another, those are all things Coach Holling preaches."

Of course, you are a teacher at Omaha Central High School. Do you feel like teaching and coaching have some similarities?

"Definitely. Coaches should be great teachers. I teach Omaha History, Geography and U.S. History, and we are here to teach first. But, you have to be able to work with young adults and that is what we do on the basketball court, football field, or in the classroom."

Finally, what does this team need to do all across the board if they want to make a run at State?

"This is my tenth year here, and I have been a part of some state championship teams and at the end of the day, it just comes down to playing your best basketball when it matters most. That is in districts, in the state tournament, and into February and March. We have to be playing our best and I think this team can make a run at it."

Varsity swimmer pursues science, military career paths



Photo Courtesy of **MEAGAN GILL**

Meagan Gill swims the butterfly during a meet. She has been swimming since her attendance at Field Club Elementary.

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

In terms of performance and physical taxation, competitive swimming is one of the most demanding sports to be undertaken by athletes. With hour long practices, sometimes twice a day, multiple meets a week and pressure to shorten times, swimming can put a strain on any daily schedule.

For junior Meagan Gill however, the struggle to compete in the pool is entirely worth it.

Gill attended Field Club Elementary school and King Science Middle School. It was during these years that she began

to fully immerse herself in the world of competitive swimming. Beginning with introductory swim lessons at age four, and then club swim team a year later, Gill attributed her earliest motivation to join to her father, when she said, “My dad swam when he was younger and still does for exercise today.”

In junior high, Gill said that the environment was far less stressful than high school is, and that she even received the opportunity to help coach some of her fellow swimmers on their form and technique.

Even now, three years later, Gill still maintains friendships with some

of her old teammates and said it stays true to the age old mantra, “Team is family.”

When it came time to choosing where to attend high

school, Gill had to choose between Central or Omaha North, where her two older sisters had attended and also swam at. Ultimately, Gill chose Central for the coaching staff and its athletic professionalism.

Even today, Gill said, “My older sister and I still have a rivalry going on of Central versus North.”

Participating in high school athletics requires dedication and time commitment, and with that Gill has dedicated herself to both the Central team and also Field Club Country Club’s own club team in order to stay in shape and continually get the practice. “Swimming helps me to stay healthy and the people on the team are certainly also a big part of it,” she said. All the time spent in the water has also helped Gill form many friendships and close bonds. “We [the team] all hang out, it’s like a family,” she said. Like all families, there can be rough spots and even a little stress, but according to Gill, they always manage to come together and support each other. This effort requires dedication even when it may be hard to.

Recently, Gill said the doctor notified her that her shoulder had been injured and that she should take a break, but with State coming up she said, “I can’t, I’m sorry, but I can’t.”

When she’s not in the pool, Gill also enjoys some relaxation and watching television along with working part time at a local Jimmy Johns. “I like working there a lot, but I still spend a lot of money on food,” she said.

Looking to the future, Gill has several ideas. She would either like to attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln or Omaha, but also is considering following her sister into the United States Marine Corps.

Her interest in the military has been spurred on by participating in the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps (JROTC) at Central. She said, “I first started doing it for the gym credits, but I have grown to really like it. It’s more time with friends.” Gill plans to return to JROTC for her senior year and hopes to continue her climb in the ranks.

If Gill chooses to the university route rather than military enlistment, she hopes to pursue forensic science, which is an interest she discovered while at Central.

For her it is the search of a definitive answer that really provides the fascination and the drive.

Balancing academics with a sport such as swimming may be difficult, but Gill said that the rewards are worth it.

“The academics I have had access to at Central will be very beneficial in the future and the swim team has helped me make so many close friends,” she said. Although the high school environment may be stressful, Gill explained that she handles it the way that is most common to teenagers, “I complain about it,” she said.

Although Gill may not know what the future holds, two things are certain to her as she said, “I want to continue my passion for swimming and stay close with the many friends I have made. I also am very pleased that I chose Central High School as it has helped to prepare me for wherever I go in my life.”

“Swimming helps me to stay healthy and the people on the team are certainly also a big part of it.”

MEAGAN GILL

Junior swimmer and
JROTC participant

Female powerlifters fiercely compete, strengthen body, mind

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

With females taking part in powerlifting, the bar is being raised during competitions. There are up to seven different weight classes in women’s powerlifting; participants take part in three lifts: squat, bench press and deadlift. These test the mental and physical strength of those involved, pushing them to their absolute limits.

