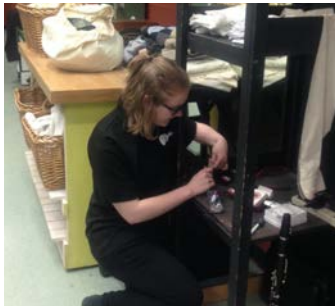


KESHA

8

The corrupt morals of the entertainment industry are seen in singer Kesha's contract with her alleged abuser.



GABI RIMA

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The senior spends her free time as an assistant director at the Omaha Community Playhouse.



HOT REF

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An Omaha native and former Husker football player refs at the Super Bowl, gaining attention on social media as the "Hot Ref."

the REGISTER



Omaha Central High School | Volume 131, Issue 5 | March 24, 2016

omahacentralregister.com

A RAUCOUS CAUCUS

Thousands of Nebraska Democrats caucused on March 5 in support of candidates Hillary Clinton or Bernie Sanders



JULIAN HOCK-BEATY | The Register

Supporters of Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders raise voting sheets and signs signifying their support in the caucus.

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

Nebraska's Democratic Caucus was held on March 5, and resulted in a win for Sen. Bernie Sanders. Hours of healthy debate and genuine progress took place.

The state of Nebraska has 49 Legislative Districts. Based on a voter's district (determined by location), they can go and participate in a very social political gathering known as a caucus. In Douglas County, caucus locations were very spread out, giving voters a chance to congregate in a variety of areas. Caucuses are typically held in schools, libraries, churches and convention centers based on their size and attendance predictions.

Coordinating a caucus is rather complicated, and a lot of preparation is required. District caucus leaders, known as Chairs, are selected from the community. These are the people who organize the events, as well as the registration process beforehand. Despite the immense preparations made, some districts actually had to create room for more caucuses. This was due to the sheer amount of voters they had to accommodate. For example, Legislative District 8 (which held its caucus

at Benson High) was forced to find two additional overflow spaces, meaning a total of three individual caucuses were being held simultaneously at one location.

It's no mystery that Sanders has a tendency to appeal to the youth demographic. One would not find it very difficult to pick out supporters of Sanders at this year's caucuses, due to the fact that a large percentage of them are rather young. Respectively, Clinton supporters tend to fall in a significantly older age group. However, Nebraska's growing feminist population had a noticeable presence at each caucus held. Because of this, the spectrum of Clinton's supporters widened quite a bit.

Participants are giving mixed opinions on how each individual caucus was handled. "[Caucusing] takes up a lot of time...time commitment also prevents more people from voting...I think it encourages a mob mentality," one caucus-goer said. Some districts are being described as genuinely unprepared in terms of handling their registration processes and designated caucus spaces.

Alternatively, other participants said that having to deal

CONTINUE TO 'CAUCUS'
ON PAGE 4

Nebraska Supreme Court to hold hearing in school auditorium

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

On March 31, the auditorium will be guarded by state troopers, fitted with legal benches and podiums and the Nebraska State Supreme Court will take up office for a case hearing to be open to the public and also attended by Central staff and students.

The site where Central High currently rests on the corner of 20th and Dodge, was at one time the location of Nebraska's first territorial capital, and it was on those very grounds that the very first supreme court of the territory met. Now, fast forward more than a century and a half later and the Court is returning to 20th and Dodge to hold oral arguments for a case in Central's auditorium.

At the end of January, Nebraska State Court Administrator Corey Steel contacted both Principal Ed Bennett and social studies department head Gary Groff about the possibility of Central being a meeting venue for the Court's series of public hearings, and both replied with complete agreement.

Traditionally the hearings have been held at the university level. "For over 30 years the Supreme Court has traveled annually to each of Nebraska's law schools for the purpose of making the Court's business accessible to students on their campuses," Chief Justice Mike Heavican said. This year however, the Court is reaching out to a new demographic of students, with Central being the "test case," according to Groff, for high school students.

In working to instill the importance of civics and the value of law in young people, Heavican said, "It is critical that our students understand the workings of our democratic institutions and have confidence in our court system."

Consequently, making the inner workings of the Court easily viewable and increasing awareness of it helps also to teach students more about law and its practical implementations.

One of the law schools that has hosted hearing such as this in the past is Creighton University's, and this factor was considered when Central was chosen to be the first high school to do the same.

Along with its location and stature, Heavican also said, "Like many Nebraska high schools, Omaha Central has a wide range of civics classes. Those classes and the International Baccalaureate program are indications that Central's students have an interest in law related education outreach opportunities like Nebraska Supreme Court oral arguments."

Although on the outside Central may appear to have the look of a court house, internally it is not set up to be one. Therefore, in looking ahead to when the hearing will be held at the end of March, the school has been working with the State Highway Patrol in order to insure security and also have contingency plans for the event once it begins. Groff also added that tables, benches and positions for a Court stenographer will be added in order to provide the proper courtroom setting for the hearing.

As the social studies department head, Groff was particularly elated by the opportunity to offer his students a chance to witness their Supreme Court in action. "This will be an exceptional opportunity for the Central High community and we are extremely honored to host the first visit by the Nebraska State Supreme Court to a high school campus," he said.

"Our students are studying the American Judicial system at both the state and federal levels in their government classes and this will be an outstanding way for them to see an actual working court."

Along with providing a chance for students to see a

CONTINUE TO 'SUPREME COURT'
ON PAGE 4

WHAT'S ON THE WEB



The family restaurant located in west Omaha offers classic American dishes.

HARRINGTON'S
REVIEW

PAGEANTS EDITORIAL

The widespread practice of outfitting young girls in makeup and glitzy dresses is a waste of time and money.

omahacentralregister.com



Young designers showcase garments at Omaha Fashion Week



Left: Moriah Clark, junior, models her evening gown on the runway. This is Clark's first year displaying her work at Omaha Fashion Week.

Above: Central student designers and their models gather for a photo with teacher Mallory Mohr (far left).

Right: Senior Aniya Greene's model poses at the end of the runway for a photo.

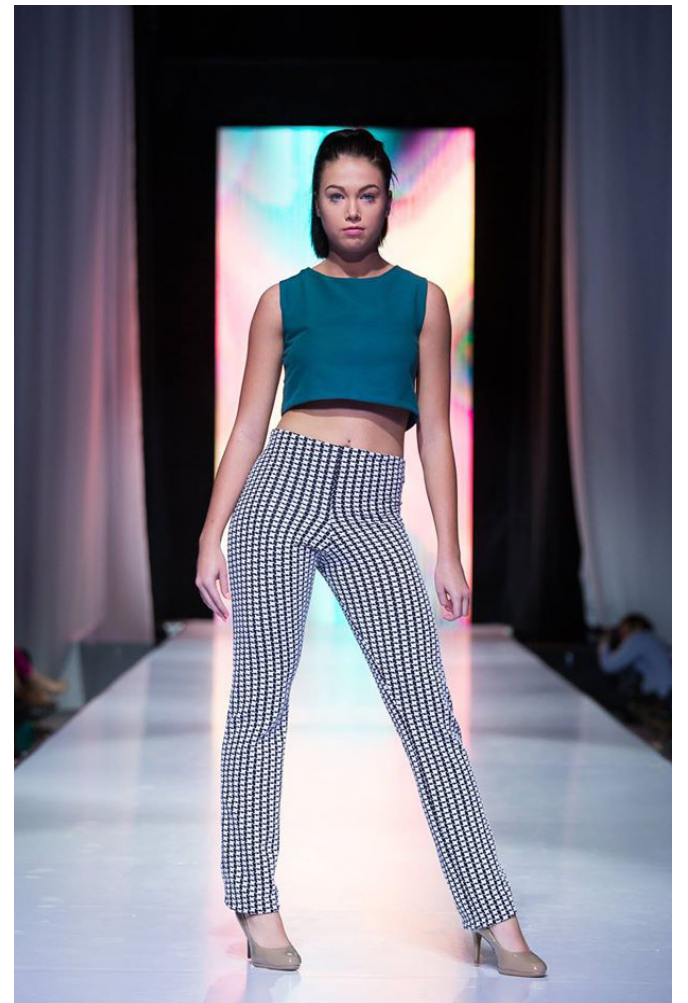


Photo Courtesy of OMAHA FASHION WEEK

Natalie Nepper
editor-in-chief

Students in advanced fashion and sewing classes showed off their work Tuesday, March 15 at the spring Omaha Fashion Week Student Night. The event, held at its new home, the Omaha Design Center at 1502 Cuming St., took months of preparation as the designers spent time both inside and outside of class perfecting their outfits for the show.

Omaha Fashion Week is the nation's fifth largest fashion event, supporting local and upcoming fashion designers and providing a great platform for student designers to showcase their designs. Develop Model Management provided the models for the event, so the students adjust their sizing accordingly.

Work began after Christmas break, with the original design sketching and concept crafting. Towards February, the students made patterns and began putting together their pieces. Junior Moriah Clark spent about two and a half months designing an evening dress for her first time out at Fashion Week.

"It turned out good. At first, I doubted it because I've never worked with lace before and it was the first dress I've ever designed," she said. Clark plans become involved in Fashion Week again next year, and eventually pursue fashion in college.

Aniya Greene, senior and student in the independent studies FCS class, has been involved in Student Night at Fashion Week twice now. She joined the sewing classes as a freshman,

quickly gaining interest in the field. Last year at fashion week, she created an ombré black and white crop top and tea length skirt.

"I like the piece I did last year way more simply because I put a lot more work into dyeing the fabric so I feel more emotionally connected to that outfit," she said. Greene's outfit this year consisted of a turquoise/teal crop top and high-waisted houndstooth pant. "I think it turned out pretty well but there's definitely things I could've done better. I probably would've made it a little more interesting."

For the students, the most rewarding part is seeing their pieces walk down the runway. "There's like a million things I love about it," Greene said. "The best part is probably knowing that a really bad sketch I drew can turn into a really good outfit that people genuinely like. It's nice to see an idea come to fruition." Clark had a similar feeling, knowing that she created something and "actually showed it to people."

Next year, Greene plans to enroll in UNO to receive her general education credits and then eventually transfer to UNL where she will study fashion merchandising and design. "I definitely want to be involved in fashion in my future."

Omaha Fashion Week Student Night consists of students from Nebraska 4-H, the Joslyn Art Museum's Kent Bellows Studio, Omaha South and Omaha Central High School. As of now, the fashion classes are still planning on becoming involved in Student Night at Fashion Week again this fall.

Technology initiative aims to provide more devices for student use

Alec Rome
web editor

The district is beginning an effort to give secondary school students better technology, as well as making sure technology does not get too old in a school. Through a plan recently discussed by district officials, students would be able to have better access to more technology and updated technology. For Central, it would mean each student would have access to a device, and there would be enough devices for every student at Central.

While it makes one think of the 1:1 technology model with Westside, the circumstances and implementation for Central and the district will be much different than their model. Because this plan was only recently discussed, the details have not yet been determined as to how Central would choose the technology to better educate students.

Dr. Ed Bennett, principal, has ideas in mind. He has pondered and discussed different ideas such as checking out devices in the morning to students and having them check the devices back in, which was a successful model in a school in Houston, Texas according to Bennett, or just having enough computer carts so classes could use computers in their classroom when needed. Bennett only recently learned of the new model, so any planning for what technology Central would receive is unknown.

One of the biggest keys to this whole process is making sure that Central uses the technology in the right way, according to Bennett. That means planning curriculum so lessons work hand

in hand with the technology purchased. "For a student, you can put a computer in front of a student and unless you explain to the student how you want them to use it and how it could enhance their learning, they probably will not know what to do with it," Bennett said. "[The technology] needs to be used for a specific purpose regarding the content of a class. What we really need to do as a school is [ask] what do we want that instruction to look like, and then try to find the technology to that would help us best meet that need."

This district plan is a "four year plan of obsolescence" where technology would be updated in four year periods, starting with secondary instructors. This year, secondary teachers have begun to receive Surface tablets, and all secondary teachers will receive Surface tablets by the end of this year.

The second year of the four year plan is for secondary students, followed by elementary instructors and then elementary students. Previously, the district would purchase technology for schools when needed, which became a process of "haphazard patching" according to Bennett.

Bennett also wants to make sure the technology plan is clear to teachers so they can more easily plan for changes. "My goal right now is to make sure that we plan [the technology increase] in a way that is respectful of the time teachers have available," Bennett said. "It may seem like it is a great opportunity and in many ways it is to get a real influx of technology, but we have to make sure we are planning for it in a way that teachers can find digestible and manageable."

He cited the fact that with many upcoming events for teachers and students, now would not be the best time to begin

changing how teachers use technology. "The last thing you want to do is go to [teachers] and say, 'Let's start this master technology plan.' There will be a time for [the plan] but now is probably not that best time."

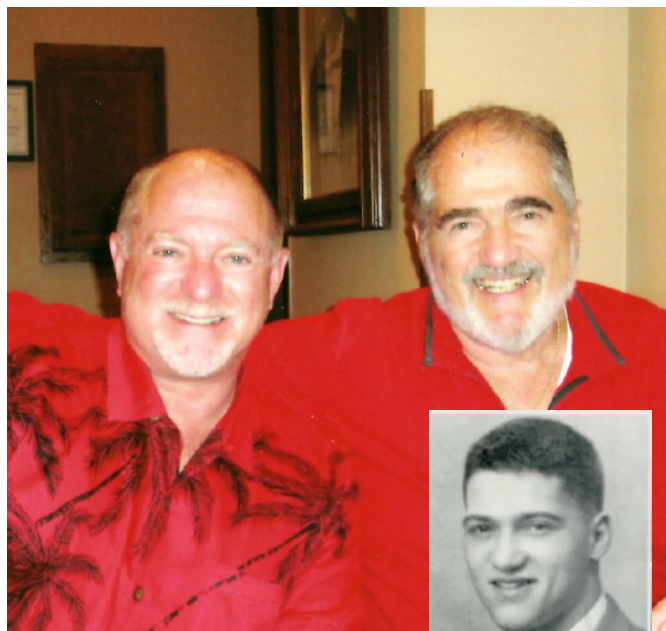
To purchase new technology for students in the district and for Central, obviously money is needed. According to Bennett, the district plans to figure out how much all of the technology need for Central. Then, they would attempt to resell the obsolete technology in order to save money. District money is given to schools in order to buy technology, but this plan would not require funds to be spent from those money pools, which would in theory save more money for schools. The process would be district managed, making the process easier, Bennett said.

Bennett believes that technology is vital in today's educational process, and critical to the way students process and understand information. "Most students couldn't imagine their without their smartphone [or device]," Bennett said. "[Technology] is already in the hands of students anyway, so it has to be a part of education. The trick is finding ways to make technology meaningful to students, allowing them to get the information they need as quickly and efficiently as possible, but also [doing it] in a way that would be similar to something students would see in a college setting or a career setting."

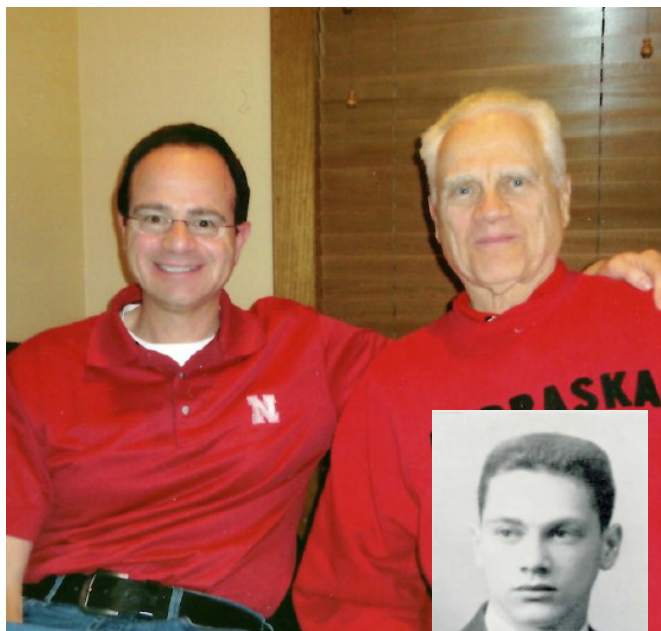
He also believes that Central should adapt and look to the future of technology in order to keep students competitive in the job market. "Technology or no technology, students still need to be able to think critically," Bennett said. "We need to find ways to incorporate technology in ways that help students grow and mature and prepare them for success later on."

RUNNING NEVER GETS OLD

Two octogenarian brothers continue their love of track for decades



LEN ROSEN



ALAN ROSEN

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

Central alumni Leonard (Len) Rosen and Alan Rosen are renowned track and field competitors, but there is one thing that sets them apart from the rest: the brothers are both over the age of 80.

Len graduated from Central in 1952 and Alan in 1954. Both also attended Dundee Grade School and University of Nebraska, Lincoln. In college, Len lettered in track and field while Alan lettered in wrestling and track and field.

At Central, both Len and Alan were awarded the Pop Schmidt Trophy for most outstanding senior track man. The only other pair of brothers who earned the Pop Schmidt Trophy were Roger ('59) and his famous football-playing counterpart Gale Sayers ('61). Additionally, in 2012, Len was inaugurated into Central's Hall of Fame.

"Len has always been an inspiration to me," said Alan. "We have always been very close and have enjoyed working out together, when possible, and competing together in a few meets."

Presently, both Alan and Len participate in senior track and field. Len considers his greatest obstacle as an athlete to be his age. "The old gray mare ain't what it used to be," he said.

Despite his old age, Len won the 2014 nationals in both discus and shot put. "[My greatest accomplishment would be]

finding my name ranked number one in the world for just an instant in time," said Len. "There is something very special about being best in the world at something one finds meaningful, even if only for an instant in time."

Both Alan and Len have achieved All American status every year they participate in senior track and field. When Alan competed in 75-79 age group, he took first place in 20 out of 21 meets and placed second in the other one.

"I have been in some track and field meets with athletes who were in their 80's, 90's and even 100's," said Alan, "It would be nice to be able to continue as long as possible."

After competing in a sport for so long, it can be difficult to maintain endurance and dedication. Both athletes want to keep competing for as long as the can. The brothers love their sport and the thrill of competition. "[Track and field] is truly a part of the forces that have molded my life," said Len, "competition is key in our lives and one can learn much from sports played with honor."

Currently, Len is retired in Salem, New Hampshire and Alan is semi-retired and lives in Sherman Oaks, California. The brothers return to Nebraska at least once a year and visit both Lincoln and Omaha.

As very successful athletes, Alan and Len Rosen encourage others to follow their dreams. "Each individual should know what really 'lights their lights' and [they should] commit oneself to mastery in those activities," said Len.

Student-led broadcast news service begins

Hayley Raney
staff writer

Sophomore Alec Rome is bringing Central's important entertainment to the community in a news broadcast called Eagle Update.

Rome is in his first year of broadcasting at the career center and decided to make something for Central that is a little more interesting and informative than just the morning announcements.

Rome got the idea from a video of a CNN student doing a news broadcast and he talked to his broadcasting teacher about doing something like that for Central.

Rome began Eagle Update this school year. Rome and his broadcasting crew did a Pilot episode in October. "That episode is where we kind of got the format for the show down, it took about a month just to edit that episode," Rome said.

Eagle Update is posted on YouTube 2nd on the OPS Web TV Channel every other week usually on Tuesdays. It contains stories "about people around Central and events that really do matter," Rome said. Eagle Update tries to go more in depth with their events and interviews.

The stories come from many sides of Central, and contains topics such as sports, news worthy stories, teachers and students in Central, JROTC and library authors. Eagle Update does plan to branch out to other types of stories for the broadcast.

Rome plans to continue Eagle Update throughout his junior and senior years of high school as well. Rome also wants the show to be taken over when he leaves Central by students who are interested in broadcasting.

Rome mostly does all the work in the production of Eagle Update. Rome goes out and gets all the interviews, shoots and edits all the footage and writes all the scripts. "It's mostly a one man job right now," Rome said.

Rome also works his broadcasting teachers that help with polishing the videos and give Rome tips on what could look better for his broadcast.

Rome sends emails, puts letters in teachers' mailboxes, has an Eagle Update Twitter account and goes out in Central's Facebook page to work with other staff members and gain promotion.

Rome plans to pursue a career field in broadcasting. "It's really become something that I'm passionate about now," Rome said. Rome agrees that it will definitely look good on college resumes and even other career fields.