Although some members of the team compete in powerlifting as their sole sport, many use it to accompany another sport in which they take part in. “I have got much stronger for softball, and my hitting has already improved. When the softball season starts back up in the spring I hope to have more extra base hits,” said sophomore Sarah Bartle.

Other than improving one’s strength, powerlifting also helps an athlete’s mindset with his or her other sports. “Powerlifting has helped me with softball because it has taught me self-discipline and determination,” said junior Makensy Pankers.

Each of the lifts strengthens a different part of the body. According to a 2004 study published in the “British Journal of Sports Medicine,” there is a direct correlation between squat strength and sprint speed. Similarly, bench press was shown to increase overall endurance as well as muscle, bone and joint health; moreover, deadlift adds to one’s overall strength and explosiveness. Taking each of these effects in mind, all competitors have their personal favorite, or most successful, lift. “My favorite is squat because it makes me feel so strong when I can get down low with heavy weight and push myself back up,” Bartle said.

As for the team this year, around 50 people tried out but only 25 are on the team now, with the remainder either quitting



ANN MILROY & CHELSEA JONES | The Register & The O-Book

Left: Sarah Bartle secures a weight on the bar. Right: Makensy Pankers squats during one of the meets and places second.

or being cut in try-outs. Many of the cuts were due to this year’s team being one of the largest the coaches have ever had.

For those thinking about joining powerlifting, it is imperative that they come ready to compete. “Advice I would give to a girl that was considering to try out for the team is to come prepared. Meaning, hopefully they have lifted before, know it is serious, and will work hard,” Pankers said. While it is admittedly strenuous, this does not mean it should discourage one from attempting powerlifting. “If someone was considering powerlifting, I would tell them to go for it,” said Bartle. “Taking a gym

class like light weight training or going to the gym with someone else who has experience lifting is a great way to help you get the basics down so you come into powerlifting with a little extra knowledge and strength.”

Powerlifting is unlike any other major athletic activity. “Powerlifting is different than any other sport at Central because it is both a team sport and individual sport,” Pankers said, “Coach Baker will pick a few individuals from the team that he wants to score for the team score and individually we compete for ourselves to win.”

Long-time wrestler, influenced by family, hopes to continue success

Hayley Raney
staff writer

Junior Eron Haynes, strongly encouraged to wrestle by his father, has come a long way due to his motivation. Haynes has been wrestling for 10 years and plans to wrestle in college either at Oklahoma State or UNL. He also participates in cross-country and track. For Haynes its easy doing three sports because he says he has the time for it.

"Wrestling has made me tougher and care for people," Haynes said. Wrestling is no joke to him when it comes to school either because he "cares about school more."

Jimmie Foster has been Central's wrestling coach for 19 years and he enjoys coaching Haynes. "He's a gritty determined young man full of moxy," Foster said.

Haynes has won a most outstanding wrestling award from Boys Town and has won Metro's Wrestler of the week award from his years of experience.

According to Foster, Haynes' work ethic is what makes him stand out. "He's maturing quickly," Foster said.

This year Central's wrestling team is "hard working" as Haynes puts it. Foster describes the team as "one big happy family." Foster's goals for the wrestling team this year would be "to finish in the top 10 at the state tournament," which is Feb. 18, 19, 20 at the Century Link Center.

Wrestling runs in Haynes' family with his brothers, Emilio and Enrique, who are 13 and 10 years old respectively. Their father who was a boxer pushed his boys to participate in wrestling. Haynes' father is always supporting Haynes on the sidelines of his wrestling meets.

Haynes' favorite memory of wrestling was last year "going to Oklahoma, winning and hanging out with the team." Because Haynes won and had a good time with his friends.

Foster's hopes for Haynes when he goes to wrestle in college is "that he does his best and gets his college degree."



Eron Haynes, junior, brings a wrestler to the mat. Haynes was originally encouraged to join wrestling by his father.

ANN MILROY | The Register

Athlete hopes to continue playing in college

CONTINUED FROM 'BRANDON REED'
ON PAGE 23

struggles with filling in gaps when people drive to the basket. "Closing these gaps will stop easy points such as lay-ups or a small distance shots," he says.

"I'm an all-around guard, I can do it all," said Reed. While playing, he enjoys playing guard, where he "can do more" and "be more versatile." He currently plays shooting guard and has reached a high of 22 points in a high-school game.