"I think it benefits Central in the fact that people get to know about things and get to see certain parts of Central, that if they weren't involved in... we kind of get an opportunity to show people different experiences," Rome said.

Rome says that his future plans for Eagle Update is to, "continue doing it, boost viewership as much as possible and continue the social media presence." Rome also plans to keep it "as fresh as possible as much as possible." To keep the people updated and to make sure Eagle Update doesn't get boring.

Rome's favorite part of Eagle Update is getting to meet more people. The hardest part about Eagle Update is "getting through all the things you need to get through," Rome said.

Most importantly Rome wants the staff and students to "be excited and enjoy" Eagle Update.

Sherwood Foundation grant to add 40 more social workers

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

Central High School is provided with one social worker to cover all 2,400 students. Recently, the Sherwood Foundation, which is dedicated to producing equitable power, access, opportunities, treatment, impacts and outcomes for all, gave a grant to the Omaha Public Schools district to provide 40 additionally social workers. The new social workers will be distributed to middle and elementary schools throughout the district in order to ensure students receive proper guidance before entering high school.

The district is pondering the \$7.4 million grant from Susie Buffett's Sherwood foundation that would increase the amount of social workers. The grant would cover salaries of 40 social workers, a supervisor and an external evaluator. About eight social workers would be hired each year for five years, and OPS would start contributing a portion of salaries in the fourth year.

Other school districts, such as Millard, Bellevue, Papillion-La Vista, Westside and Lincoln have social workers on staff whose job is to reconnect and create a healthy bridge between school and home life for students. Specifically, Millard which has an excess of 23,000 students employs 11 social workers spread out across the district's elementary, middle and high

schools. Additionally, Lincoln with an enrollment of nearly 40,000 students, has 29 social workers who visit each school in the district at least a half-day every week.

If OPS accepts the grant, social workers would be added mainly to elementary and middle schools who have been identified as having students that are struggling with discipline and academic issues.

Currently Dawnna Hill, works as the lone social worker at Central. As the only social worker currently here, she has a wide range of responsibilities. "There are a lot of roles and responsibilities that I just do here for the building and then roles I do specific to the students that I serve," Hill said.

"For the building I participate with the administration and the counseling and some of the initiatives that we have going in the building [such as] attendance team efforts, multi-team discipline, reteaching of social skill behavior," she said.

Along with working with students on issues such as anger management, skill building, organization and academic goals she may also work with them on more clinical aspects of their life. "I am a licensed mental health practitioner in the state of Nebraska. So that means I can do cognitive behavioral work with people that might be struggling with depression or anxiety," Hill said.

Though the additional social workers will be dispersed to

intermediate schools, this will indirectly benefit her. "The proposal which comes in on Monday to the board which will have to accept the funds from Sherwood would only add social workers to elementary and middle school levels. That would affect my workload because earlier intervention with families and students often leads to better long term results," Hill said.

Not only would this proposal impact her personally, but also the district as a whole. Hill noted that while some staff at other buildings have been absorbing the role of what social workers can do by social workers coming in it will allow teachers, counselors, or administrators to focus on initiatives that they are specifically trained to complete.

Each high school has one social worker and though membership of high schools varies, it ranges from 1200 to upwards of 2400 for Central and Omaha South. Hill believes that the number of social workers, specifically at the high school level should undoubtedly be increased. "According to our licensing standards, I believe there should be one social worker per 500 students. So then we would atleast have four here just to insure the coverage and not miss the kids that we do miss or to be able to follow through to that intensive level that is really needed sometimes," Hill said, "But having one is better than not having any at all and we are really grateful we do have the position here in place and we will continue to serve the students".

Thousands of Nebraskans show for caucus, Sanders earns victory

CONTINUED FROM 'CAUCUS'
ON PAGE 1

with overflow is a good problem to have, and the fact that so many people came out to engage themselves in debate is actually beneficial. "We're here, we're meeting people we've never met, talking about things that matter...I'm out among my fellow voters and citizens, joking, laughing and thinking about the possibilities for this democracy...it's amazing" another caucus-goer said.

All in all, Nebraska's 2016 Democratic Caucus was successful in giving citizens a place to voice their opinions. Some are criticizing the way caucus Chairs handled the events, and offer suggestions. According to one Chair, Legislative District 8 had to turn away a long line of eager voters that "wrapped around the building" due to registration time restrictions. Participants in this district's caucuses said that an improved registration system should be a priority for future events.

Nebraska's Democratic Party hasn't utilized the caucus system until fairly recently. 2008 marks the first official Democratic Caucus held in Nebraska, where President Barack Obama came out on top, and now Senator Bernie Sanders.



Nebraska's Democratic Caucus was held on Saturday, March 5. In Douglas County, caucuses were held at numerous locations.

JULIAN HOCK-BEATY | The Register

State Supreme Court to give inside look at oral arguments in case

CONTINUED FROM 'SUPREME COURT'
ON PAGE 1

court in action, the hearing is also a time for students to be exposed to some of the possibilities of careers in law. Groff said, "The impression I got was that they [the court] wanted to introduce the legal profession to kids before they go to college," as in the past hearings have been attended by students who had already chosen to pursue law.

The case over which the Court will be hearing arguments for is a civil case out of Lincoln County titled In re Adoption of Madysen. The girl, as a minor, has her last name withheld. The case will focus on the definition of the term "abandonment," and also how much cause does a parent who has been absent from a child's life have to forbid adoption by a step parent.

In the week leading up to the hearing, more information on the case will be distributed amongst Central faculty and will be made available to students. Along with this additional info, the legal briefings filed by both parties involved will also be emailed out by the Court's Public Information Officer.

Along with the option to attend in person, the Court session will also be televised by NET, which will be live-streaming the hearing beginning at 1:15 p.m.

The hearing will begin with a Court address to the student's present at 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 31, and will be open to the public. Students from the AP Government classes will also be in attendance.

For Central, this honor of hosting the state Supreme Court is made only more valuable by the fact that it was the Court who reached out first. Rather than applying to be the venue of choice or making the initial move, the school was contacted first.

The Nebraska Supreme Court coming to Central to hold an official session is one of a lengthy host of honored and distinguished visit's it has received, of which have included Smithsonian scholars, Nobel Prize winners and civil rights forerunners such as Minnijean Brown of the Little Rock Nine.

As far as academics go, Central's AP Government and IB classes have spent considerable amounts of class time to better understanding the court systems at all levels, and the Court's coming will feature some personalized experience with stu-

dent's having the opportunity to ask questions of the justices along with their simply being able to witness an official Court session.

The visit has required input from staff members of all levels and departments, with Scott Mead and the drama department working to transform the auditorium into a court room, the security guards providing an initial ring of defense and the social studies department making up a large number of those who will be in attendance.

As the social studies department head, Groff is rather elated to be on the receiving end of not only a state Supreme Court visit but also being able to in essence help host an official court of law in session, as he said, "This really is an amazing opportunity," and that for it to happen at Central only continues an impressive heritage.

Groff finalized his thoughts on the upcoming event when he said, "What an honor for Central High School. I think is really is a reflection of the history and tradition that make up this school."



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 5 of The Register. We strive to cover all areas of the school. 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 interesting 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

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

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

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Academic Decathlon team places second in state for third year in a row

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

Academic Decathlon competed at the state level on Feb. 20 and did exceedingly well. Victoria Deniston-Reed's team took home second place with several individual awards. Multiple students received high honors, including juniors Miles Kay, Lucy Cordes and senior Samantha Vogel.

Kay medaled first place in literature, second place in math and interview, first place in literature, essay and speech, and third place in super quiz. Overall, Kay was the top scorer from Central. To help him study for this competition, Kay studied for about ten hours a week from December on. Decathlon guides, taking quizzes and practicing both speech and interview skills helped him study.

As for Cordes, she received her third place in literature and economics and second place in essay due to reading a lot of material on top of other practiced skills. "We had been learning the material all year, but preparation got super intense in the two months before the competition once the team had been set," Cordes said. The students filled out reading guides for some of the reading, practiced speech and interview, and met after school to read and study together in order to prepare as a group.

Concerning the group as a whole, Cordes was not concerned when the team was awarded second place. "Every member put incredible effort into their preparation, so I knew that we had a chance to be really successful," Cordes said.

Kay did not expect his personal results, but said he was "pleasantly surprised." However, he knew that his preparations beforehand were what helped him yield these results. "I did feel like I prepared much more extensively this year, and it really paid off. It's a good feeling," Kay said. The competition spanned over two days, with an essay written a few weeks in advance.

As could image, the state competition was taxing on the students. Kay described it as "an exhausting and exhilarating experience," and Cordes added that it was "intimidating but a lot of fun." Competitors also experienced various nerves before and during the competition. "It's nerve-wracking but also great to see all over hard work coming to fruition," Kay said.

Vogel received second place in interview, and credits this to her being able to "talk her way through things." Both Reed and Charles Kay, who helps prepare the team, helped Vogel exceedingly with the speaking portion of the competition. Reed particularly helped Vogel to stay focused. "She constantly ensures the team is on task and arranges study sessions after school and on weekends with her legendary toffee and "fudgy things" as incentive. I basically live in 221 during the season," Vogel said. Kay and Cordes add that Reed is



CLAIRE LAVENDER | The O-Book

Junior Miles Kay shakes the hand of an official as he receives his medal. Kay has been on AcaDeca since his freshman year.

both a great motivator and the one behind organizing practice materials for the team to complete after school and on the weekends.

All three of these students see multiple benefits by being a part of this team. For Kay, it has given him an appreciation for a variety of subjects and has also improved his speech and interview skills. Cordes also accounts AcaDeca for helping her gain confidence as she continues to do it more and more. Both Kay and Cordes look forward to competing again next year. Kay and Cordes plan to begin studying even earlier than he began next year.

As a senior, Vogel will not be able to compete next year. Though it was stressful, she admits the class was worth it. "This year has been filled with an internship, my job, and college prep so it was very difficult to have enough study time but making a thorough schedule definitely helped," Vogel

said. Vogel also notes that AcaDeca teaches students "far more lessons than you'd think." "AcaDeca and VDR will always have a place in my heart and the lessons I have learned from both play an ever-present role in my life. I highly recommend it to anyone interested. It may seem daunting, but it is a wonderful experience," Vogel said.

Cordes and Kay encourage students interested in joining the class. The topic for next year is World War II. If for Reed's "fudgy things" or for the desire to acquire useful interview skills and much more, AcaDeca could fulfill these expectations as they did for Kay, Cordes and Vogel. It is more than just a class, and even more than just a team.

"Those skills are going to be used for the rest of your life so it's great to have this opportunity to work on them," Vogel said. "AcaDeca is a great competition and prepares you for college and life thereafter."

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Students to be offered deli line option beginning in April

Carlson Koch
staff writer

Beginning on April 4, Central will be introducing a deli line full of sandwiches to add another definition to school lunch. A shortage of students purchasing school lunch are leading to new ideas to ensure students are eating every day.

"The purpose of this is to bring more kids to eat school lunch," said head of the cafeteria Jamie Kirschbaum "right now we only serve about half of the students." Most other schools serve around 75 percent of their students while Central serves 50.

Instead of macho nachos, chicken or any other selections for lunch, the deli line will consist of a cold sandwich. There will be four choices of meat including turkey deli, smoked turkey, bologna and salami. Along with this there will be two cheeses, most likely American and mozzarella while an array of toppings. "Just like Subway," Kirschbaum said.

Serving so few people results in a lessening flow of money through the district. Lunches provide money for the district to introduce new technology or other sorts of advancements. One of the programs is the NSLP, (National School Lunch Program) where the government runs a nonprofit to provide selected students to eat for a low-cost or for free on school days.

Kirschbaum hopes for students to take advantage of the new line because of the government offering the NSLP, and it becoming useful. "I encourage students to eat school lunch," she says.

Even with serving only half of the students, the lunch-lines are sometimes very long. The cafeteria workers are hoping that the deli line will flow smoothly for all students.

Other than a select few, many students bring their own lunches because they have a full schedule which results with them having no time to go and get lunch.

Standing in line for lunch can take up a good part of the period, normally 10 or so minutes, leaving students with only 30 minutes to finish their food. Especially if they have to stand in the line by themselves, no one would want to miss out on chatting with their friends at a table. Factors such as these are what cause the shortage of students to eat school lunch.

"I think kids are more conscience about what they now eat," said Kirschbaum. "Our goal is to serve every student in the school even if we can't." Despite this state-



Students wait in line for their lunch. On April 4, the north cafeteria line will be a deli line, adding another choice to lunch options.

ANN MILROY | The Register

ment, for some students it is impossible for them to go down to lunch when they have a full schedule.

At her interview for the opening at Central, Kirschbaum was with Principal Ed Bennett and her director. During this time, the idea of a new form of lunch was brought up. Since then, they knew that the deli needed to be introduced. Other Omaha Public Schools that offer this are Bryan High School and Buffett Middle School.

Assistant principal Dionne Kirksey approves of the deli line. "It will be good to give kids another option of food because some kids don't like hot lunch. I think that a lot of teachers will eat it."

Kirschbaum agrees. "I think the line will just take off and that a lot kids will start using it rather than the hot-lunch," she said. "It will eventually bring more in and even out."

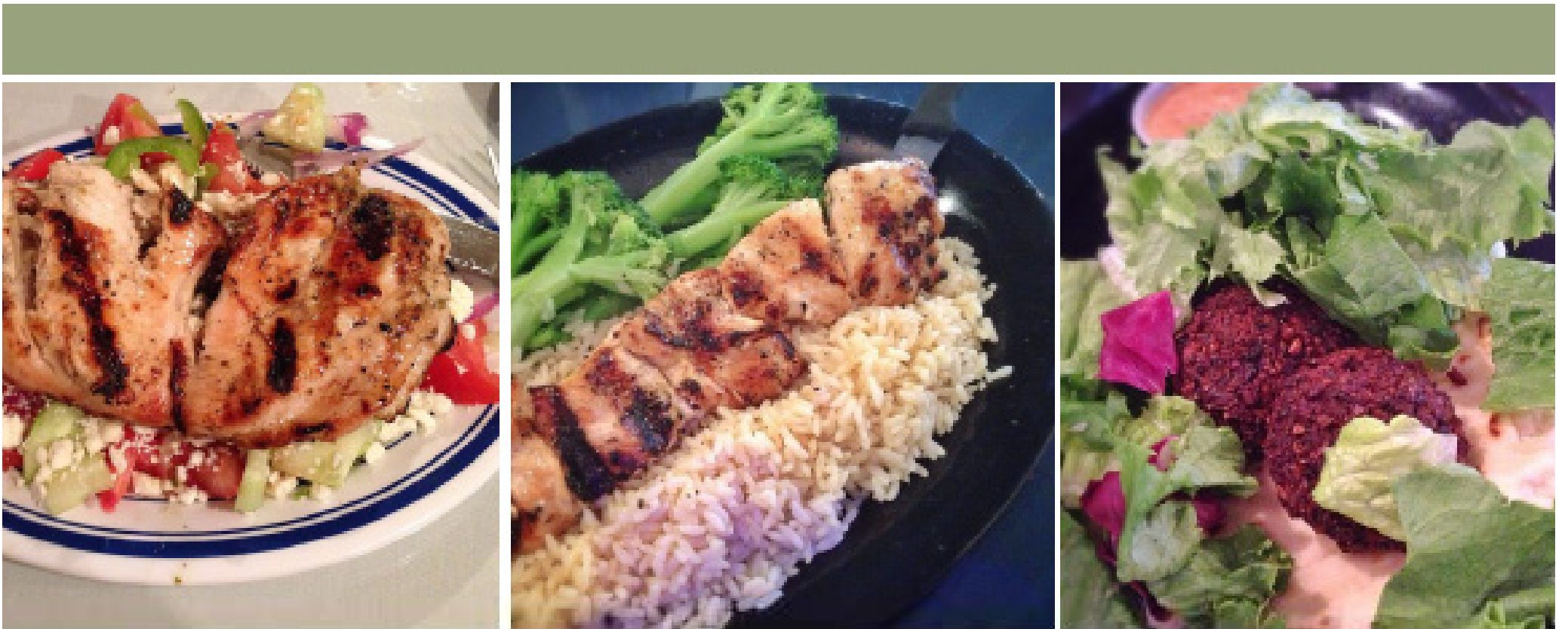
The deli line will replace the third line in the cafeteria on the

far right, while the other two will still be hot-lunch. The courtyard will remain serving two lines of hot-lunch along with the salads and parfaits normally there. The new line will bring in new students and hopefully more students to eat healthier, because many teenagers are concerned about what they eat.

"I think it's a really cool idea, because other schools have stuff like that," senior Alyssa Straley said. "More students might start to eat school lunches."

Students who had the option of a deli line in middle school seem to welcome the addition to the menu, but are still hesitant about the quality.

"Deli line is a great option for lunch if the meat and vegetables are good. At Buffett, deli line was only good on pepperoni day," senior Rylee Bottorff said.



GREEK ISLANDS

3821 CENTER ST.

letters to the editor

Several articles in our last issue caused controversy and debate. Students talked about topics including gym waivers, transgender policies in OPS and the IB program. These are the responses we received.

An article written in our last school newspaper, "Difficult relationship between IB, AP students must be addressed" is something that stood out to me. I am an International Baccalaureate Programme (IB) student with a history of Advanced Placement (AP) classes, and feel as though there are some claims made in the article that I would like to address, as not only an IB student but as a Central student.

First, I'd like to discuss the claims about IB's impact on Central values made in the article "Difficult relationship between IB, AP students must be addressed". It states that, "the International Baccalaureate program... jeopardizes the atmosphere in the school". I definitely do not feel this way, and I am sure many other students and faculty members in the building would agree with me.

The atmosphere in the classes I am enrolled in is friendly and I enjoy going to school; I do not feel like that is jeopardizing the overall atmosphere for other students within Central. Yet, another claim in the article is that the IB program serves as an obstacle for having "different racial, socioeconomic, religious and ideological backgrounds."

Not only is this a very serious allegation to make, but, along with the AP program, IB attracts students from a variety of each of these categories, and does not discriminate or segregate anyone from these backgrounds. Moreover, claiming that

“ I do believe both the IB and AP students could make efforts to be more respectful and considerate of each other... ”

a program in the school is "an obstacle" for diversity is not a problem between the AP and IB students; it is a problem in the entire school and OPS program.

Students do not have any control over this whatsoever, so I urge that if you truly feel this way to open up a different discussion about giving every student in OPS, and all schools in the world, equal opportunities. There are schools in Nebraska and all around the country where programs such as AP and IB do not exist. We are all very fortunate students to be given this chance to earn college credits and challenge ourselves within Central High School.

The article goes on to accuse participants of the IB Program as having the, "mentality that IB is an elite group of students... meant only for the best". I do not believe that IB is an elite group and I do not believe it is a program meant only for the best. I cannot speak for all IB students, but I do not personally know anyone in the program who believes those ideals, faculty included. However, I do believe both the IB and AP students could make efforts to be more respectful and considerate of each other so we can eliminate this thought.

Complaining about a problem is not going to fix it, and as such, I believe we should all turn our efforts into making the school a more welcoming place, and to do that we must think of solutions for the "IB and AP" feud. Like stated in the article, we

must stop comparing the programs because, in truth, they are completely different programs. This also means we must stop comparing the advantages and disadvantages each program has.

The article claims that IB students are afforded one day a month to "catch up on homework and study", forgetting to mention that the experimental days, designated for IB requirements such as the Extended Essay, were canceled. Though there were other factors involved, part of the reason was because the faculty recognized the unfairness.

While the IB seniors received the experimental work days on two occasions, the AP students have different privileges within their program as well. AP students have flexibility in their schedules, with opportunities like late starts and early outs all year long.

We all receive privileges within Central, they are just different in merit and worth for each student personally, and therefore we cannot truly compare who has it better or worse.

The comparison between IB and AP is truly opinion, and, like Kelsey Thomas states, no student has truly been through both programs. The Eagles are extremely fortunate students and I believe that we have forgotten this when we compare our two programs.

The article is concluded with the thought that, "the moral fabric of the school is being threatened". The International Baccalaureate Programme and Advanced Placement Program themselves, inside and outside of Central, are all about academia, leadership, and giving back to the community; just as the Eagle ABC's are. Both programs contain ideals that drive students to be better people, in and out of school.

These morals go beyond our behaviors, and students in each program should strive for these efforts, on all platforms. I urge students in every program in the school to revert back to these ideals and remember we are all part of the larger community that makes up Central High School.

The only "war" that should exist between AP and IB students should be in a sophomore's mind when deciding which program best fits their needs and goals better.

Personally, I do not understand the animosity that students in Central have towards different programs. We are all more than capable of treating each other with respect and kindness, and anything less is unacceptable for Central.

As IB senior Naomi Teetzel says, "We should all just be happy that we have a chance to get such a quality education at such a quality school". I couldn't agree more. Why complain over the tremendous fortune that we have?

- Stephanie Nepper, IB senior

in response to Editor-in-Chief Kelsey Thomas' Issue 5 editorial titled "Difficult relationship between IB, AP students must be addressed"

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Middle Years Programme (MYP) students at Omaha Central High School are encouraged to take Physical Education courses. Physical and Health Education is one of the eight subject groups that comprises the MYP curriculum. MYP students do not receive PE waivers for being in the MYP. This information was inaccurately stated in the February 11, 2016 issue of The Register.

Miles Kay was a Pre-IB student and not an MYP student and therefore didn't earn PE waivers for being in MYP.

- Paul Nielson, IB MYP Coordinator

in response to Editor-in-Chief Kelsey Thomas' Issue 5 article titled "Path to P.E. waivers unclear to students"

A note from the editors:

Issue 5 brought about the most controversy The Register has ever seen. While it can be difficult for us and our staff members to deal with controversy surrounding our articles, we welcome the high level of student involvement in our newspaper. Any member of the Central community, whether student, staff member, or parent, is encouraged to send in letters to the editor regarding articles in The Register. We write these articles to bring about discussion among students; without commentary, The Register would not be the publication it is today. Letters or comments can be emailed to us at central.register@ops.org, or brought to room 029.

Though I certainly appreciate the effort to bring awareness to transgender issues, I found the article on transgender people participating in sports in the Feb. 11 issue problematic for multiple reasons.

First of all, it misgenders transgender people multiple times. A transgender female is never to be referred to as male because to do so is to imply that her gender is determined by sex assigned at birth. Transgender women are women. It is completely unacceptable to refer to them as male. The comment from Pete Ricketts repeats this mistake without correction. When including transphobic views, the journalist should use a direct quote and label it as transphobic. If an individual misgendered a cisgender (not transgender) person, a journalist would consider it necessary to correct that. Transgender individuals deserve that same respect.

Similarly invalidating are the phrases "born as male" and "biological gender." In both of these phrases, the author was attempting to reference sex, not gender. Sex and gender are not synonymous. You would say "assigned male at birth" and "sex assigned at birth" respectively. Using these phrases respects the reality of transgender individuals whose sex assigned at birth does not match their gender identity. Many transgender people consider the implication that they were once another gender very offensive. Correct and respectful language is important

because misgendering and perpetuating transphobia endangers lives. Transgender women in particular are murdered for their gender identity. Forty-one percent of transgender or gender non-conforming individuals attempt suicide in large part due to rampant transphobia. This does not even account for the rampant discrimination. Failure to ensure that language is respectful is considered an act of violence.

I was additionally concerned by implications of the editor's note in the Feb. 11 issue. According to the editors, "We hope to spark some debate with this issue's stories." I have no way of knowing if that note referred in any way to this particular article, but I certainly hope this article was not intended to start a debate about transgender people without actually including input from any transgender people. It is alarmingly common for transgender narratives to be appropriated by the media for sensationalism. All good journalism includes the opinions of all groups involved and I can guarantee you that there are plenty of transgender people in Nebraska who have opinions on this policy. As the people directly affected by the policy, it would have behooved The Register to actually talk to them.

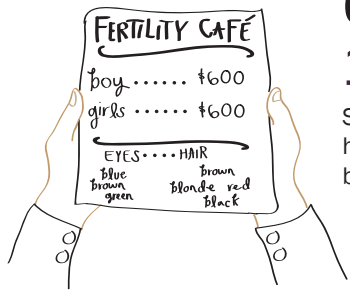
I will say that having read The Register's previous attempt at talking about transgender people, this is a significant improvement. However, it is not exactly difficult to achieve being more respectful than that drivel. I would encourage The Register to

aspire to complete respect of the people they are writing about. I fail to see any issue with demanding respectful language and inclusion of transgender voices in transgender narratives. All I am really asking for is respect for transgender lives and some journalistic integrity. Giving this respect and inclusion might require more effort and consulting some resources but those resources do exist. They aren't hard to find. It is entirely reasonable to expect a student publication to have respect and integrity in their reporting.

I am in complete support of discussing the issues transgender people face. However, this article was not the way to do that. Know that transgender people do exist and they do read things like this. Know that articles like these are detrimental to their safety and well-being. Please do cover transgender issues. But don't appropriate those stories to make your newspaper more controversial and don't write about them in a way that is detrimental to the transgender community.

- Erin Burbach, junior

in response to Alec Rome's Issue 5 article titled, "Transgender student participation in sports evaluated on a case-by-case basis"



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Liberals and conservatives must move away from extremism.



perspective & commentary

the REGISTER • March 24, 2016 • Volume 131, Issue 5

Getting into Harvard proves a strange, awesome, surreal experience

An unsaved number with a 617 area code called me and I was too scared to answer.

I knew it was Harvard.

I frantically memorized the number and searched it online. To my relief, the number was only three digits away from the financial aid office's extension; obviously it was another line calling to inform me that I was missing some form. So, when they called again twenty minutes later, I coolly picked up the phone.

But the man on the phone seemed to speak ominously. My breezy composure slid away and I started to shake. As he relayed that he was an admissions officer for the Midwest region, my mind raced to the conclusion that he was calling to break the news that something with my application was disastrously wrong, and I was unable to even be considered for Harvard's class of 2020.

Instead, he told me that three weeks prior to official decisions being released, he was reaching out to tell me that I had a spot in the Harvard class of 2020.

I didn't scream or cry, but I did ask if it was a prank call and embarrassingly hyperventilate over the phone. My surroundings felt like a mix between an episode of *The Twilight Zone* and Edward Munch's "The Scream."

My freshman year, a senior got into Stanford and I remember thinking that she was a different species. Of course I never spoke to her, but I worshipped the ground she walked on. There was a secret to this game of getting into elite colleges, and she knew it.

As a senior now, I can tell you that I am not a different species. And please, don't worship the ground I walk on. And, while there may not be an ultimate secret to getting into Harvard, it is a game.

I'm writing this mostly for those freshman like me. The freshman who dream about going to an Ivy League school and savor every piece of advice they can find about how to get there.

Whether it's keeping up your GPA or maintaining your extracurricular involvements, this game of getting in to elite schools takes a lot of sacrifice. I reoriented myself from a mindset of enjoying high school and making friends to one that solely focused on getting into the school of my dreams. I carefully stepped through high school crafting the perfect GPA, resume and personal story that I knew admissions offices would adore.

It worked. But it's tough. I will never regret focusing on getting into Harvard, but I do sometimes have phantom pains for the experiences I missed in high school. Binge watching a series on Netflix and spontaneously going out with friends on a school night are two things I never had the chance to do.

But, dear freshman, know that it is totally possible to have a normal social life and a rigorous high school career. I have made some incredible friends and made some memories I can't talk about in this article. High school was and continues to be a perfectly exhausting experience that I wouldn't change if I could.

As a freshman, I couldn't wait to know where I would be going to college. I imagined that, second semester, not only would I be completely resigned from my classes, I would also be shouting from the rooftops my new school of choice.

This isn't the case. I am still woefully over concerned with my grades, and I am not announcing to strangers on the street that I'm going to Harvard. Sometimes I'll tell people who I've just met that I'm unsure where I'll be next year. Sometimes it's just too weird.

I've daydreamed about my college acceptance for the past four years. As I watched seniors before me head off to Yale and Stanford and other incredible schools, I imagined the fantastical situation for myself and I spent a lot of time working towards it. High school is weird when your primary focus is getting to Harvard, but it really is worth it.

I wish I would have had the courage to talk to the Stanford-bound senior from my freshman year. It probably would have saved me a lot of heartache. So, freshmen, don't be afraid to reach out. Soon enough, you can call me at a 617 area code.



KELSEY THOMAS
BE THERE IN TEN

MONEY BEFORE MORALS

The recent court decision forcing Kesha to abide by a studio contract with a man that sexually assaulted her shows the corrupt morals of the entertainment industry



JULIAN HOCK-BEATY & CLAIRE LAVENDER | The Register & The O-Book

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

In October of 2014, popular singer-songwriter Kesha filed a lawsuit against her music producer Dr. Luke for alleged sexual assault and battery, sexual harassment, gender violence, emotional abuse, and violation of business practices. After a year, only then did Kesha request a preliminary injunction to release her from her contract with Dr. Luke.

On Feb. 19, a New York judge ruled against Kesha and stated that she had to complete her six-album contract. A popular image that was released just after the ruling went public was that of Kesha sitting in the courtroom sobbing after hearing the final verdict.

That day, there was an overwhelming response from people all over the world via the Internet. Several of Kesha's fellow female vocalists tweeted their support, the hashtag #freekesha was trending worldwide and countless individuals started petitions to liberate Kesha from her contract.

Kesha claims that in 2006 she was raped by her producer Luke Gottwald, or as he is more commonly known, Dr. Luke. Dr. Luke denies Kesha's accusations, which leaves the public confused, not that it's any of their business though. Now, the question many people have been asking is "Was Kesha actually raped?"

No one knows for certain whether or not Kesha was actually raped, but the fact that people are discrediting and invalidating a victim's word is absolutely disgusting. The judge that ruled against Kesha is obviously putting a major corporation over the safety of a human being. Sony, the company that Kesha has her contract with, has several other recording artists that will continue to bring them money. One singular artist, no matter how great she may be, should not

have her wellbeing jeopardized for the sake of money and reputation.

As many people are aware, Kesha went to rehab in 2014 for two months due to an eating disorder. According to Kesha, Dr. Luke compared her to a refrigerator and consistently physically, emotionally and psychologically abused her.

Rape culture, especially in American society, has become a social norm. Some people refuse to take sexual harassment seriously which leads to the conventionalization of rape and sexual abuse.

The major issue is that there are teenagers in jail for the use of marijuana, which has yet to fatally hurt anyone, but there are rapists present in our schools, churches and supermarkets. This is the problem with contemporary society. We have created such a suppressive and oppressive culture that those who have been abused don't even feel secure enough to speak up. And, as a result, we somehow end up convincing these victims that it was their fault.

Kesha is stuck in a six-album contract in a toxic environment with a powerful and destructive company. This situation is a perfect example of how common rape culture has become in today's society.

Kesha has struggled for several years with body image and with simply being herself in a very tainted and image-influenced industry. Now, the worth of a majorly successful corporation is being placed above her own. On top of that, her credibility is being questioned by an enormous amount of people.

What remains to be answered is if a well-known music producer can get away with raping an A-list celebrity and earn more money that he was previously making, what's stopping everybody else from doing the same?

Benefits of career center rely on teacher, student motivation



ANN MILROY | The Register

Left: A Career Center student works on repairing a lawn mower at the Career Center. Right: Another student uses computer software to supplement his learning.

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

OPS students have the unique chance to take occupation-focused classes at the TAC building's Career Center. These courses primarily orient themselves around specific career paths, and offer exclusive resources to their participants.

For example, the Career Center has a fully functional auto collision repair center, in which students have access to industrial-grade equipment.

Each individual Career Center class provides diverse learning experiences with hands-on curriculum. The wide variety of courses available is starting to pique the interest of a growing student body, right here at Central.

All of these opportunities are great, but how many students actually take advantage of them?

The Career Center hand-picks teachers that are dedicated and knowledgeable in very specific fields of education.

It is a priority that the educators are passionate about what they are teaching.

However, their energy towards the subject or career field isn't always reciprocated by the students taking the courses. This is detrimental to those taking the class who hope to build a career in the field.

Because the Career Center helps to make unique equipment and resources available, students are starting to take courses not because of their genuine interest in the subject, but rather as an alternative to sitting in a regular classroom at their home school.

A typical Career Center class takes up one block period, which translates into two traditional class periods.

Many are seeing this as a way to get out of school for extended periods of time, and don't actually put forth the effort to succeed in the specialized courses they're enrolled in.

On the flip side, those who take Career Center classes with productive intentions often find rewarding opportunities. SkillsUSA, a nationally-known partnership program, implements career paths and competitive elements into the Career Center's curriculum.

By signing up with this organization, an individual is given

even more chances to earn scholarships and notable achievements towards a college education.

This partnership is becoming commonplace in extracurricular programs.

SkillsUSA holds national competitions pertaining to a huge list of available classes and workshops.

Those few who wish to go the extra mile take part in these rigorous challenges annually.

The Career Center actually has a knack for producing national contenders.

The education that eventually works its way into these competitions is what makes all the difference, according to teachers at the facility. Because of the immense effort put in by

“ *This creates a healthy divide between those who are truly hungry for advancement, and those who simply go with the flow of required electives and graduation credits.* ”

OPS students, SkillsUSA has awarded the Career Center several prestigious trophies in various competitions.

This creates a healthy divide between those who are truly hungry for advancement, and those who simply go with the flow of required electives and graduation credits. The Career Center offers their students a variety of chances to make themselves exceptional.

Those who take full advantage of this will have an even greater number of options to choose from as future adults in the workforce.

Thinning out the students who aren't truly dedicated to these specialized classes is a must.

By occupying a seat in the classroom, these people are taking up a spot that could be filled by someone who truly wants to apply their learning.

By fixing this issue, Career Center classes can produce tremendously productive individuals that will go on to be the mavericks of their generation.

Recent increases in funding have allowed the Career Center to update their array of technological equipment.

Next year, digital video production students will have the privilege of using brand-new Apple computers and professional-grade DSLR cameras.

This is just one of many examples of how the Career Center has been improving its standards for education.

It is predicted that a large percentage of future jobs will require basic knowledge of advanced technology, a concept that would've been impossible to achieve two decades ago.

The average high school student is fully capable of using technology that still boggles the minds of past generations.

Therefore, implementing technology in a way that students can apply it should be a very high priority for schools.

Extracurricular opportunities, like the Career Center are the best gateways to achieving this.

It is uncertain how much education will change within the next decade.

As of right now, it seems that schools are trying to become more accommodating to their students' interests and aspirations.

Funding this can be rather tedious, and approval takes time.

However, the more students that show dedication towards their future, the more apparent their educational needs should become.

Facilities like the Career Center will eventually become more commonplace.

The ever-changing industry is slowly molding the future workforce. Jobs are becoming more specialized and unique, and that requires earlier, hands-on education in order to be efficient.

Additionally, students need to realize the importance of their work now, as it will have more weight towards their future than ever before.

The need for specialized curriculum is there, and fulfilling this is in the hands of the school board.

Changed opinions should not be looked down upon by voters

Kelsey Thomas
editor-in-chief

Lately, when I write an editorial or send out an opinionated tweet, I've come to be fearful of how it will affect me down the road. Not the next day at school or the next time I see the principal, instead, I'm afraid that in twenty years, someone will call me on an opinion I held as a seventeen-year-old.

The political atmosphere of today has made this hypothetical nightmare a reality. As we watch presidential candidates chastised for prior votes and previously held opinions, a made-up situation involving my senatorial campaign's demise and an editorial I wrote for The Register about drones in the Middle East seems all too likely.

This scares me. And it says a lot about political rhetoric in the U.S. today. Instead of focusing on a candidate's current ideology, Americans search for lapses in voting records that prove otherwise.

Hillary Clinton is undoubtedly this election's foremost victim of this unfortunate method of selection amongst voters. Though she is a proponent of rights for the LGBT community, her previous opposition of same-sex marriage has, in the eyes of many, deemed her a permanent homophobe. Her criticism of the Trans-Pacific Partnership is also outshone by her prior support for the deal.

We don't know why Hillary has changed her mind, but most assume it was a calculated move for votes. The concept that she has truly shifted her ideology, for whatever reason, is simply unthinkable.

Voters must remember that these candidates are people, too. As the years pass, it's natural and healthy for us to change our opinions as we learn more. Fifteen years ago Hillary Clinton and millions of other older Americans actively opposed same-sex marriage, but time went on and they realized they were being ignorant or inconsiderate or simply wrong.

It's time to realize that discounting a political candidate or

any other person because of their past opinions are pointless and toxic, especially if they were from over a decade ago. People are allowed to change their minds, and they are allowed to be wrong. It's normal, and beneficial, to form opinions only to eventually discount them.

Though disappointing, people were not always accepting of the values that are now integrated in our society. We have to forgive them for this.

It is a far greater mistake of Hillary's to not openly admit her past faults than to have them. Instead of coyly avoiding the issues that she has changed her mind about, Hillary, and others, must swallow their pride and admit that they were wrong in the past.

I hope someday that my reliability isn't destroyed because of an opinion I had as a senior in high school. But more than anything, I hope my opinions change.

Midterm practices must be reviewed

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

Midterms taken before students went on spring break demonstrated a grey area in Central's current policies: midterms fail to be carried out in an efficient manner. If the current policy will not be adapted, it is best that midterms are discontinued even though the latter would not be wise.

At first, when it was brought to students' attention that Central is the only OPS school to issue midterms to students, many thought it was an absurd way to needlessly stress students.

Students already have the stress of worrying about finals, but midterms also cause their fair share of stress to students who are thinking rather of their spring break quickly approaching.

However, the more one thinks about it, issuing midterms benefits students. It is understood that college students are held under the same requirement, so issuing midterms for high school students is not a bad idea and helps high school students enter college prepared.

The key here is that midterms would have to be carried out in an ideal manner.

Therefore, the current policy would need multiple revisions. It is nice how midterms do not follow the same hectic schedule as finals week, and it is an added benefit that there is a shortened week, but the planning for midterms needs to be improved immensely. Also, there seems to be little consistency in who gives midterms and who does not.

For one, it is an awkward time to test students. Not only is it not a full week, but most teachers are in the middle of lessons—a difficult time to test students. In math class, some classes were in the middle of a unit. In history, some classes had just started another topic. In general, this makes studying for midterms extremely difficult.

However, this makes it especially hard on students who are having a difficult time grasping the content and who have no further time to come in and receive help. Students take longer to grasp concepts seem to be out of luck with how this midterm is currently set up. Yes, there are previous units and chapters included in most tests, but there are also questions concerning new material.

A way to easily fix this issue is for teachers to better plan around the midterm date.

Since it is always before spring break, teachers can arrange their lesson plan to where their lessons end in advance to the midterm, and that there is minimal material on the tests the students are unfamiliar. In doing so, students would have more time to come in and ask teachers for help if they are having a difficult time.

The other drawback of midterms that should be acknowledged is the lack of consistency.

This year there was a field trip scheduled during midterm week. Therefore, some students missed some midterm tests, and due to the shortened week missed a midterm or two.

Will they be able to take the midterm when they return from spring break? Will it just be excused? Either way is unfair to students that had to take the midterm on the day of the midterm.

Further, in a marketing class students were assigned to take a 100-question test. Many did not finish, so they were given Thursday to finish. However, a lot of students did not come on the half-day.

The same questions surface: Will they get extra time when they get back? Will it be excused? No one really knows the set procedures, if there even are any.

More importantly, there are some classes that issue quizzes as means of a midterm, some that issue summative tests and some that do not even provide a midterm at all.

It is not fair to students who are required to study for a summative exam when they have peers that merely have to complete a quiz or nothing at all.

I am not asking for there to be summative tests in every class, I am just asking for more consistency.

If these small changes were made, midterms would be more effective and would help give students an accurate representation of how midterms in college were carried out.

If the school is going to pick and choose what it takes from colleges, for example not considering the fact that colleges do not start at 7:35 a.m. or that they do not have students taking nine classes a day, they might as well actually try to implement what they do take from them in an efficient manner.

It is either this or get rid of midterms altogether. Students do not want to keep wading through this murky water: fix the addressed problems or rid them completely. It is no good to have poorly carried out midterms. It surely does not benefit the students in any way other than giving them an unclear expectation of midterms in college.

Clearing up the guidelines is the better option because not only will it benefit students and teachers, it will help future college students to be more prepared.

As mentioned, even small changes would help clean up the policies drastically. If changes to finals policies are being questioned, midterm policies may as well be discussed too.

“Students do not want to keep wading through this murky water: fix the addressed problems or get rid of midterms completely.”

Women should not be shamed for differing views

In lieu of Hillary Clinton's historic campaign to be America's first female president, some controversy among gender issues has recently arisen. On Saturday Feb. 6, power feminist figures Madeleine Albright and Gloria Steinem accompanied Clinton at a rally in New Hampshire.