For college, Reed is pursuing his dream of playing basketball, with the ultimate goal of being in the NBA. He has had offers from Peru State where Eric Behrens former Central coach, now coaches. Other than Peru, Midland University has also shown interest in him. "Before going pro, I need to focus on the next level first," he said.

Other than basketball, Reed is thinking about majoring in science or graphic design.

A memory of his comes from the final seconds of a game, "We were playing a pretty good team and we were down and my friend got the rebound and I was running down the court," he said. "I was screaming his name, while he passed to me... I shot the ball and made it." By making the shot, Reed won the game with a buzzer beater.

Reed is glad that he decided to come to Central for his senior year of high school. "I believe that I have gotten better and had more opportunity," he said. Playing for a better team, he said, makes a scout more likely to think that a basketball player has potential.

"Give it all you got and have fun," Reed said to those who are interested in playing basketball. He also said to remember fundamentals are important to learn before trying to learn advanced moves.

Through every hardship and adversity thrown on and off the court, Reed lives by the motto of, "I can do all things."

Determination pays off for swimmer after automatically qualifying for state relays

Natalie Nepper
editor-in-chief

Rob Guardiola can't swim without Runza. Practices and meets start with a cheese Runza combo, medium fry and medium Dr. Pepper- every single time. The varsity swimmer, creatively dubbed "Runza Rob" by teammates, has an extreme superstition. Without his fast-food meal, he can't swim.

This year he "took an extreme" with his newly formed routine diet but that's just what Guardiola likes. Routine. The swimmer practices year round on a nearly daily basis. When he's not swimming during the Central season, he's a part of the Omaha Swim Federation. His years go by in swim seasons.

He stumbled across the sport four years ago. Swimming was just a pastime to keep himself in shape for the upcoming track season. He quit track two weeks in to his freshman year. "I thought, 'This is not where I belong,'" he said.

Now, as a senior and varsity swim team member, Guardiola has automatically qualified for state in four different events: 100 free, 200 free, 200 IM, 100 breaststroke. His favorite is the 100 breaststroke because that's what he's "the best" at.

Swimming in general is what he's best at. That's why he doesn't do any other sports, and doesn't get too involved in any other school activity.

Simply put, Guardiola "just can't stop."

"Swimming is the hardest sport you can do, but when you get in state you won't want to stop," he said. "You feel so healthy."

For the Omaha Swim Federation, Guardiola swims eight times a week during the summer and five times during the fall and spring. He does Central's season practices at Norris after school and at the Downtown YMCA at any morning practice. Sometimes, especially during hell week, it gets pretty "rough."

"This year we had the most meets out of anybody. We didn't get to have a real training break..." Guardiola said. "We had a period where we had five meets in eight days. It was awful."

The typical hard practices include swimming 5000 or 6000 yards in a couple of hours, or 2000 to 2500 during

morning practice.

Swimming might be difficult but "it's really good on your body. It's one of the very few sports that doesn't have an impact on your legs," Guardiola said. "You won't get torn up hips or messed up knees. It'll be in your shoulders but it won't happen for a very long time. It's definitely a lifetime sport. I'd recommend it for anybody."

Despite the grueling workouts and the minimal complaints, Guardiola knows that there's a real payout. "It's just worth it in the end when you see your times on the board," he said.

There's plenty of chaos at swim meets before he can get to that point. "It's a whole different thing when you're actually swimming and cheering on your teammates. It's

crazy. It can be hectic and kind of a cluster sometimes but it's fun. It's really fun," he said.

Besides the Omaha Swim Federation and Central swimming, Guardiola always works at qualifying for sectionals out of state. "You have to get certain time standards, they're faster than state times. I currently have two and I'm on the bubble for three more," he said. "All of my events for state, I've won a bubble for." Sectionals take place in Missouri every summer and Oklahoma every

spring, however "this year they're in Missouri for spring because of the Olympic Trials."

Happen to look up in the stands during sectionals, or during any swim meet for that matter, Rob's mother will be cheering him on. "If you go to a swim meet [that] I'm swimming at, the lady that is screaming is my mom. She has the most noticeable voice in the entire world," said Guardiola. "She comes down to Missouri and Oklahoma with me. She goes to the Iowa meet that we go to each year. She's all over the place. She goes wherever I go."

Before the season ends, Guardiola has a bucket list of swimming goals just waiting to be accomplished. "I want to try and snag the 200 IM record, lower my 100 breaststroke by at least a second and a half and try to get my relay to take another record off the board from like four years ago," he said.