At the rally, the three women addressed the apparent issue of women supporting Bernie Sanders. According to Albright, “There's a special place in hell for women who don't help each other!”

Although it is extremely important to stress the matter of unity and gender equality, I don't think feminists should preach one thing and then do the exact opposite.

As a feminist myself, I'm proud of the fact that feminism is supposed to be all-inclusive and accepting of all ideas, even if I don't agree with them. It's so disappointing to see these women whom I've looked up to for so many years bash other women for merely supporting different candidates.

Steinem, a major feminist icon, also made some controversial comments on Friday Feb. 5 in an interview with talk show host Bill Maher. The two discussed the matter of female involvement in politics, and Steinem claimed that younger women aren't as active in politics as older women are, which may be true. But, she also implied that the only reason that younger women are supporting Sanders is to meet young men. She said, “When you're young, you're thinking: ‘Where are the boys? The boys are with Bernie.’”

There are several problems with this statement. First of all, women have opinions and ideals and thoughts on politics, and the fact that someone as prominent in the feminist community as Steinem said this is preposterous and offensive. Young women are not just in politics to meet nice, young men. If we wanted to do that, we most definitely wouldn't go to a political rally of all places.

Second of all, who's to assume all women like men?

Third of all, no one should be supporting a candidate based on their gender. If I were to vote for Clinton just because she is a woman, that would be just as bad as voting against her because she's not a man.

Steinem later publicly apologized, and Albright's statement is so commonly used that people didn't take it too seriously.

Clinton worked hard to get where she is today. She does have an abundance of qualities, but are the qualities presidential? During her candidacy this year, Clinton has brought up her gender much more frequently than in her 2008 campaign. Furthermore, in 2008, many young women voters gravitated towards Obama rather than Clinton.

Clinton is making history with her campaign; it's a major advancement for women's rights, but people want to ensure that it's done correctly. Clinton is an amazing candidate, and an incredibly strong one at that, but, putting her gender aside, would she be the right choice for the presidency?

Feminists claim to be all-inclusive and accepting of ideas rather than bashing other women for merely supporting Sanders. Instead of creating yet another divide amongst humanity, why don't we stop shaming our fellow human beings for their personal beliefs?



ANNA KAMINSKI
HOW YOU DOIN'

Standards based grading harmful, encourages laziness in students

Carlson Koch
staff writer

Standard based grading tests more on skills rather than content. For example, when taking an English test, it seems that the tests are more about writing rather than the novel itself. Writing constantly comes up in life, but the ability to comprehend and analyze is equally or even more so imperative.

Most classes never grade homework, they put in a place that accounts for nothing in a grade for someone. Students who have not developed skills as others have a harder time doing homework daily, and if it is not graded, then it is even more of a reason to not do the assignment.

In the mind of a teenager, because the homework is not graded, we develop a feeling of no desire to do any of the homework because it has no grade. Rather than a letter grade, percentages show a more precise grade, because every question is weighted the same.

An essay that takes a more comprehensive outlook to answer accurately is one of the few ways that standard-based grading differs from other systems of grading. While an essay usually counts as one-fourth of the grade, multiple choice would count as one-half of it.

Trending, part of standard based grading, results in laziness for all students. Once enough grades trend together towards one grade, there comes a point where the next grade will change the previous one very little.

Choosing for an assignment to be formative or summative

is sometimes a dilemma. If too many grades are entered into either category, the trend effect will become present.

The way that the formative and summative grades are weighted make it difficult for students who do well on tests and bad on quizzes or homework to do well. For example, if someone has an average of an “A” in summative and a “D” in formative, the overall grade will come to a “B”.

Why should quizzes ultimately be the reason students receive a “B” rather than an “A”?

For example, if there were 10 grades entered into the formative category (35 percent of the overall grade) and they made a perfect “A”, a failure on the next assignment would not alter the letter of their grade at all. Although the decimal will become less than four, making doing a certain assignment pointless.

I had a class where the teacher put approximately 25 formative grades into my formative category. Realizing how the trend worked, my mind shifted from a hard-working attitude to a more laid back and lazy one.

As long as I kept a decent summative grade, the overall grade would remain an A because of the standard grading system.

Knowing their grades cannot become a different letter, students do nothing and all it does is promote laziness.

Teachers also have a difficult time teaching students if teachers have to constantly go over what the class has been learning. It slows down the pace of everything.

The current grading system promotes this and should sooner rather than later be changed. Perks of the system do not outweigh the cons, the graduation rate has increased.

This rate could have improved because of a statistic where a student who passes ninth grade is four more times likely to graduate high school than those who do not.

Omaha Public Schools could be more concerned with graduation rather than the work ethic thoroughly developing. The standard grading system seems like it does this, and it frustrates and makes teachers pull their hair out.

Most importantly, teachers must decide if an assignment is worth putting in the formative category or practice. If kids hear the words “practice”, their minds automatically shut down and they quit thinking. In doing so, teachers have to almost lie to their students if they were to ask, “Is this a formative assignment or practice?”

Standard based grading gives an “A” and an “A minus” the same GPA weight. The lesser grade is given the same reward when calculating the class rank. If it does not affect the GPA, what is the point of having the two different grades?

The answer is simple: there is no point. And this same viewpoint can be applied to the entirety of standards based grading, in that what is the point of trying if grades are weighted the same?

Why is it that for students who maintain high grades, getting a three can drop it significantly, but for the student who maintains ones and twos, their grade does not fluctuate at all?

Math classes take standards based grading to furthest, with students who get level four questions right often be downgraded significantly for missing level two questions. Therefore, OPS must begin to look at what its grading system is doing and sacrifice the numbers or the sake of better education provision.

Proposed bills threaten First Amendment, prevent civil debate

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

In the long scope of American history, the decade of the 1960s remains perhaps one of the most culturally tumultuous. The Vietnam War was escalating, a draft was being initiated and for the first time ever, American citizens could turn on their televisions and see what their government was using their tax dollars for, as bomb after bomb rained down on a land far, far away.

As casualties mounted and questions continued to go unanswered, people across the nation took to the streets and most notably college campuses to protest the war and its compulsory service, utilizing, of course, their right to freedom of speech. Fast forward over a half a century later, once more college students are taking to the streets, but are they fighting once more for their right to speak their mind, to express opinions contrary to the status quo?

Not exactly. Now they fight to ban words that are “mean,” “offensive,” “triggering,” and “bad.” This evolution of the free speech and the American Left is only continuing to delve into paradox as the once (classical) liberal value of free speech is being attacked by those who constantly claim to support the freedom of expression and actually used to.

One of the most important and uniquely American values granted by the Constitution is that of the freedom of speech and press. Unlike in Europe where many governments can imprison people for arbitrarily determined “hate speech,” as decreed by the European High Court, Americans enjoy a large amount of freedom with which they can express themselves either verbally or through the power of the press. That is, until now, as a growing movement threatens to silence any and all who say that which they determine arbitrarily is “mean,” or that which happens to simply be different. Representatives of this growing aversion to the liberal ideal of free speech can be found in government and also social justice movements, of which use

labels rather than legal means to prevent people from speaking out.

Right off the bat, the men behind the Bill of Rights authored it in faith that government would someday attempt to move beyond the bounds to which it was supposed to be confined (Bernie Sanders..). Therefore, it’s not hard to see why government has the most to lose from people being able to speak freely. It requires them to be honest and transparent. Of course our benevolent civil “servants” would never attempt to infringe

“ One of the most important and uniquely American values granted by the Constitution is that of the freedom of speech and press. ”

on the freedom of speech or press explicitly, however through lovely rhetoric such as in the names of “equality,” “security,” or “to fight terrorism” (never heard that one), it intends to do just that.

Currently two, among many, such bills exist in Congress at this point that pose immediate threats to the First Amendment and its intertwined tenants. Both the Stop Online Piracy Act and the Protect Intellectual Property Act allow the government to simultaneously shut down internet websites, domains and ban search entries should it deem it necessary. Fortunately, the government doesn’t have the best track record with websites so this would likely be a rather lengthy process.

Several months ago the “safe space” movement originated on college campuses (where freedom of speech used to be accepted), calling for bans on any offensive language that could “trigger” someone. A trigger, of course, is a word, phrase or topic that apparently causes or is the result of post-traumatic stress disorder, according to Twitter feminist Melody Henseley.

Interestingly enough, a similar disorder can occur in soldiers who have been shot at or shelled with artillery.. Even if this is true, allowing people to hide from their “triggers” is contrary to science, as often the best way to help patients overcome PTSD is the gradual exposure to the feared material. Not childish shelter.

The safe space movement, supported by black lives matter and feminist group advocates, sought to produce an environment apparently void of all offensiveness, bias and stereotypes. However, in doing so these groups of supposed tolerance actually proved themselves to be rather intolerant.

One of the main tenants of the safe space movement was that of the generally prevalent notion of rape culture. That American college campuses and perhaps society are places dominated by the rape of women and that the culture itself encourages or legitimizes it. Often cited is the statistic is that one out of every five women on college campuses will be sexually victimized in some way. To even the fairly aware observer, it is not hard to believe that rape and sexual violence are still far too prevalent in the United States, largely due in part to the media’s strong conveyance of behaviors and choices that increase the tendency of these crimes. However, this one in five statistic would require the United States to have a rate of sexual violence only half that of the Congo, which as recorded by the Journal of the American Medical Association, 39.7% of women in the Congo have been or will be sexually victimized. Perhaps, the one in five statistic is less than accurate, especially considering the study this stat came from (2007 Campus Sexual Assault Study DoJ), consisted of students from only two universities and also considered unwanted flirtation sexual assault. With aggregate numbers, the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that the number of reported campus rapes is 6.1 per every 1000 students, which reduces down to 0.61% rather than 20%. Of course the

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Gender selection, fertility treatments, ethical choice for hopeful parents

Hayley Raney
staff writer

PGD (Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis) is a procedure where doctors help identify any genetic defects in the embryos through the IVF (In Vitro Fertilization) process. IVF is the process for older women or women with infertility or genetic problems who want to produce a child.

The PGD process tests over 100 different genetic conditions. Doctors have proven this process is 99.9 percent accurate.

PGD is also a form of gender selection, which I think is an ethical idea. PGD allows the woman or couple decide what sex they want the baby to be. The most sophisticated method used began in 1995.

The process of gender selection is working with the sex chromosome in the sperm cell. The method to gender selection is called sperm separation between the sex chromosomes.

Recently, a well-known celebrity couple made news by choosing the sex of their unborn baby. Christine Teigen, 30-year-old model, underwent the IVF and PGD process for her first child with her husband, singer John Legend. She decided she wanted her first child to be a girl and already has a pretty baby bump.

“Not only am I having a girl, but I picked the girl from her little embryo. I picked her and was like, ‘Let’s put in the girl,’” Teigen said to People Magazine.

She decided on a girl because she feels like her husband will be the best father to a little girl. She feels her husband and daughter will have a special bond. She does plan on having a baby boy later in life.

However, some people are not too happy that she was able to decide the sex of her child. Teigen has been accused of “playing God,” and she fiercely defended herself making it clear it was her pregnancy, her choice.

On the other hand she has also been receiving a lot of support from other celebrities and fans going through this IVF process and I am amazed she wants to take on this challenge.

I am all for the gender selection process. If I had the choice to pick out the sex of my first and second child I definitely would, but I also think it’s a blessing giving birth to a child without science intervening.

I believe this will be the next step for future generations to come for women who really want to wait later in life to have a child or for women with infertility problems.

IVF takes the egg from a female and a sperm from the designated couple (or a sperm donor) and the egg is fertilized with a sperm in a lab. After the egg is fertilized, creating an embryo, the embryo is then implanted in the female’s uterus for the process of reproduction.

In 1978 the first IVF baby was born, Louis Joy Brown. Then as an adult she, herself, was able to have a baby without an IVF treatment.

These procedures can cost up to \$17,000 for the first cycle. However, if the procedure does not work, many fertility centers have a money back guarantee. Between the ages 35 to 40 the success rates of the IVF process are 41 to 18 percent. I hope that the success rates will increase over time.

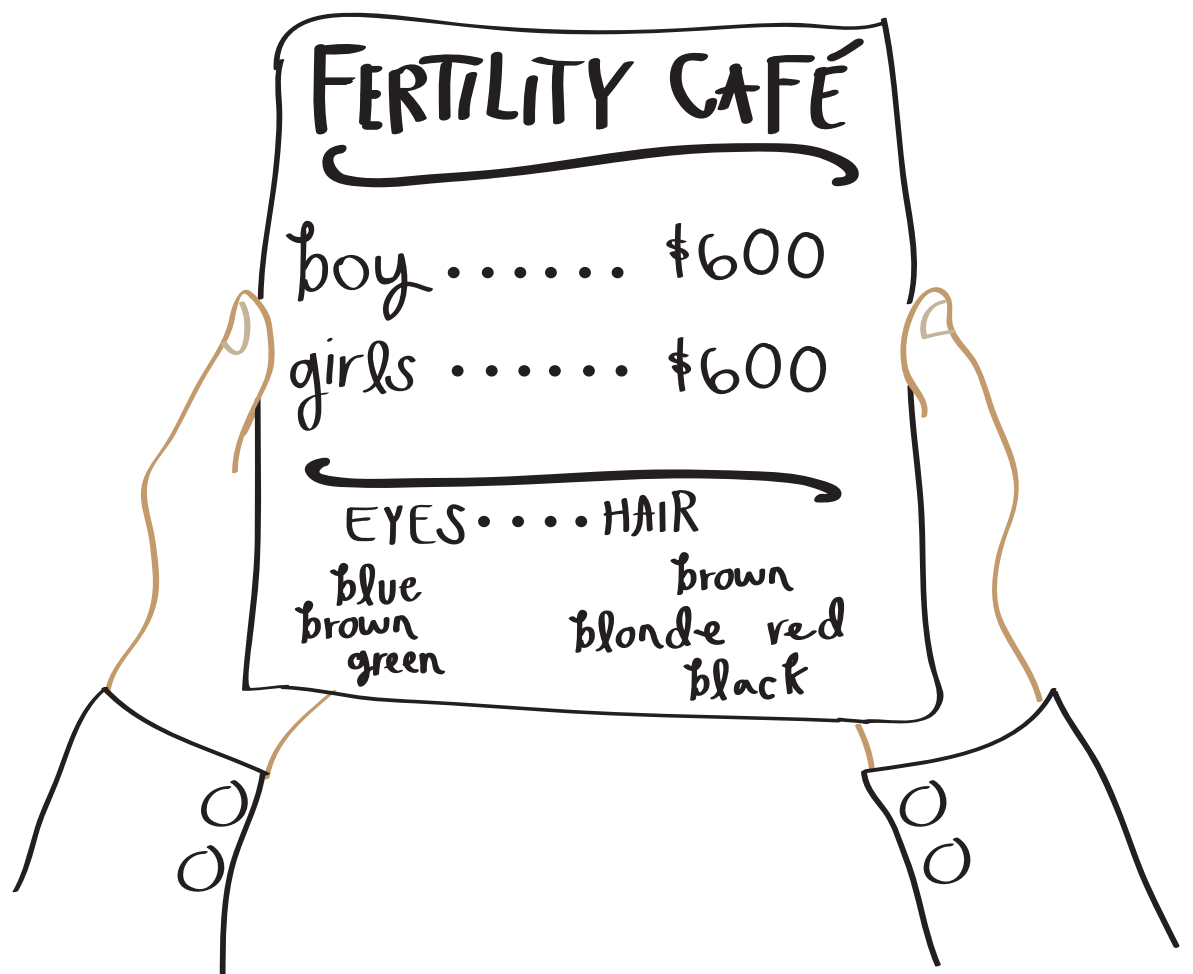
“IVF is the most effective form of assisted reproductive technology,” staff from Mayo Clinic said.

I think this is an amazing breakthrough in technology because this process helps people who need the help reproducing. Who would’ve thought that creating an embryo in a lab would be another way for reproduction?

The risks of IVF are multiple births, premature births, birth defects, miscarriage and more. Before the IVF process the couple needs to go through a various amount of tests and screenings. The female also has to give herself many self-injections throughout the IVF process.

Doctors make sure to go through this procedure because the IVF process is usually for women 35 or older who have had trouble with fertility. The older women tend to get the harder it is for them to reproduce easily.

If the success rates increase over time, older women who want to conceive may feel more confident to take part in the IVF process. Women who feel more confident in undergoing the IVF process will just expand the incredible ways to reproduce life in a new technological way.



NATALIE NEPPER AND KELSEY THOMAS | The Register

Senate should respect president's duty on court justice, retains veto power

Alec Rome
web editor

The death of Justice Antonin Scalia has left a vacancy in the most powerful court in the country, the Supreme Court. People question who will replace Scalia. Not who will become the next Justice, but who will actually appoint his replacement. Once again, the issue is one at the forefront of politics, and a topic of discussion for presidential candidates.

The argument from the GOP-controlled Senate is that since President Barack Obama is on the last year of his presidency, he should not make a major decision like appointing a replacement judge that could make the Supreme Court lean more left on issues. The Democrats say the same that there is no clause in the Constitution that says a president only has three years in a term, meaning that the president should continue to act as normal throughout their term. So who is right?

Of course, both parties cannot agree on anything, so that question has different answers depending on which politician you ask. Most of those answers are for the sake of the election season in order to gain votes. But if the public ignores the impending election, what is the best course of action?

The best thing to do would be to have the current president appoint a nominee and fill the empty seat in the Supreme Court to avoid 4-4 ties when making decisions with cases. When one adds in the fact that the election is coming up, it makes everything much more complicated.

While it would make sense that filling the void in the Supreme Court right now would be a good thing, the ramifications of that decision last quite a long time. Usually, there is a pe-

riod of at least a few years before a Justice retires and another Justice is needed. If Obama chose to fill the empty seat in the Supreme Court now, a left-leaning Court would have the majority and could possibly swing the decisions on certain topics. The ideal setup for a Court is to have as much of a balance as possible, but with how polarized Washington is today, that may be too much to ask.

“ *The decision that makes the most sense is to not make a decision at all and wait until the election is over.* ”

The decision that makes the most sense is to not make a decision at all and wait until the election is over. Yes, it does go against the values of the presidency. But, with a decision that very much has a long-lasting impact, it should not be one that the Senate rushes into. The Senate should analyze their options objectively to replace Scalia, but do it in a reasonable time frame so that things can get back to normal.

From what the GOP-controlled Senate has told the media, they plan on stalling the process of appointment until the next president is elected. Obviously, putting the situation off gets nothing done, which is exactly what Congress does well. So, out of respect for the presidency and the way things are supposed to work, the Senate should at least go through the process of appointing a new justice. Which most likely would mean that the Senate would reject the proposed replacement. At least that

would show everyone that representatives in Washington could at least do something instead of filibuster with Dr. Seuss books.

That was a very sad time in our country's history. Or perhaps, rather than selling F-16 fighter jets to Pakistan, a nation that funnels money and weapons to terror groups, they could undertake a duty that is actually spelled out to them in the Constitution. Congress would not even have to accept the nominee, but just going through the official process shows respect for the President and their duty.

On March 16, President Obama nominated Merrick Garland to the Supreme Court. As expected, Obama came under fire for his decision. Republicans came out and criticized the choice, citing Garland's decision in a major firearms case that went through a Washington D.C. appeals court. Others, including Obama, said that Garland is the perfect balance and replacement to Scalia, and exactly what America wants. The Republican argument is puzzling to many, because he is widely known as being a centrist. The partisan heat will only continue to rise as hearings on Garland begin.

This is just another issue that seems to put politics before the people and before what really matters. Making sure that the highest court in our country is in top order and focusing on justice should be more important than the petty arguments in Washington. While this decision should not be made until the next president takes office, due to the ramifications, the Senate should show to the world that they are more than just a group of arguing people. That they work in the interest of the United States, not in the interest of themselves.

Freedom of speech often sacrificed for feelings and trigger words or phrases

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key word there is reported, but that issue is more difficult to address and would require far more time to adequately discuss. Unfortunately, outside of classical liberalist feminists such as Christina Hoff Summers, many such as those in the safe space movement refuse to allow even the utterance of the above mentioned statistics and have sought rather to ban them than allow their circulation in the marketplace of ideas.

Although BLM's stance against the brutality of America's police is entirely accurate as many have become militarized groups of bullies and the War on Drugs has disproportionately impacted blacks, they are not open to debate when facts such as those from the Violence Policy Center and using FBI and Department of Justice numbers that say blacks kill one another at a significantly higher rate than other demographics.

This is not to invalidate all of BLM's mission, but rather to say that freedom of speech requires the open reception of information that may not be pleasant to hear, and that labeling people for being racists simply do to attempting to attain truth through all angles and available information does not accomplish this. Today the trend is no longer to physically or explicitly legally prohibit people from talking or writing certain things but rather it is the demonization of those with contrasting view points as sexists, racists, homophobes or bigots in order to silence them.

No one wants to be a known follower or associate of a racist or a misogynist, and by effectively labeling all who disagree with a narrative as being one of those terms, it eliminates any conjecture or discourse that could be had, and it's a hoodwink that has been successfully perpetrated by the American establishment media and across college campuses. Presenting contrary information to rape culture is sexist, disagreeing with some of BLM's views is racist, simply because of this, there is just no need to address the claims of such a person.

No rational person generally claims to oppose freedom of speech, however when expressing belief in this value is then followed by a "but," one no longer supports the ideals of freedom of expression. The only limiting factor to the First Amendment is the call to action, in which one incites or invites others to actions, more specifically violent action. Contrarians who do not delve to this level are key to any successful liberal democracy and also are an equal partner in freedom of speech.

All in all, rather than claiming tolerance and berating those who disagree or simply would like to present all factual information, the words of the famed Voltaire must return once more to American intellectuals and social justice warriors, as he said, "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

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Americans should stray from political extremism, focus on unification

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

Republican or Democrat, two simple words that encompass a diverse array of beliefs on a multitude of political issues. Typically, a Republican or conservative will vote for their respective party during an election, as will a Democrat or liberal. While this is normal and it seems logical that a conservative would vote Republican, one should not be so consumed by their party that they merely check the 'R' or 'D' next to the name of the candidate.

Political parties are hurting politics in America, they are becoming like teams with fans who will cheer for them endlessly. This is evident in the media and social networking. It seems like the Republican and Democrat parties do not want informed supporters but rather those that will follow them and believe whatever they tell them. As a nation, we must have an informed public capable of reading events and coming to their own conclusions, not just following parties blindly.

This epidemic is especially evident with Republican frontrunner, Donald Trump. He throws out irrational ideas that please those delusional enough to think they are even plausible. For example, his idea of building a wall seems to be heavily supported by many of his conservative supporters who are against immigration. However, there is an aspect of the American government often forgotten called Congress who must agree with this task and find funding.

George Washington said to never have a two party system because it would divide the nation. This is just what is happening now, bills being passed that should be bipartisan issues are being shot down merely because someone presented them with a different letter next to their name.

Those who would consider themselves to be more moderate in the political spectrum, may not have a candidate. As the political parties continue their polarization to extreme beliefs in order to please their die-hard Republicans and Democrats, there is no in-between. For instance, one who is liberal on their social beliefs yet believes that the government should not be largely involved in the life of public, and vice-versa, must choose if social or fiscal agreement is more important.

As the parties begin to polarize, it is important to focus more on beginning to bridge this gap than to continue the growing discrepancy between Republican and Democrat. Especially issues of climate change and clean energy must begin to be bipartisan issues in congress.

This decision to choose a party can be hard, especially for younger people who recognize the importance of equal rights of all sexual identities, races and religions, and the effect that the environment has on our futures. At the same time, the expense of college and taxes are on their minds as they ponder a career field and in some cases, their first job.

Politicians should not run in the name of a political party, looking to satisfy their biggest donors by making promises that will not be kept. Instead, the American public should be informed enough so they are not forced to vote solely on the party they identify with. Likewise, politicians should run on a set of beliefs and plans for when they become president and not as either a Democrat or Republican.



JULIAN HOCK-BEATY | The Register

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Administration lacks consistency with social media policies

Natalie Nepper
editor-in-chief

As social media becomes ever more prominent in society, it begins to further impact the personal and professional lives of its users. It is not secret that what you do or say on social media can negatively impact you in your work environment, have legal repercussions and potentially have an effect on your future career.

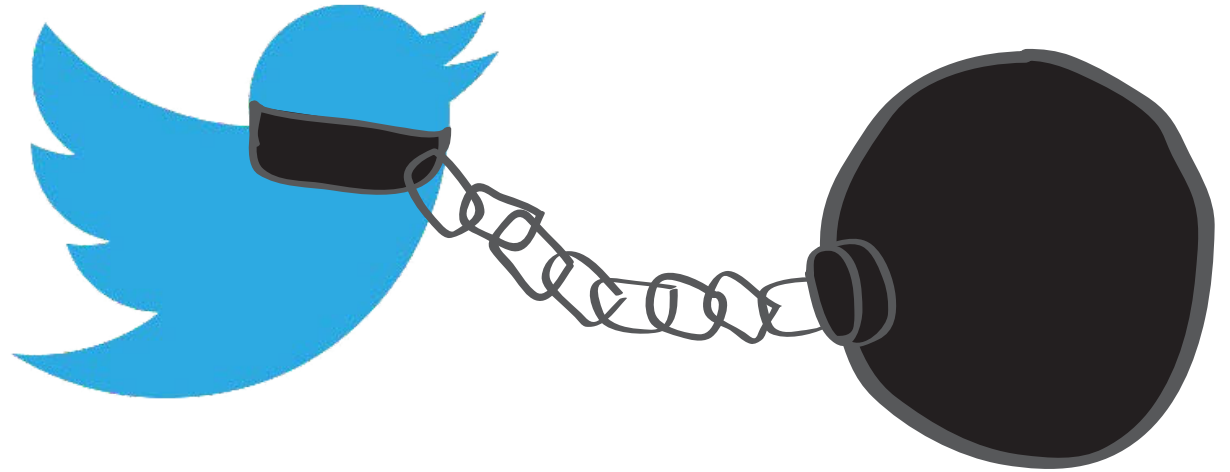
Everyone's heard stories of employees being fired for what they say on social media, whether that be because they posted about attending a social event on their "sick" day, said something negative about the company they work for or simply just did not uphold a social media presence that reflected well on their company. There is no doubt that bad behavior in the world of social media can have consequences in the professional world: but can this standard, or should this standard, remain true for students in schools?

The current notion is that students give up part of their First Amendment rights when they enter a school building, but in fact the ruling from *Tinker v. Des Moines* proves that otherwise. There are still rules pertaining to speech and behavior, and certain expectations are enforced constantly. But there are also blurry lines: inconsistencies in guidelines and how they are implemented, how punishments are distributed and to what extent students can be allowed to use their First Amendment rights as their defense.

These lines are especially fuzzy when it comes to social media. Are students' actions on social media, or should student's actions on social media, be considered activity that happens "off school grounds?" Should students be able to post negative comments about their district, school or teachers? Or even comment at all? Should the same rules apply when students post about their fellow classmates? To what extent is the privacy of students upheld? And do they forfeit this privacy when they post online?

There are no definitions. No clear guidelines or punishments are set in place. Just as with a majority of rules and regulations in school, their repercussions are handled on a case-by-case basis. Of course, no school district or administration would ever admit to these inconsistencies, but they definitely exist in a large portion of the public school systems.

But this a cop-out. It's an easy way for administrations to

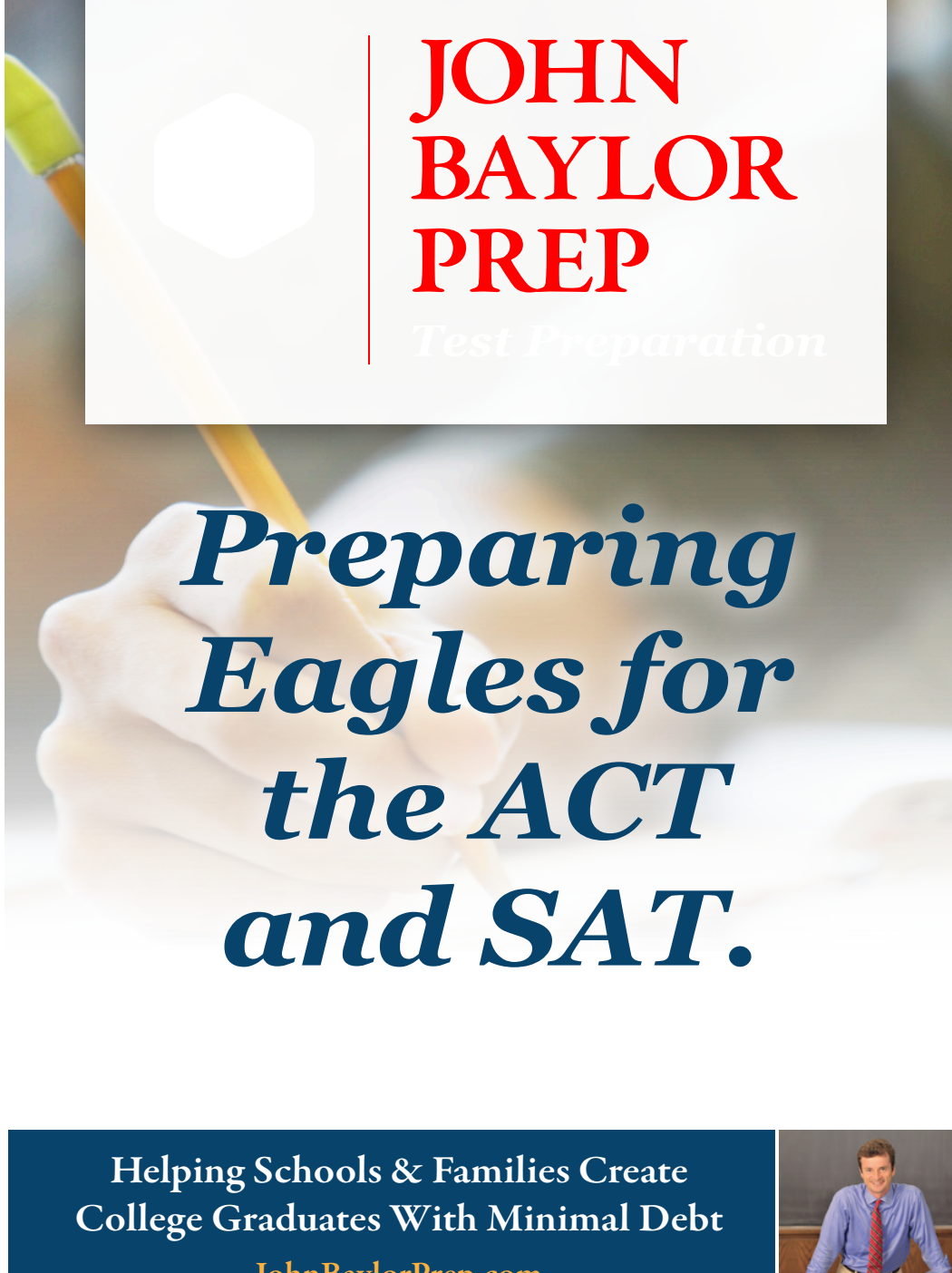



bend the rules to appease parents. Ideally, punishments would be almost identically implemented, with minor changes in terms of severity. If a student comes to administration fearing for their social, mental or physical well-being during school because of posts online, school officials should speak with those who have posted the comments and address the situation with the same standards as any other situation of bullying. These occurrences should be taken seriously, and dealt with quickly, in order to prevent further incidents.

It is important that every situation be dealt with, but reasonably and with a balance. To escort the person who posted negative comments online out of class by security guards is taking it too far. To not even schedule a meeting to speak with these students in an attempt to work something out is not taking it far enough. If there are already a set of guidelines that administration is expected to follow in these situations, it is clear that they are not being adhered to in every situation as they should be.

Officially, cyberbullying should be considered harassment, defined in the handbook as, "Any physical, verbal, graphic, electronic, or written material or behavior....which has the purpose of creating an intimidating, hostile or offensive school environment." Harassment is a level 3 violation, meaning that it should be handled with interventions to teach alternate behavior, the involvement of an administrator or support staff and short-term suspension for a duration that adequately addresses the behavior.

The main goal is to create a school environment where students feel comfortable and safe. This is not to say that schools should monitor students' activity on social media. But if a student comes forward to counseling, administration or to a teacher with proof of the incidents, they should not be ignored. To not deal with these situations on an almost identical basis is to blatantly ignore the safety and well-being of one student over another.






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JACK MCLAUGHLIN SAYER HARRIS 17 21

A guitar player and singer looks to the future, as he aims to gain notoriety for his musical talent.

A junior hopes to pursue a career in rap and hip hop music after writing his own lyrics for years.



arts & style

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MANAGING HER TIME

Senior Gabi Rima commits time after school and on weekends as the assistant stage manager for The Omaha Community Playhouse's production of "Caroline or Change."



Photo Courtesy of GABI RIMA

As assistant stage manager for the Omaha Community Playhouse's production of "Caroline or Change," Gabi Rima holds many roles. She is in charge of props tracking and keeping the peace backstage.

Natalie Nepper
editor-in-chief

Gabi Rima is constantly performing a balancing act. Amidst her busy senior schedule, Rima somehow finds time to play the role of assistant stage manager at The Omaha Community Playhouse's production of "Caroline or Change."

This year, she was accepted in The Playhouse's technical theater partnership program where she is able to work firsthand with the directors, cast, crew and designers of their productions. She spends Monday through Friday at the theater taking classes, assisting construction, running rehearsals and contributing to successful shows.

"My mom and brother were both performers when they were in high school and so I was kind of expected to do that," Rima said. "I took acting classes at the Rose when

I was a kid and then when I got to Central I decided I didn't actually like acting, so I joined tech crew." She contributed to the tech crew on various shows at the school up until her partnership began earlier this year.

Mondays and Tuesdays are Rima's classroom days where the apprentices sit "round table style" and learn aspects of design and technology through their textbook and a variety of creative units. Some of their most recent units included painting and making props. They've also spent time building their theatrical resumes and learning how to get a career in the theater industry.

Wednesday through Sunday, Rima helps out on main-stage or blackbox production, alternating nights with other apprentices. As an assistant stage manager, she holds a variety of roles. "A stage manager is essential to any

“The stage manager is the only person who really fully interacts with both the cast and crew on a meaningful level.”

GABI RIMA

Assistant stage manager at Omaha Community Playhouse

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Photojournalism course to be offered next year

Kelsey Thomas
editor-in-chief

Students interested in journalism will be offered a new opportunity in the 2016-17 school year with the implementation of a photojournalism course, taught by newspaper and yearbook advisor Hillary Blayney.

In previous years, beginning students' only had the option to take "Journalism" before joining either the newspaper or yearbook staff. Journalism is a two-semester course that covers information about writing articles, copy editing, design, advertising, and some photojournalism.

Journalism is offered at several other OPS schools, including Benson. The instructor, Justine Garman, uses it as a tool to prepare students for a career in photography, and to gain instruction in journalism.

"I treat the students like real photographers," Garman said. "They are 'hired' to do these types of shoots. For instance, they have to photograph a family, senior, create an ad campaign, photojournalism...artistic photos, and an individual project."

Currently, journalism students at Central only have the opportunity to practice with cameras, learn photo ethics, and photo composition basics. Because photojournalism is only one piece of the curriculum, they lose the chance to go in-depth. However, the new course will offer a more detailed track for those who hope to take pictures for The Register or The O-Book as a staff member, or anyone who wishes learn more about photojournalism.

"Students will learn the history of photography in journalism, photo ethics and manipulation, photo composition, caption writing, editing of photos, news and sports photography, and lighting techniques. They will also create their own portfolio," Blayney said.

At Benson, the class atmosphere varies.

"Students are working on different things. Sometimes we will work on one together, but otherwise it is about working with each student individually... The atmosphere is really focused. Each kid is doing his or her own thing. Sometimes they collaborate with one another. Other times when the newspaper or yearbook is on deadline, they are working on that. I really work with them to set and meet their own deadlines," Garman said.

Blayney said that she hopes the atmosphere in Central classes will be, "lively and interactive."

There is currently no limit to the amount of students that may register for photojournalism, however, the Benson class is capped at 10 students.

"I like to limit it to 10 students [so] I have enough cameras for each student and I can fit them into a van...[I] like to make the class smaller so we can go on different photo shoots. It also makes it easier to take them to field trips," Garman said.

The need for a specialized photojournalism course became clear to Blayney as she realized that many of her students had trouble taking photos fit to print in The Register or The O-Book.

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ON PAGE 20

Despite turbulent childhood, sophomore finds strength in herself

Someone very important to me in my life has gone down the wrong road once again.

He wasn't there for me for my first day of kindergarten and most likely won't be there for my high school graduation. I still love him very much.

When I was little, he was a drug addict and a drug dealer. Finally he was arrested and served three years in prison. During that time being I lived with my grandmother until he got out of prison.

He came out a new and clean man and got full custody of me when I was six years old. He was finally the dad I always wanted.

My mother was still on the ups and downs in life and just

needed time to get better. I currently live with her now and she is a recovered addict of seven years.

When I moved in with my dad life was great again. I was a little girl who was happy with life. He married my brother's mother in 2009 after my brother, Levi, was born in 2006.

But life wasn't okay much after that. Instead of abandoning all illegal substances, my dad became an abusive alcoholic. Constant fights with my brother's mom, screams and cries. My brother and I were scared to live in our own house. But we were still little and when he was okay everything was okay. We acted like nothing ever happened.

No one knew the kind of person my dad was behind closed



HAYLEY RANEY
BRING THE STORM

doors. No one suspected the things my brother and I went through as children.

I am comfortable sharing with story because I really want people to be moved and realize that you don't know a person until you know what they've been through.

I have never held back my childhood story, because people today say that everything I've been through has made me the strong and dedicated person I am today.

The family was never perfect at home but the outside people adored us. My brother and I acted like we were happy children, which occasionally we were. Because all we had was each other.

CONTINUE TO 'FATHER'
ON PAGE 20

Stories Coffeehouse in west Omaha provides open, friendly space



ANN MILROY | The Register

Stories Coffeehouse features cozy seating areas to study, work in and visit with friends. People at the shop can enjoy coffee, as well as cookies, cupcakes, brownies and other sweet treats.

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

“Everybody has a story,” said local business owner Amber Christ. The ideal that everyone has a story is what Christ’s coffeehouse is all about. Stories coffeehouse was established three years ago in a space off of 180th and Pacific.

The business provides customers with a variety of small businesses within one building. Christ’s vision was to create an environment of comfort and togetherness.

“We combined several local businesses under one roof to work together for the success of each other,” said Christ. “Working together and sharing labor and overhead was a way to make owning your own business possible for so many more people.”

A few of the seven businesses featured within Stories include Junque Shed, who provides vintage décor, Carried Away Confections, who provide an assortment of desserts and pastries, and Christ’s very own business Homemade by Amber, who provides the savory menu and ready to bake delicacies.

“Because we have multiple small businesses located inside

of Stories Coffeehouse, it allows each business to do what they do best,” said Christ.

The response to Christ’s idea has been overwhelming. “Our customers love Stories. They love to meet and [get to] know the owners and staff at Stories,” she said, “They love to hear our story and we love to hear theirs.” One anonymous customer said, “Stories is such an open and friendly environment. You can’t go in there and not be happy...I haven’t even been going [to Stories] for very long and I already feel really comfortable and at home [there].”

Another way in which Stories encourages people to share their own story while simultaneously promoting the greater Omaha community is by allowing local artists to perform at the coffeehouse on the weekends. The live music not only supports local musical artists, but it adds so much character to the space and creates a welcoming atmosphere.

Stories Coffeehouse is very much considered a family place. Christ’s husband and two daughters work at Stories, her brother-in-law is the chef and longtime family friends also are employed there. “[Everyone] is able to offer what they do best.

We have the best of the best and it works so well... [But] there is always room to improve and grow,” said Christ.

Christ cherishes the bonds she has with her fellow staff members and with her customers. She ensures that each patron is treated courteously and with respect and that each employee has the same values of dedication and passion that she does. Because of her hard-working staff and extremely satisfied customers, Stories is a two-time Best of Omaha winner (2015 and 2016).

Stories always has something going on. They are always busy, whether they be preparing for their next musical guest or cooking copious amounts of food to be ready for a large group of people coming in for the first time.

It all might seem like bothersome work, but Christ says that it’s all worth it.

Stories’ goal is to radiate values of service and love one customer, employee and business at a time. “It is our passion to continue to create a community for fellowship, friendship and so much more,” said Christ. “Nothing is better than working beside our family and staff that is like family each day.”