Next year, Guardiola plans to swim at Morningside College, where he'd like to major in biology. The nickname "Runza Rob" may or may not follow him to college, it all just depends on how his new routine goes.

[Swimming is] really good on your body. It's one of the very few sports that doesn't have an impact on your legs. You don't get torn up hips or messed up knees. It'll be in your shoulders but it won't happen for a very long time. It's definitely a lifetime sport. I'd recommend it for anybody.

ROB GUARDIOLA

Varsity swimmer

purchase a
YEARBOOK

\$65 cash or
check to
room 029

Corrupted tennis players should be given swift, harsh punishment

Alec Rome
web editor

It would seem that professional sports would have enough integrity to prevent purposefully losing games, but it seems that even the most well-known athletes have fallen victim. A group of 16 high profile tennis players have been accused of fixing matches in exchange for cash.

Tennis has not had the reputation of being a corrupt sport. Compared to baseball player's run-ins with performance enhancing drugs to the Deflategate scandal in American football last year, tennis has not had nearly the amount of scandals.

Sixteen players who have played in major tournaments are accused of fixing matches in order to earn money.

Both the BBC and BuzzFeed issued the report, stating that this core group of players have exhibited suspicious behavior.

The most shocking detail is that all of the accused players have been, or are currently in the top 50 in the world. Match fixing has allegedly even happened at Wimbledon, one of the most important tournaments in sports.

There is enough concrete evidence to indict any player of fixing matches, but the investigations have shown plenty of signs. BuzzFeed decided to analyze betting on tennis over the past seven years through a series of algorithms.

What they found was that fifteen different players attracted a large amount of bets which changed the odds of the match. While it's not completely a confirmation of match fixing, it is a warning sign.

For the players that are involved in this scandal, many questions must be asked. First of all, why would they choose to intentionally lose matches? Sure, it could be for money. But according to the reports, these nameless players have been some of the top tennis players in the world. Their salaries are already incredibly high.

Also, why have tennis officials turned a blind eye to the corruption? All of this evidence has been presented to them, and while it is not concrete it is still convincing, and they have chosen to do nothing about it.

Over 70 players have been flagged by tennis authorities over the past decade but none of them have ever been punished. They may not have had access to phone records or conversations, but the links to different gambling pools around the world along with the apparent changes in odds has to say something.

Eliminating the guilty players from competition would

clean up a game that has been fairly clean otherwise. Tennis has had some interesting characters over the years, like John McEnroe, but overall any form of corruption has not been in tennis headlines.

Soccer teams don't throw games, because they would be relegated to lower leagues and probably go bankrupt. Even golf doesn't have match fixers because they would not be able to stay on the professional tour.

The solution to this problem is to make it so that players have to be more consistent in order to qualify for a tournament. A slip-up in a major tournament should count against a player that wants to qualify for a different major tournament.

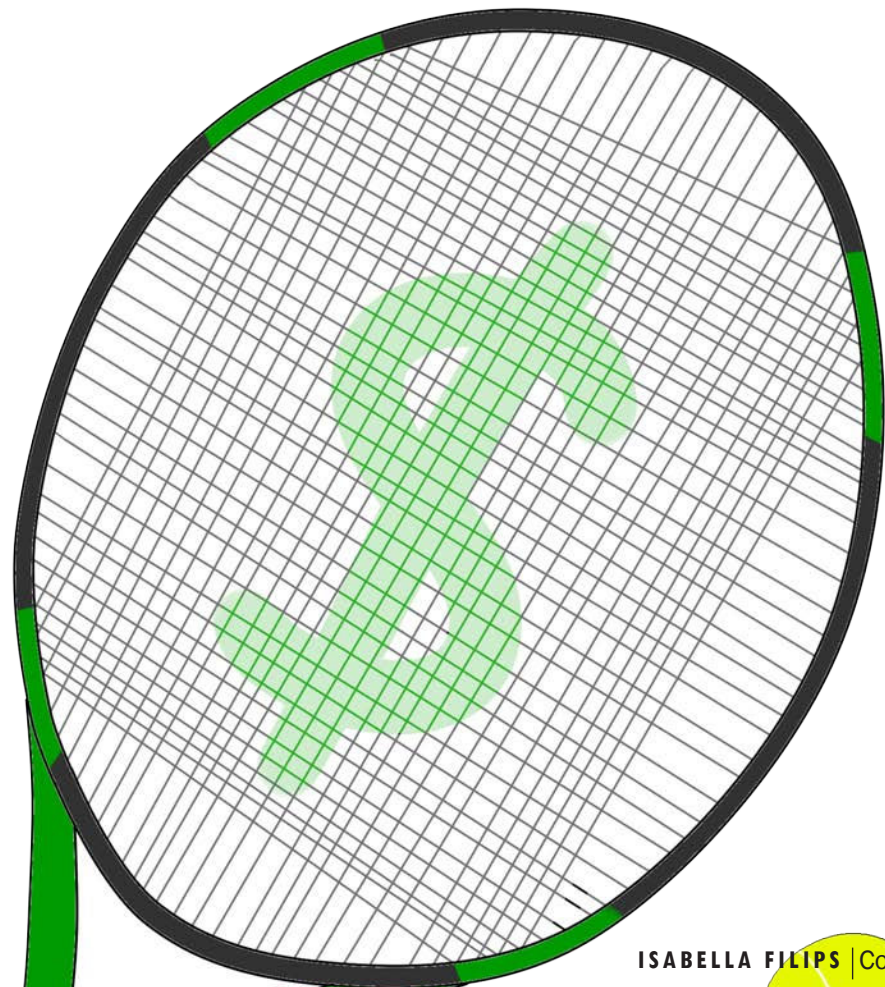
Encourage those who are consistent, and place those who