Older generation needs to look past skin color when judging relationships

Walking throughout the halls of Central, it is not out of the ordinary to see interracial couples walking hand-in-hand. More specifically, relationships between those of different races are more frequent and also a common sight within Central’s diverse atmosphere.

However, sadly, some people belonging to older generations have not accepted that today’s society is not like the late 1800’s to mid-1900’s. Interracial couples still cause unrest for some older people. But, there are no “whites only” dating websites, so some of these people who still do not accept interracial dating need to let this false reality go.

To a certain point, I understand where parents are coming from who do not condone their son or daughter dating a person of a different race. Some parents were raised in the south, where obviously their upbringing ingrained within them that they were not to date non-whites. They grew up believing what they were being taught by their parents was true and at the time did not have reason to challenge what their par-

ents were telling them.

Growing up believing one thing and one day being faced with something totally contradictory to what they believed was the “right way” is tough, I get it. But, there comes a point when they have to realize society is not how it used to be. Their children are being raised in a society that is more accepting, and it is very taxing on them to be influenced one way by society and to come home being told that it is “wrong.”



GEORGIA CHAMBERS
GO DAWGS

According to Pew Research Center, “Only 9% [of Americans] in 2014 said [interracial dating] was a bad thing for society, and 51% said it doesn’t make much difference.” Obviously, this demonstrates that times have changed and we do not live in a strictly segregated country anymore. Yes, some may not believe in it, but they choose not to be in an interracial relationship and leave it at that.

Since everyone is considered equal, or closer to equal than people have ever been, it is not fair to tell children they cannot date non-whites. It also goes against promoting equality. Be-

ing open to date anyone is not “wrong.” Even though older parents have been raised otherwise, they need to accept that their children have not been raised during the same time period, and that interracial dating is not scoffed at, and more importantly, it does not make people look at them any differently, especially by people in the younger generations.

This is the same for same-sex couples as well. According to Pew Research Center, there were about 170,000 same-sex marriages in 2015. Like interracial couples, it is becoming more common within America and less “out-of-place.”

This brings up another point: just how gays and lesbians cannot be “cured,” being gay or a lesbian is not an illness. Wanting to date outside one’s race is not an illness either. It cannot be cured by counselling or aided by a pastor’s instruction. People like who they like, and at the end of the day, that is all that matters. It is not the color of the skin that should determine whether or not someone is worthy to be that significant other. You know how the saying goes, love is blind. The few people that have not accepted this need to look past the color of one’s skin and rather look at how they treat their son or daughter. I’ve been raised that it is the inside that counts.

Omaha Community Playhouse stage manager finds time to balance busy schedule

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successful production. The stage manager themselves is basically in charge of all communication. It [involves] communicating the needs of the director, the cast, the crew, and the designers so they can all be in the loop,” she said. As an assistant, Rima works directly underneath the head stage manager, keeping track of props and fulfilling anything needed for a successful show.

“The stage manager is the only person who really fully interacts with both the cast and crew on a meaningful level and that’s always fun to actually see every side of the production,” Rima said. “Whereas, if you’re just a general technician, you wouldn’t interact that much with the cast.”

It’s not always all fun and games for Rima, however. Some-

times she has to “be the bad guy,” hushing people backstage and keeping everything running smoothly. And the time commitment isn’t the easiest to handle either. In addition to the theater program, Rima is involved with National Honor Society, Guitar Ensemble and Academic Decathlon.

In order to still be successful in theatre and Academic Decathlon, Rima had to spend months studying on the weekends with coach Vikki Deniston-Reed. “It can be a lot,” Rima said. “I would take my study materials to the playhouse and if I had time between my class hours and my show hours I would read.”

The show she’s currently working on “Caroline or Change” tells the tale of a “well-off” Jewish family’s child, and the relationship he builds with his maid, Caroline. The musical is set in Louisiana during the civil rights movement. The stepmother, in an attempt to be more motherly, makes a new rule that if he leaves change in his pockets, Caroline should just take it for

herself. “Caroline’s whole moral dilemma is if it’s okay to steal from a child to give to her own children,” Rima said.

This isn’t the first production Rima has worked on with The Omaha Community Playhouse. Previously, she was a part of A Christmas Carol. She plans on participating in “quite a few” more shows in order to achieve the amount of show credits she needs to graduate the program. And if she could, Rima would be a part of more, but “it’s kind of impossible to work on every single one because the dates overlap so much.”

At the end of the technical theater program in a year, Rima will have accumulated an Associate’s degree, due to the Playhouse’s partnership with Metro Community College. After that, she plans to transfer to a four-year college to double major in theatre and film, eventually planning on directing. “I would be happy working in either of those industries,” Rima said. “I’m hoping to find a way that I can kind of flip flop and do both.”

Sophomore pursues love of music, showcases talent in local venues

Alec Rome
web editor

With every strum of the guitar and every note sung, sophomore Jack McLaughlin creates something special through music. Music is something that he and his brother have bonded over for the last five years. However, how his musical journey started was far from normal.

When they were young, McLaughlin and his brother liked to play the popular video game Guitar Hero. His brother wanted to play the guitar for real, and so the two began playing together and created their own band. McLaughlin began playing the guitar to keep himself busy. He eventually fell in love with it, and has been playing ever since. McLaughlin also is a singer, and cites his brother as “the best person to [harmonize] with.”

For McLaughlin, becoming better at making music was not what most would consider practice. “I am doing what I love,” McLaughlin said. “It didn’t feel like practice because the passion was there. It did take a lot of practice, but it didn’t feel like it because I love it so much.”

His love for music undoubtedly comes from his family, ever since he was young. McLaughlin remembers getting in the car with his father who would be playing Bruce Springsteen. On the contrary, McLaughlin would get in his mom’s car and listen to Justin Timberlake. While those artists are very much from different sides of the musical spectrum, it all shaped McLaughlin’s taste in music. “Even though my parents are not big musicians,” McLaughlin said, “their music interests rubbed off on [my brother and I].”

McLaughlin also likes to spread his music to whomever he can. His grandma, who currently resides in New Mexico, has given his recordings to people she knows. Even though McLaughlin may not know the people who listen to his music, he is glad his music has gotten somewhere. For McLaughlin, it does not matter how much he is heard. He just wants someone to listen. “For me, I’m not so concerned about being heard and being popular,” McLaughlin said. “I just want to get my music out there for people who enjoy it.” His music has gotten somewhere, too. He released an album on Spotify and iTunes entitled “Lost in the City” in October 2015.

The biggest exposure for McLaughlin came when he appeared on KMTV’s “The Morning Blend.” He got the opportunity after a performance, when a woman came up to him and asked if he had ever been on “The Morning Blend.” Soon enough, he was on the television screens of people in Omaha. It was the first time



Photo Courtesy of JACK MCLAUGHLIN

Bringing his love of music and song to school, McLaughlin performed his craft for the crowd at Central’s 102nd Road Show.

McLaughlin was on television, but he was not as nervous as one might think. “People who have talked to me about it think it’s intimidating,” McLaughlin said. “But it’s really not. It’s pretty much like a small room with a camera, a couple couches and the hosts. It really wasn’t that bad, it actually was a lot of fun.”

For McLaughlin, it is not only the thrill of performing that he enjoys, but also the simple pleasure of playing his instrument and being able to see the reactions of those who hear it.

Along with his television performance, he frequently plays in smaller venues like cafes. Some nights, those performances can be a lot of fun and easy to get the crowd going, while other times it can be tough to raise the energy. The toughest part in a performance according to McLaughlin is believing in yourself.

Sometimes, he feels like he is not on the right path musically, but he always remembers an important piece of advice Conor Oberst told him. “Just keep doing what you are doing and don’t worry about anyone else. I try to keep that in the forefront of my mind at all times when I am playing music,” McLaughlin said.

As for his future with music, McLaughlin looks forward to his opportunities coming up. He plans on performing in Central’s Roadshow, as well as continuing to do his small venue shows. “I have been writing and recording a lot,” McLaughlin said. “I’m just going to keep pushing my music out there.”

‘Deadpool’ satisfies superhero fans, stays true to comic material



Photo Courtesy of CINEMABLEND.COM

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

Marvel movie fans have been begging production studios to make a decent R-rated superhero movie for over a decade. Some have been genuinely satisfied with Netflix’s “Daredevil” and “Jessica Jones”, but many fans wanted more.

However, 20th Century Fox decided to be bold. Thanks to Director Tim Miller, a hugely popular comic book character known as Deadpool finally made his silver screen debut. New fans of the comic book movie genre will get to know the massive contrast created by this film, primarily because it features much darker, adult content. This is not your average superhero movie, and it most definitely isn’t family-friendly. Not only is “Deadpool” excessively violent, it sports a lot of offensive humor. As a character, Deadpool is a tastefully perverted potty mouth, and that is portrayed throughout the movie.

“Deadpool” kicks off right away with an intense action sequence, featuring a very well-edited chain of special effects. We meet Deadpool as he’s taking a taxi to intercept a mobile group of criminals. Deadpool finally gets the drop on the caravan, and then proceeds to beat the living crap out of them. All of this is taking place while the car is still moving down a very busy highway, nonetheless. Filming an entire fight scene inside of a car is no easy task, but camera angles and the use of the car itself made this humorous segment very convincing.

One thing audiences will notice right off the bat with this film is that the writers used nonlinear storytelling to lay out the plot. Nonlinear storytelling is essentially when the plot is told out of order to build suspense and to intrigue the audience. This method of screenplay writing can be very effective if pulled off correctly, and “Deadpool” did not disappoint. As portrayed in the trailers, this movie is Deadpool’s origin story. However, the first scene takes place halfway through the actual timeline of events.

After a brief run in with secondary characters, Deadpool addresses the audience, taking them all the way back to the beginning in order to make sense of the highway scene. This part is crucial to the structure of the film, and fans will appreciate the application of 4th wall-breaking. Those who read the comics know that Deadpool has a tendency to address the audience on a regular basis, confusing the other characters of the story.

Wisecracking mercenary Wade Wilson lives a simple life of killing people for money and drinking. He often finds himself hanging around Sister Margaret’s Home for Wayward Girls, which is actually an underground bar. Wilson meets a woman named Vanessa here, and falls in love. The two form a close relationship, and begin to build a life together. Screenplay writers wasted no time showing the pair’s hilarious sexual banter.

Wilson soon discovers he has terminal cancer, and thinks he’s out of options. A mysterious figure approaches him, with promises of curing him. Wilson agrees to go with him, not knowing that he had just signed himself up to be a lab rat. Brutal experiments give Wilson extraordinary healing abilities and an even sicker sense of humor. After enduring horrible torture, Wilson escapes with severe bodily disfigurement. Now calling himself Deadpool, Wilson dons a mask and vows to get back at those who hurt him. Thus, the story progresses.

Director Tim Miller created a perfect mix of humorous and serious elements to tell Deadpool’s story. At times, the sex jokes got to be a little bit too much, but that’s Deadpool as a character. He’s supposed to annoy those around him, which is what makes him so lovable. As far as casting is concerned, it’s a major consensus that Ryan Reynolds was casted perfectly as Wade Wilson/Deadpool.

Reynolds himself says that he’s been looking forward to this movie for 11 years now. Comedian TJ Miller plays the part of Weasel, the owner and regular bartender at Sister Margaret’s Home for Wayward Girls. The chemistry between these two actors is perfect, and it’s been said that a very large portion of their lines were either improvised or written by the actors themselves.

“Deadpool” uses an assortment of practical and digital special effects. During the highway scenes, cars were

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OMAHA CUISINE

Local eateries offer unique tastes, blends and dishes, all seasoned with a healthy amount of cultural tradition.

The Bohemian Café

Georgia Chambers
executive editor

The Bohemian Café on 13th Street sticks out among the neighboring buildings and shops. Its cute design with blue exterior and block-lettered sign making it seem as if this is a restaurant brought to life from a storybook. The food itself is unique, but was not the most impressive aspect of the restaurant.

Outside of the café, a Czech flag can be seen flying next to the American flag. Before going in, I already knew that I was going to experience something that I had never had the opportunity to have before: traditional Czech cuisine.

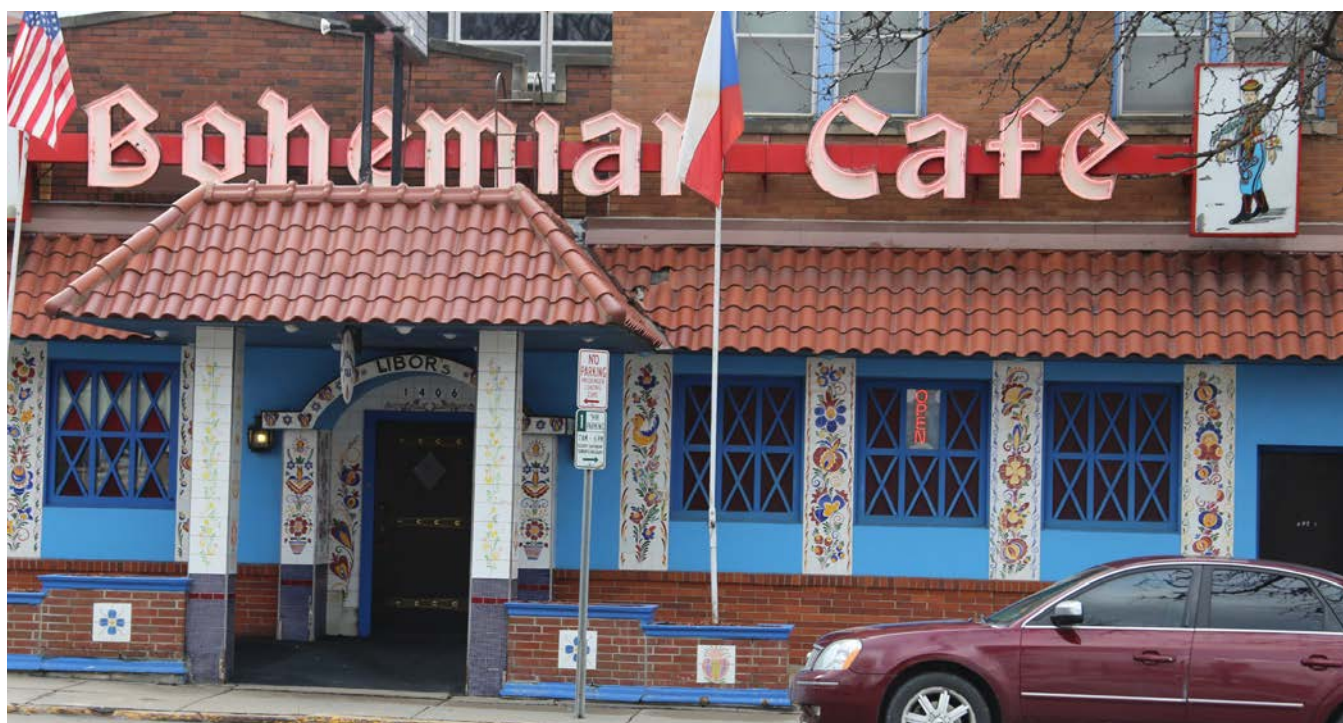
I am one fourth Czech, but my mom decided not to learn the art of preparing this style of cooking from her mother, so I went into the restaurant blind-sided. However, I did go in with the advice from my mom to avoid the Goulash.

The inside of the café is just as fairytale-like as the outside. Hand-painted folk-art pictures flood the walls, and as my eyes adjusted to the dim café, I saw how historical the place was. Walking inside the doors of the Bohemian Café was almost like walking back in time since it was first established in 1924 and moved to its current location in 1959.

This false reality of it being a café residing in the streets of Czechoslovakia exceeds the design of the building. Some waitresses circulate the restaurant in traditional Czech outfits. Czech music could be heard in the background, filling mid-conversations with the violin or other instruments. For the short period of time I was there, it felt as if I had left the country to enjoy a foreign meal.

The menu, of course, featured traditional meals alongside some cuisine I was used to. Since I am aware of chicken fried steak due to my southern roots, I decided to go with one of their feature dinners. I chose chicken noodle soup to start and the roast pork with a side of potatoes and corn for the main dish. I was not too adventurous in taste, but was interested to see what this common Czech meal would taste like.

My friend ordered the chicken fried steak, and it was adequate. I would not say it was any better than the chicken fried steak you could order at Cheddars, but it was not bad by any



ANN MILROY | The Register

Located on 13th Street, the Bohemian Cafe offers a wide selection of dishes as well as a home style feel and exterior look.

means.

The chicken noodle soup I ordered was good, and so was my roast pork. However, the potatoes were my favorite part of the meal. The mashed potatoes were flooded with gravy and had spices that made it unique from the usual mashed potatoes I have with only some pepper for flavor. The pork was also submerged in gravy and was good, but I would not go as far as to say it was the best prepared pork I have had.

Feeling a bit more adventurous I decided to ask for some of their Liver Dumpling Soup. When the soup came out, I began to regret this decision. A solid lump of what had to be liver sat in a brown broth. One bite of the liver and I was done. I

would not recommend trying this soup; stick with the chicken noodle.

For dessert, we split an apple strudel. The strudel came out warm, and was very delicious. The warm, thin crust and the filling seemed to melt in my mouth and offered just the right amount of sweet I was hoping for.

All in all, it was a good experience, especially to see a side of my heritage I have never experienced before, but the best part of the café was its history and its unique atmosphere. The food itself was decent, but not anything that would keep me coming back again and again. If I were to return on occasion, it would be to order their apple strudel.

Tanduri Indian



ANN MILROY | The Register

Tanduri Fusion brings the taste of Northern India to Omaha.

Carlson Koch
staff writer

Bursting with authentic flavor from Northern India, Tanduri Fusion brings a flavorful taste of India to Omaha located at 174th and Center.

Tanduri makes the guests feel like they are truly in India with ancient masks and carvings that were present during the time of Ganges Khan and his Mongol Army's rule.

The low light setting at each individual table or booth allowed for more of an experience with the people at your table rather than hearing the other people around.

When the Mango Lassi came out, a mixture of yogurt and mangos that satisfied my stomach before even indulging in any real food. The Lassi was the richest drink I've had for at least year.

With an array of wine, main dishes and appetizers such as naan bread of differing flavors, Tanduri has a selection that will suit most anyone's appetite. From noodle based dishes and rice with sauce for others, the restaurant seems to strive to please.

An appetizer of naan bread with different dips made it all too delectable to believe that I was not in heaven. Types of naan bread there differ from raisin, onion, cheese and a select amount of others.

On cold winter nights whether it be the daily soup or Muligatawny, both are excellent options. The daily soup changes

day to day from bowls of garbanzo bean, to a vegetable and a variety of others.

The Pad Tanduri was a dish I ordered that had an option of either chicken or vegetable, certainly the poultry is superior. The flavoring and authenticity of the noodles were unlike any others and topped the meal off.

This dish seemed to be the only one based on noodles, other than the other variation of a Pad Tanduri. Others were mainly a thick rich sauce that had lamb or chicken in it with a bowl of rice.

After asking for a box approximately the size of Taj Mahal to put the rest of my food in, the waitress brought the check for the meal.

Everything about the experience impressed me, the cost more so than anything else. This restaurant costs what an average meal would at a sit-down dinner.

The service was exceptional the whole time, the water in my glass never reached the bottom. After attending to us, she took care of all the other customers waiting to be served, and did so in a fashion that was impressive.

My personal experience at Tanduri would easily be rated as four out of five stars. The service, food and small setting all contributed to the rating, as they were exceptional enough to be better than most.

Dinner rush is prevalent at this restaurant, making the most efficient times five P.M. Or much later in the night. With reasonable prices, the Indian Cuisine suits a site for a date that includes all necessary aspects to be acceptable. Due to the prices, quantity and quality of everything, no reason should hold anyone back from regularly going.

It is worth returning to eat something rice based such as the Chicken Korma or Lamb Korma. Tanduri claims on their website to have, "savory clay oven dishes and exotic curries". Based on my experience, the cook skillfully combines spices to make every dish perfect in its own way.

Tanduri most clearly exemplifies an Indian Restaurant with an American twist to it.

Le Voltaire



Le Voltaire provides and dine in French cafe alongside its very own bakery. Together the two offer many French meals and desserts

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

As French restaurants are at a premium, Le Voltaire provides a unique taste of Frankish in Omaha. The owner, Cedric Fichelain was born in France, lived in Italy and finally moved to the US in 1997. He opened Le Voltaire in April 2001, and still, after more than fourteen years in Omaha, 'the little corner of France in West Omaha' has become one of the finest dining

establishments in town.