are not as consistent towards the bottom of rankings. An easy way to determine who is consistent is by using an "Elo" system like chess does.

It accurately determines the skill level of a player, and their rating is based on their entire performance, not just the result of the match.

It is not easy to catch players that have been ranked as the top in the world, because you cannot tell when they are throwing matches and when they lost fairly.

Tennis authorities must make the game fair for all players, no matter their popularity or talent level.



ISABELLA FILIPS | Contributing Cartoonist

New swim coach sees the pool as an extension of the classroom



ANN MILROY | The Register

Social studies teacher Brendan Smith hopes to motivate his students in the classroom and his swimmers in the pool. In addition to coaching at Central, Smith coaches for the Omaha Recreational Swim League during the summer.

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

The junior varsity boys swim team welcomes a new face as coach. Brendan Smith joined the Central High staff in August. As a young and ambitious educator, he hopes to utilize his teaching ability to motivate his swimmers to not

only achieve their goals, but to dedicate themselves to the sport. Right away, he addresses a major issue in student scheduling and capitalizes on how it affects athletic performance. "One thing I've noticed is that Central kids tend to be really over-involved...they're spread too thin...if they're going to sign up for swimming, I want them to 100 percent have their heart in swimming," He said.

Smith also claims that dedication is a must, and stresses the importance of consistency. "The hardest thing is just getting kids to show up. Once they're there, the practices are usually pretty good", he said. Smith coaches for the Omaha Recreational Swim League during the summer, and has worked with his college coach at the University of South Dakota. While helping him, Smith wrote sets and ran times. He aims to use these experiences to improve the work ethic in his swimmers.

Smith is not only a new coach, but a new teacher as well. He quickly joined Central's teacher roster after working briefly in South Dakota as a student teacher and a long-term substitute. He graduated in December of 2014, and immediately immersed himself in the education field.

Smith believes that connecting closely with students can help unify the group as a whole. He personally sees athletics as an extension of the classroom, and with that being said, becoming familiar with his pupils has become a priority.

"It's another place to get to know students a little bit better...and by doing that, hopefully you kinda find what motivates them," he said.

Smith has run into a bit of trouble writing feasible sets for a high school level swim team. After creating sets for college students with his coach, he occasionally finds it a bit difficult to adjust practice routines to a reasonable difficulty. He says helping his swimmers achieve their best time is his overall goal.

This year's junior varsity swim team consists of about 25 people, and out of that number, Smith predicts that around 90 percent of the students will remain committed to improving themselves. Smith remains hopeful for this year's lineup, and is confident that they will make some of the best time records yet.

Smith's passion for swimming is contagious. With the junior varsity team, he is adamant that significant improvements in dedication and practice attendance will become noticeable. He expects a lot out of the swimmers. According to him, a love for the sport is probably one of the most important parts of an athletic mindset.

Central's new-and-improved swim team hopes to dominate the lanes. Smith's insight will provide new invigoration for junior varsity swimmers. Future team members can look forward to having him in their corner. There's no telling how long Smith will coach, but a lasting appeal is to be expected.