To begin one's dining experience, the appetizers are essential. The Brie Josette which is a baked brie served with an apricot-cranberry chutney provides the perfect match of a sharp cheese and sweetness of the chutney. Also, the assortment of three cheeses is a great way to get a taste and experience different types of unique French cheeses.

When it comes to choosing the entrée, it can be quite difficult. I would recommend the filet mignon for someone looking for a

meat option and for one not necessarily looking for a stereotypical french dish. The cut is extremely tender and will melt in the mouth. It is topped with either a brandy peppercorn, blue cheese, or red wine demi sauce; however, additional flavor is not necessarily needed. Lastly, the Filet is served with mashed potatoes and mixed vegetables. However, for someone who would like a seafood option look no further than the Bouillabaisse de Marseille or the seafood stew which contains flounder, tilapia, salmon, crawfish, mussels, and potatoes. Although these are some of my personal favorites, there are options on the menu to quench anyone's pallet.

Lastly, one of Le Voltaires homemade desserts is the perfect way to finish a meal. Their Crème Brulee bread puddings are both quality options. However, the desert of the day is always something worth checking out.

While the food at Le Voltaire never fails to exceed or meet expectations, the service is likewise. The only negative is that sometimes a drink stays empty with refills for a little longer than one would want. Otherwise, the waitresses are always nice and have a good grasp on the menu to give recommendations to someone struggling on what to order.

The only thing that may keep people from coming to Le Voltaire is the price. However, for a special occasion such as graduation or birthday it is well worth it. Furthermore, one of the typical complaints of French cuisine is that the portions are not large enough but Le Voltaire breaks this stereotype. Although prices are a little higher, one will not feel as if they did not get what they paid for after eating at Le Voltaire.

Along with the restaurant, Cedric also owns a bakery directly next to the Le Voltaire as well as in Papillion called Le Petit Paris. Opened from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesday-Friday and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. and 1 p.m. respectively on Saturday and Sunday, it is the perfect place to grab a quick lunch or pastry without eating a whole meal. Everything from a roasted turkey sandwich to macaroons and croissants, Le Petit Paris a reasonable and a great place to grab a quick bite to eat on the go.

All in all, anyone looking for a unique restaurant to visit for a special occasion should look no further than Le Voltaire.

Astoria Biryani House

Kelsey Thomas
editor-in-chief

Astoria Biryani House is a wonderfully authentic Indian restaurant located in a small, nondescript slot in a strip mall located off of 108th and Q Street. The day I visited the restaurant I was craving Indian food, and originally planned to dine at Mother India, my tried and true spot. To my dismay, Mother India was closed. Luckily, Astoria Biryani was able to satisfy my craving for classic Indian cuisine.

The restaurant may seem a little unapproachable to those who are not experienced in Indian food. The menu is simple, but packed with traditional dishes whose names aren't self-explanatory. I'll admit, I googled the names of a few choices before I ordered.

For an appetizer, I chose samosas, a fried pocket of spiced potatoes and peas. It was perfectly warm, and the right mix between crunchy and soft. The two piece dish is a good precursor to the meal, as it is satisfying but not too filling.

As a fan of Indian food with an embarrassingly low tolerance for spice, I typically stick to low-heat, chicken entrees. At Mother India my favorites include chicken tikki masala, which includes tomato, garlic, cream, and chili pepper, and saag paneer, made with spinach, butter and paneer cheese.

At Astoria Biryani, I skimmed the menu looking for similar choices. I ordered the chicken tikka masala, but did not find a replicate of the saag paneer. Instead, I chose a vegetarian biryani, a dish made primarily of rice which the restaurant claims as its specialty.

The chicken tikka masala surpassed my expectations. The meat was high quality, moist and perfectly seasoned. The sauce, while a little too hot for my taste and not as creamy as I expected, still complemented the chicken well. The dish included slices of cooked onions and green peppers, adding more unexpected, but welcome, variety.

The vegetarian biryani was a mix of mostly rice and some vegetables. I enjoyed the flavoring of the rice; it was in between sweet and spicy and served as a nice compliment to the chicken tikka masala. The vegetables also varied, and included currants, something not seen in most dishes. The biryani was well done, and it was easy to see why Astoria Biryani calls it its specialty. Still, it was nice to have a heavier dish to go along with it.



KELSEY THOMAS | The Register

The meal included a dish of rice, garlic naan and chicken tikka masala. The main dish included green pepper and onion.

Naan is probably my most valued part of Indian food. It comes in so many types, from to garlic to raisin, and it can be paired with almost anything. It can scoop up rice and sauces and serve as a flakey, buttery vehicle for any food. That being said, naan is an extremely vital piece as to whether or not I enjoy an Indian restaurant.

Astoria Biryani's naan impressed me. While it was a little greasier than what I am used to, it was also well-flavored and fresh. It was crunchy in the way that bread is supposed to be, and I had no problem mixing it with my other food.

Mother India may still have my heart, but Astoria Biryani is a nice substitute for any craving for classic Indian cuisine.

Family history of drug abuse does not need to define children

CONTINUED FROM 'FATHER' ON PAGE 15

Around 2011 things seem to be okay again, my dad slowed down on the drinking and cared about his family more. Then when my brother was in the first and second grade he became a sad child. He acted out a lot in class and was angry with everything in his life.

When he started saying crazy stuff like he "wished he was dead" or he "felt like no one loves him," our parents put him in counseling. It seemed to help him and he became okay again, not perfect but he was more behaved and not as angry with his life.

During 2011-2012 my mom had finally became better and I talked to her all the time and spent the night at her house. A year later my seventh and eighth grade year in school something began to change in the house. Our parents were remodeling the house and decided to move downstairs. My dad and my brother's mom became very distant from my brother and me. We didn't really like how the house was separating.

During middle school I wasn't happy with my life and I didn't know why. I was occasionally bullied at school and the household wasn't okay anymore. I started to act like my brother and get mad at everything in my life and I started thinking that everyone would be better off if I wasn't here anymore.

Eventually someone at school told the counselors that I had cuts on my arm, which wasn't a lie and they called my parents and I into the office. Truthfully I began to cut myself because I wasn't happy with my life and it was an escape for me. Eventually I was put in counseling just like my brother. And got somewhat better.

In 2014 the house was scary and always weird. My brother and I would stay cooped up in our rooms all day and night until I made us something to eat and when we had to shower. I could tell that my dad didn't eat and he was beginning to act and look different, but I couldn't see anything different with my brother's mom.

It wasn't long before I figured out that my dad was on drugs again. I started asking questions to my mom about how my dad acted when he was a drug addict, and she told me the exact

same thing I was seeing around the house.

When I finally realized what was wrong with him I was heartbroken. The saddest part is that he didn't know that I knew what was wrong with him. He tried to hide it everyday, which just made it worse. He would have sleeping episodes to where he didn't even act like my dad. Talking to him about anything was uncomfortable because he would fall asleep out of nowhere and I hated being in the car with him because he would always fall asleep behind the wheel.

I was uncomfortable being around him and all his drug addict friends that would come in and out of the house any hour of the night. I felt trapped there, like I had nowhere else to go. Domestic violence was happening again but it was even worse than it was when he was an alcoholic. My little brother and his mom couldn't take it anymore so they moved out of the house.

When they left that's when I really felt alone. My brother's mom felt bad for leaving me but she couldn't take me with her, because my dad wasn't going to let that happen.

I was alone and not happy living there with a drug addict I'm supposed to call dad. I didn't talk to him a lot. I stayed in my room from the minute I got home from school, till the time I left for school. I was in charge of cleaning the house and making him dinner and still getting my homework done.

Finally one day I couldn't take it anymore and I ran away. It was the beginning of freshman year I couldn't handle it anymore. I moved into my grandmas the day I ran away. My dad treated me like I was guilty for running away, like I had disobeyed him.

The rest of freshman year I lived with my grandma and grandpa. I really didn't see my brother anymore and my dad and I didn't talk for a long time.

I didn't want to talk to him because I was angry and upset but somehow still loved him which made me hate him even more. I felt bad for him but at the same time sometimes, I didn't care if was dead.

While living with my grandma and grandpa my dad was arrested and got into a severe motorcycle accident trying to flee from the police. He crashed his motorcycle going over 100 mph.

The doctors said if he would've continued running from the police in the serious condition he was in after the crash had happened he would've broken his spine.

I loved my grandma and grandpas house but it was far away from my mom and all my friends, I began to feel lonely there as well. My mom and I become really close and she wanted to start being a mom for me in my life.

Finally the summer before sophomore year I moved in with my mom and things got better again. I wasn't used to living with my mom so I didn't know how to act. She told me that living at my dad's house ruined me. That she sees I never smile or laugh as much anymore like I used to and that deep down inside I will never be the happy little girl like I was when my dad first got out of prison.

Currently I still live with my mother, I try to see and talk to my little brother when I can. I still never talked to my dad as much and sadly my dad has currently been arrested again and has even more charges than he had the last time. Since he was already a convicted felon he is now looking at 10 years in prison for the second time.

My dad wasn't there for me for my first day of kindergarten and probably won't be there for my high school graduation. All I hope is that this time he finally realizes what he needs to do in his life to make it better and come out a clean new person. Not just any person but the dad I remember.

I'll admit I was a daddy's girl and having him be that one person in my life that I looked up to and loved no matter what was the one person that shattered my heart in a way no one else could.

I want people to read this and know that if your situation is similar to mine, just know that it does get better. Even if the person you love isn't okay, you will be okay. This is a reminder to let anyone of any age know that drugs are never an option. Because not only do you destroy your life, you destroy everyone else's life that loves you.

I still love him and always want him to be in my life. But right now him and I both need time to think of our futures.

I love you dad.

New superhero film shows utmost quality

CONTINUED FROM 'DEADPOOL' ON PAGE 17

flipped, explosions erupted and a lot of blood was shed. These sequences required a lot of digital perfecting. Even still, "Deadpool" exhibits production value that is comparable to other superhero movies in its caliber.

This film did an excellent job incorporating details from the comic books, as well as other pre-existing movies. The superpowered team known as the X-Men makes efforts all throughout the movie to persuade Deadpool into joining them to do good, but Deadpool is most definitely not a hero.

Overall, "Deadpool" is deserving of the appeal it's been getting. This film isn't for the easily offended, but it's worth seeing. It deserves an 8 out of 10 rating. For those who are discouraged by the fact that it's a comic book movie, have faith. A laugh is guaranteed.

Photography class coming next year

CONTINUED FROM 'NEW CLASS' ON PAGE 15

"My students have struggled with knowing how to take a good photo and what to take photos of, so I'm hoping this course will help those who want to join newspaper or yearbook," Blayney said.

To plan the new course, Blayney had to discuss with Jodie Martinez, the English department head, and data administrator Tom Wagner. After the idea for the class passed through these avenues, it was taken to the district, which required Blayney to write a course description before it was approved.

Photojournalism will bring several new cameras to the journalism department as well.

"With a course specializing in photography, upgraded technology was definitely necessary," Blayney said.

Blayney has no future plans for additional courses, but she does hope to keep seeing journalism grow at Central.

"I am only one person and can only do so much. I love seeing the journalism department grow," she said, "but in order for there to be more classes, there would have to be another teacher in addition to myself."



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Rapper sets high expectations, hopes to pursue music career in future

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

Today, young people are the principle target audience for much of the music made, and although many youths dream of one day joining the ranks of the popular artists, very few actually ever begin making their own music. Junior Sayer Harris however, is one of these few, who has been writing his own rap and hip hop music since age ten, and for the last several months has even released his own studio produced mixtapes.

Harris has lived in Omaha all his life, and attended Conestoga elementary school and Lewis and Clark middle school before coming to Central. Throughout both grade, middle and into high school, starting all the way back at the age of three, Harris has played baseball, also combining it with some hoop game, when he said simply, "I play a lot of basketball."

Along with sports, music has also remained a steadfast staple of his life, and serves as one of the larger motivating factors in his realization of his own music dreams. Early influences were the likes of Eminem, Immortal Technique and Will Smith. Harris would go on to combine these sounds and styles with his own unique twists and also personal emotion stemming from his father's own deployment in the nation's armed forces. He said, "My dad went into the Army, and was stationed in Hawaii, so I rarely saw him ever, and in that time I was very into music."

Harris's own foray into the music world began when his father came home as he said, "I wrote my first rap when I was ten and my dad came back to Omaha. Unfortunately, I lost it, but ever since then I knew I wanted to become a rap artist, so I can change lives of others like hip hop did for me."

With this in mind, Harris began writing his own lyrics and experimenting with sounds, but it wasn't until this past October, that he was able to step into a studio for the first time and begin recording some tracks. "I would love for my music to get huge. I've always wanted to be a rap artist, but my situation hasn't always allowed it. What really made me kick my music into gear was last year my mom was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor, and I really needed something to take our minds off of her struggle." Carrying this motivation forward, and having more doors open up with regard to recording opportunities, Harris pushed his interest in music even further, and to make the producing of his own tracks even sweeter, his mother defeated the cancer, as he said, "Thankfully her surgery went well



Photo Courtesy of SAYER HARRIS

Sayer Harris has grown up being influenced by music. In the future, he wishes to become globally recognized due to his music.

and her cancer has been beaten."

Aside from pursuing his rapping, Harris also takes honors and AP classes and plays on Central's golf team, and enjoys not only the sport itself but also the philosophy behind it. He said, "Someone told me, 'Golf is like reaching your aspirations in life, it really sucks at first, but it gets better by the second round.'" To him, this quote, "really says something about my character though. I am a definite finisher and I persevere through things." For Harris, this constant work ethic and consistent effort have been key to music, sports, school and any tough emotional times at home.

Looking to the future, Harris would like to follow his dream of being a rapper to the university level, where he plans to study music production and chemical engineering. He said, "I have looked at the University of Maryland Ann Arbor, Chicago at Loyola and several other[s], and I will continue to make music

in my dorm room with a home studio when I get there."

As far as his music goes, regardless of all that he has already accomplished, Harris still sees room for improvement. "I could be so much better, but I was delayed as I had no musical connections. I need someone who can succeed in music promotion," he continued, "I want my music to be heard throughout the school, and throughout Omaha, so one day soon it will be heard around the U.S....then globally heard."

As for Central, Harris said he will always be thankful for the education he has been receiving and also the numerous activities available alongside his baseball and golf experiences. He said, "Central is the gate of opportunity, it is the birthplace of my music career and it will be the most influential four years of my life."

Trip provides opportunity for students to practice foreign languages



Photo Courtesy of CONCORDIA LANGUAGE VILLAGES

Left: Students, before their departure, smile in front of the German camp's train station. Middle: French students' quarters. Right: Students dine and speak in their designated language.

Hayley Raney
staff writer

Central's world language teachers Erica Meyer, Micah Ringlein, Javier Juarez and Brian Tyrey took a total of 38 students to a language immersion camp in Minnesota in February. The teachers and students stayed in cabins located on Lake Concordia.

The teachers plan to continue going with their students in future years. Ringlein, a French teacher, said that, "it benefits their ability to learn the language outside the classroom."

The three language groups, German, French and Spanish stayed for two days, during which it mandatory for students to speak in their designated language. "Every meal they announce one student that tried their hardest to speak in the language the longest," Meyer, department head and German teacher, said.

During meals the camp staff awarded students that spoke in their designated language for 80 percent of the entire day. French students were awarded a trinket called "Super French" and all nine students from Central's French class earned an award.

The camp had a student dance, sport activities, cards games and outdoor activities. All teachers agreed that the best part of the trip was the new, foreign foods.

Teachers also said that the camp provides real-world experience in different languages. "I think it makes the kids realize they can actually use the language, it gives them an opportunity," Meyer said.

The Spanish and French languages revolved around a specific theme during their stay. The Spanish students focused on Cuban culture while the French learned about Jacques Cousteau, a sea explorer.

The French class activities included seafood tasting, snowshoeing, hiking and French conversation tables. German activities included hiking, singing songs and playing soccer.

Freshman Natalie Kammel attended the French camp. She chose French because she "thought it was more interesting than Spanish and wanted to give it a try."

Junior Christian Richt chose to take German his family is fully German, and noted that it is the most spoken language in Europe. He could not attend the language trip this year, but attended the trip the past two years. Richt will remember his

trips to the camps as a "really different way of looking at your language."

Both Kammel, and Richt when he attended, definitely looked forward to the food along with all the teachers that went.

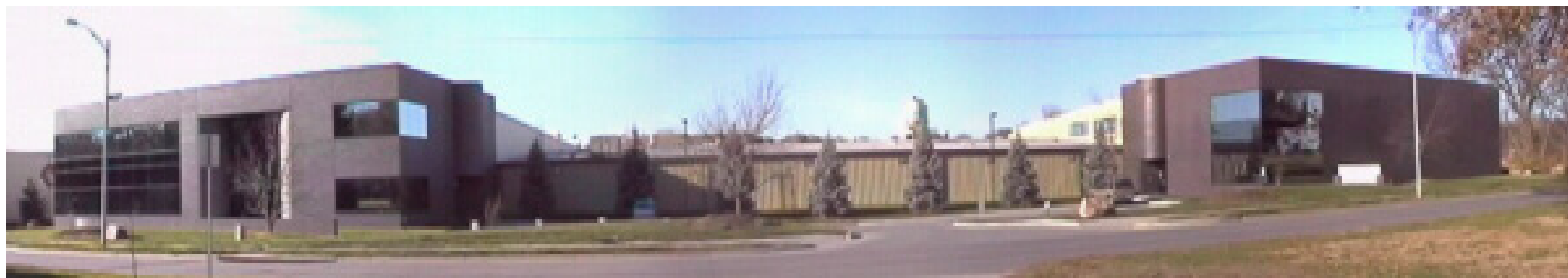
Kammel said trips like these impact Central's language classes by "having a deeper appreciation for the language." Kammel admitted that when she got back from the camp that she actually "paid a lot more attention in class." Kammel has not decided yet if she wants to go again next year.

The Spanish class had activities such as, "salsa, bachata, soccer playing and dancing to Cuban rhythms," Juarez said. Juarez was a chaperone on the trip. The Spanish class ate Cuban dishes for their meals that revolved around their learning experience.

Juarez hopes the students learned basics of Cuban culture. "I'm proud they stepped up to the plate, they were willing to undertake the risk of being nervous and anxious," Ringlein said.

This trip was a great opportunity for students to improve their language. Meyer hopes the students remember the trip as "fun and worthwhile." For students wishing to experience this opportunity, the next trip will be this spring.

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This new, privately-owned ice rink occupies a historic building in Omaha.



SEFF CLEAVER

26

Varsity wrestler, Seff Cleaver, finishes the season strong at state wrestling.

CONDITIONING

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Three spring sports practices are documented through this photoset.



sports & leisure

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#HOTREF

Clete Blakeman, Super Bowl referee from Omaha gained national recognition on social media as the #HotRef



Photo Courtesy of CLETE BLAKEMAN

Blakeman officiates Super Bowl 50 in Santa Clara, Calif. He played for the Huskers in college.

Georgia Chambers executive editor

Omaha lawyer Clete Blakeman became an overnight sensation after refereeing Super Bowl 50, as Twitter quickly went about trending him as 'Hot Ref.'

Blakeman started out officiating as a means for him to continue to be involved with football. He finished playing at the University of Nebraska, serving as their backup quarterback in 1987, and entered Law School the next year. In the fall of 1988, Blakeman began working high school football games with his father's officiating team. Friday nights consisted of him working alongside his father at various high school games.

This is currently Blakeman's eighth year in the NFL, but when he first began refereeing alongside his father, he did not know what to expect.

"I didn't have any ultimate plan that I was going to be in the NFL and that someday I'd work the Super Bowl. It was just working it and enjoying it, that it kind of became a part of my blood, so to speak; I enjoyed it enough to where I wanted to continue on. I started to think about what other levels I could do it on," Blakeman said.

Refereeing high school games turned into refereeing for small colleges, and from there he earned the opportunity to referee the Big 12 Conference. At this point, he had his eyes set on the NFL. "It materialized as a step-by-step process," Blakeman said.

Selection for the Super Bowl is mostly based on a referee's performance during the regular season. Each game

that Blakeman was involved with was evaluated and graded by the NFL supervisors. Since it is performance based, the final selection process included how they graded out all year long.

Blakeman was ecstatic when he was informed that he was chosen to referee Super Bowl 50. He knew he had to set aside his nerves, keeping in mind he was following Lady Gaga's performance and the flyover and could not let the pressure of the game get to him.

"I prepped myself... 'Once we get ready to kickoff it really is just a football game.' That was a calming moment that I had when I'm like, 'Okay, it's time now to play football. This is the opportunity. I'm here. Let's enjoy it, and let's work a football game,'" Blakeman said.

The moment right before the game was Blakeman's favorite part of the Super Bowl, even though there were numerous memorable aspects of the game. Before kickoff, Blakeman stood alone in the end zone and had a few moments to reflect and take in the intense atmosphere.

"We were waiting for TV to come back to get the cue to signal the kicker to kick... You have those few moments to reflect a little bit. And have that calmness come over you and know a lot of work, a lot of preparation, a lot of time and a lot of commitment went into getting here. And so, you just want to make the game flow as easily as it can," Blakeman said.

However, the game did play out exactly the way Blakeman had hoped it would. There was a controversial call

CONTINUE TO 'REF'
ON PAGE 24

NSAA develops unified bowling program for disabled young athletes

Alec Rome
web editor

The NSAA is looking to implement more programs and legislation in order to give disabled athletes a greater opportunity to compete. A unified bowling program is being developed currently in seven NSAA member schools, but the NSAA is choosing to take their time on making sure the program is as beneficial as possible.

Unified Sports allow disabled and non-disabled students to compete together in athletics. Teams would consist of a mix of disabled and non-disabled students. These programs began in the United States back in January 2013, when the federal government encouraged schools throughout the country to provide disabled students with the same opportunities and chances to benefit from a school district's program as a non-disabled student.

Legislation for the program in Nebraska was first implemented back in 2014 during the NSAA's Representative Assembly. A passed bylaw allowed for "unified activities" in the association. Now the NSAA has seven schools that are participating in unified bowling for the 2016-2017 school year, and according to NSAA Assistant Director Dan Masters, hopefully more in the future. "Our mission at the NSAA involves providing activities for all of our students in Nebraska," Master said. "Unified Sports will serve as another opportunity for all of our students to get involved in an activity."

“ We feel that educationally based activities are a part of the formula for success in life. Unified Sports has the potential to positively affect and change a school's culture. ”

DAN MASTERS

NSAA Assistant
Director

The NSAA has worked with Special Olympics Nebraska in order to kickstart the Unified Sports program, the organization that these seven schools partnered with to start their unified bowling programs. Currently, those schools play with very little school sponsorship, according to Masters, which is why the Special Olympics Nebraska partnership was so vital. "[Special Olympics Nebraska] has been a tremendous asset and help throughout the process," Masters said. "Together, we have been trying to educate our membership, athletic directors, principals, superintendents and school boards through communication, presentations and conferences."

Responses from member schools of the NSAA has been overwhelmingly positive thus far. The NSAA will continue to survey and gain support for the Unified Sports program as they develop the bowling program and add more sports in the future, such as track and field and golf. Nothing has been finalized yet regarding future unified sports, but the details regarding bowling have become clearer. The format for the regular season, details on partner eligibility and handbooks have been discussed and approved by the NSAA.

As for the format of a state tournament, that is still quite unclear, because there may not be enough schools to actually conduct a state tournament. While the format has been discussed, according to Masters the board won't decide until later this year if there will be post-season play for the 2016-2017 school year.

Masters hopes that a unified bowling program would be a special addition in the NSAA's member schools. "There is something special about competing, practicing, learning, and socializing on a school based team," Masters said. "Unified Sports, bowling will allow schools to witness all of this amongst students that may not have had these same opportunities in the past."

The Unified Sports program also seems to align perfectly with the goals of the association, according to Masters. "We feel that educationally based activities are a part of the formula for success in life," Masters said. "Unified Sports has the potential to positively affect and change a school's culture."

Local lawyer earns national recognition at Super Bowl, dubbed 'Hot Ref'

CONTINUED FROM 'REF' ON PAGE 24

made stating Panther's wide receiver Jericho Cothery did complete the pass, but Blakeman and his team stood by this call and added, "I don't think I'd change anything that happened in the game in any way."

When the call was made ruling the pass incomplete, there was an uproar and backlash from the crowd and even some players. As a referee, there is a lot of pressure that can be difficult to handle.

Blakeman deals with it in a couple of different ways, but is a bit more understanding since he has had experience having played football himself.

"Since I played the game myself, I understand a little bit of the pressures involved with both coaches and players, and the competitive stuff everyone has flowing through their veins, and a little bit of the component of performance everyone is under," Blakeman said.

Since he understands the pressure the players are under, and feels as if he can relate well to a lot of the players, he always listens to them and hears what they have to say.

"The number one thing is that I realize the pressure everyone is under, I mean we all are. It's just the nature of the game. It's high speed; it's a game that is dependent upon 11 guys working together on each side. There are a lot of components... I think I understand that pretty well and am able to adjust," Blakeman said.

As for calling personal fouls, Blakeman says that he knows when to step in and how to handle it in a professional manner. Blakeman and his team try to intervene as much as possible to break confrontations up on the field and not call a foul, but

"there are sometimes when the rulebook calls for it to be a foul, or a player crosses the line and we gauge it to be an unsportsmanlike foul... that's unnecessary and flagrant."

As the whistle signaled halftime, and as the players rushed into their designated locker rooms, the referees left the field too, away from the crowd's attention.

"We were just in the locker room sitting back. We had the TV on, and we watched the halftime show... We were getting stuff to eat, fueling up and getting ready for the second half. But just like anybody, we just watched the halftime show," Blakeman said.

As halftime ended and second half began, Blakeman continued to carry out his duties to the best of his ability. The game continued to run just as smoothly as the first half, and as the game wound down to its last minutes, Blakeman realized the significance of officiating this game; it is unsure whether or not Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning will be returning next year, but many say he will be retiring after this last Super Bowl win.

"It was truly an honor and a privilege to be there... and those two guys [Manning and the Panthers' quarterback Cam Newton], especially with Peyton he is a legend of the game, to have that take-away from it that I worked his last game. And you know the same thing with Cam, there are so many other players on the field too that are really good people and tremendous athletes," Blakeman said.

Typically, after the Super Bowl ends there are posts on media sites about the performance of the referees, but it is almost always short-lived. Though, Blakeman's fame on Twitter was anything but short-lived and rather gained a lot of momentum.

People surpassed Blakeman's expectations of a "few tweets here and there," and 'Hot Ref' became a popular trend that countless people were tweeting about. The tweets focused more on his physical appearance than his Super Bowl performance, but Blakeman laughingly admitted that he enjoyed this thoroughly.

"It's always good to be recognized for doing good work and for people to recognize your professionalism, but then the whole social media stuff completely, aside from that, related to 'Hot Ref,' which I didn't have any expectation of," Blakeman said.

His wife may have enjoyed this more than Blakeman did himself. One of the benefits of 'Hot Ref' blowing up on social media was the opportunity for Blakeman and his wife to fly out to New York for the Today Show. Blakeman said this was just one of the number of things they got to do with it. "It was something she and I shared together and got a little bit of a chuckle of," Blakeman said.

As for the future, Blakeman hopes to continue to be involved with officiating professional football games and to hopefully work another Super Bowl. Every year marks a fresh start, so Blakeman says he needs to continue to improve. Every year is a new challenge for them as individuals and as a crew collectively.

"The thing is that everybody in the league in the world of officiating is competitive, so I want to keep getting better. This isn't the point where I'm like, 'Okay, I've done this, and so now I'm just going to coast.' That's the last thing I would ever expect of anybody, including myself," Blakeman said. "Every year you go out and try to perform better than you did the previous year. We will see what will develop in the years to come."

New ice rink opens, featuring modern setup and multiple amenities

Anna Kaminski
staff writer

A new local attraction, called Grover Ice Rink, opened off of 60th and Grover this fall. Grover Ice has an abundance of attractive features that are unique to this kind of business.

Grover Ice is the only 100% privately owned ice skating rink in Omaha. Additionally, Grover Ice is located in an older building resulting in a desire to maintain the building's tradition. "We are located in an old building with a lot of history," said General Manager Evan Schinasi, 33, "and we did a great job of keeping that feel to the space while adding all the modern, high tech amenities that a new facility is capable of having."

Schinasi has worked for Grover Ice since the "planning and construction phase." His job is to oversee all business transactions, facility operations and some days he even takes care of the ice. "Some days I do accounting, work with customers, or whatever needs to be taken care of at the moment," said Schinasi. "My favorite part of the job is seeing our customers having fun."

On the other hand, Schinasi's job keeps him extremely busy. "The least favorite part of the job is dealing with unexpected surprises," said Schinasi. "When the power goes off in the middle of the night for example, our equipment that keeps the ice frozen would also be off, and it can cause some stressful moments."

What really sets Grover Ice apart from other ice rinks such as Moylan Ice Plex or ConAgra is that, first of all, it's newer and more modernized, and, second of all, that it offers a wide variety of contemporary features and several hosting opportunities. Some of Grover Ice's flashy luxuries include state-of-the-art locker rooms, HDTVs, a digital jukebox, free WiFi, food and drink, spa-like showers and furnished party rooms.

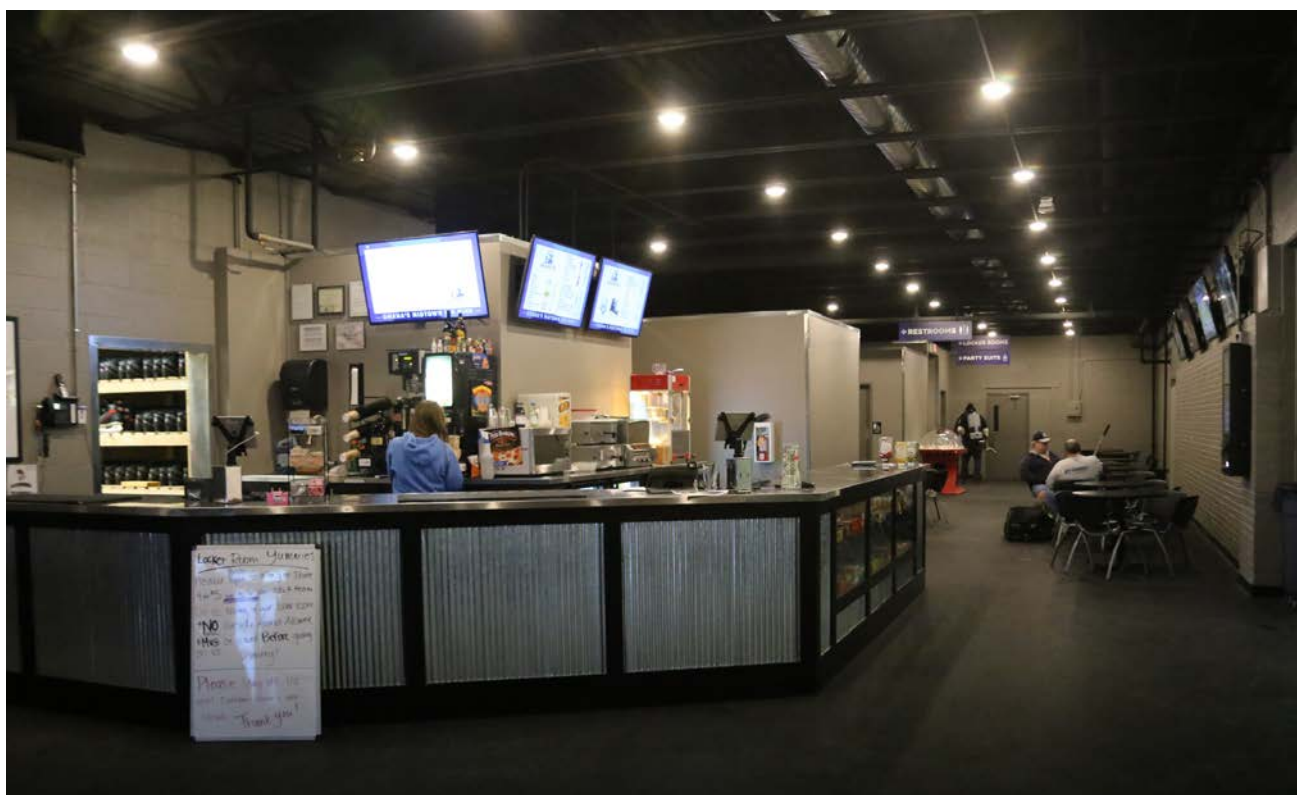
Grover Ice's furnished party rooms are available for any occasion. People host birthday parties, team dinners, corporate events, school or church groups, etc. at Grover Ice. To encourage an interactive and community-driven environment, Grover Ice encourages patrons to take pictures of their experience there and upload them to social media with the hashtag #groverice to add to the Grover Ice photo gallery.

Not only does it have plenty of leisure activities to participate in, but Grover Ice also encourages values of teamwork, dedication and drive. The rink hosts various hockey leagues and clubs, "broomball" clubs and open skating (see groverice.com for specific hours and fees). In addition to the recreational activities, Grover Ice is also planning on offering figure skating lessons and currently offers hockey lessons and \$5 skate sharpening.

"Grover Ice is a great place to visit and hang out with friends," said Schinasi, "We made sure the prices are fair, allowing people to come and enjoy themselves without spending a bunch of money."

Grover Ice opened last fall and has already had booming success. According to Schinasi, people have been streaming in the doors and coming back for more. "We are new business and still working to make people aware of who we are and what we do" said Schinasi, "Things are going well for us, but we hope to continue to see new faces and make new friends."

As for the future of Grover Ice, Schinasi said, "We want to provide a fun, community centered place for people in Omaha to enjoy sports and recreation on the ice."



ANN MILROY | The Register

Grover Ice, Omaha's newest ice rink, opened up on 60th and Grover this fall. The rink also includes state-of-the-art locker rooms as well as HDTVs, a digital jukebox, free WiFi, spa-like showers, food and drink and furnished party rooms.

Central graduate pursues basketball at local college, aspires for more



Photo Courtesy of TRESHAWN THURMAN

Following three state titles at Central, Thurman continues his sport at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. Now in his second collegiate season, he hopes to go pro following his graduation.

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

From 2006-2013, the Omaha Central basketball team won seven state championships, becoming a dynasty to be reckoned with throughout the country; University Nebraska Omaha player TreShawn Thurman was around for three of these championships. Thurman averages 14 points and seven rebounds per game as a sophomore at UNO, along with his former central teammate TraDeon Hollins who transferred to this year and is currently a junior.

Since he was young, Thurman knew that basketball was his ticket to success in the future. "I was always bigger than most kids and not to sound cocky, but better than most as well. It was instilled in me at a young age by my stepdad that every time I get on any court that I am the best player on it, I carry that mentality with me now. And that helped me understand that I could do this for a long time," Thurman said.

Although Thurman has experienced success after his career at Central, he never forgets where he came from. "Playing at Central taught me many things, the first is playing with other talents so I had to learn how to be a big part of the team rather than a one man show. Another thing was how to be tough knowing that every time we played a team it was their Superbowl," Thurman said, "[Central also taught me] no matter what

you do you have to put your heart in it and be passionate about it to give yourself the best possible way to succeed."

While at Central, both teachers and colleagues influenced him. "The most influential person to me at Central was Coach [Eric] Behrens because he believed in me so much and trusted that I would eventually learn and mature throughout my years there," Thurman said.

In terms of teammates, one in particular sticks out to him. "The person who taught me the most on Central basketball team had to be Akoy [Agau]," Thurman said. Agau played at central for four straight state championships from 2010-2013 and now plays at Georgetown University after transferring from Louisville. "I came to central because of Akoy and he kind of took me under his wing throughout those championship runs. I talk to him still to this day. The most important thing he taught me was professionalism, how to carry myself when things start going good not to get too high or too low," he said.

Thurman especially applied this virtue during his first year at UNO, "That was huge for me with my first year of college because we never really got to where we wanted to be with winning but I kept my head up because of what he taught me."

During his time at Central, although he won three state championships, his greatest memory occurred at a different time. "The proudest moment to me was when we were able to beat Oak Hill Academy. This was because everyone in that state

doubted us and you have to remember this same year we went to Florida, so even though we won one game down there, we still lost twice so people didn't think we could compare to other top recruits and team in the country," Thurman said.

Thurman is no longer alone at UNO as the only Omaha Central alumna since TraDeon Hollins has transferred. As the Division 1 steals leader, Hollins brings Omaha toughness to the team and a chemistry with Thurman. "For one, Tradeon's presence has allowed me to play better defense and also his passing ability has gotten me open shots so it is great having him," Thurman said.

In terms of life after college, Thurman has his sights set on one goal, becoming a professional basketball player. "Hopefully I can become good enough to go pro, this is really the only goal I have after college and I plan to work my hardest in and out of the season to do this. I know things can happen like injuries or whatever but I want to cross that bridge if it comes," Thurman said.

For young basketball players in Omaha, Thurman has one main piece of advice: be noticed. Thurman said, "What I mean by that is that they have to play for the best AAU summer teams if you are good enough to make them. The more you are seen the more your name will get out there and the higher percentage of you being recruited."

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Student-athlete a part of competitive league, chosen for all-star game

Choteau Kammel
executive editor

Central High School is attended by over 2500 students, and out of this number many participate in athletics both inside and outside of school. However, few of these students take up a stick and a puck out on the ice rink. Although all athletics require both skill, ability and varying levels of team work and strategy, only hockey mandates those while moving with eleven other players on a sheet of ice. Classified as a contact sport, hockey can be both physically and mentally taxing, but for junior Ryan Brown, it is not only his entertainment form of choice, but also a life passion.

Brown has lived in Omaha all his life, and attended Boyd elementary and then Morton middle school before coming to Central for his secondary education. During his 8th grade year when it was time for high school selection, Brown had actually considered Northwest as being his school of choice, that is until being able to see Central up close and in person, as he said of Northwest, "When I went to the open house it didn't look that appealing to me. So I went to Central's and it looked way better." Almost three years later, and Brown has not looked back once.

Throughout both his life and academic career, Brown has been playing sports. Although now hockey may be his sole sport of preference, at one point or another Brown has also played soccer and participated in competitive swimming, but ultimately coming to the realization that hockey was what he wanted to dedicate his time and effort towards. "Over time I realized that hockey was by far my favorite and best sport," he said, "It's the most intense and entertaining sport that I've ever played." With eight year of experience on the ice, Brown has been able to learn and hone the finer points of the game as well as also socialize. He said, "I've made really great friends because of the sport and it's really weird to think about if I'd never played it I wouldn't have met them."

Looking ahead to college following his final year and a half at Central, Brown would like to attend a school close to home, but also one that possesses an ice hockey team, so that he would be able to continue his love for the sport while also working towards educating himself for the future. He said, "I'd like to keep on playing hockey in college for a smaller school [and] possibly then play in an adult's league when I am older." For Brown, college will be both a time to continue learning in



Photo Courtesy of RYAN BROWN

Brown has been playing ice hockey for eight years, and was selected for his league's all-star game this current season.

order to find a career, but also a time to further advance the play of the game and the pace at which it is played, and it is that ever raising the bar that keep him on his A game and practicing hard.

Of course, no athlete can hope to make it alone without the help of experience coaches with a vested interest in their performance, and Brown is no exception to this rule. He explained, "Almost all of my coaches have made a difference in my life. They gave me advice and someone to look up to." As with most sports, many parallels can be drawn between the game and real life, and it is this correlation that much of the coaching advice comes involves.

This hockey season, Brown has been playing for a team called Metro North, and was recently one of a select number of players chosen by coaches to play in the exclusive all-star game.

Playing on the red team, Brown and his squad ultimately went on to win the game 8 to 6. He said, "I got chosen to play with the best players in the league," and as most athletes know one of the most effective ways to improve one's game is by playing against the strongest competition available. For Brown, the hard work and gritty determination required during the regular season both in games and in practice are entirely worth it, because doing so makes even more improvement available.

Lastly, although Central may not have been his first choice, it certainly was the right choice, as he said of one of the school's greatest attributes, its diversity, "The thing I like about Central is all the cool and different people I get to meet at this school that I wouldn't get to meet at any other."

Sophomore wrestler overcomes age barrier, makes it to state competition



CHELSEA JONES | The O Book

Top: Cleaver pins his opponent during a dual.

Bottom: Cleaver wins the dual and advances to the next round.

Carlson Koch
staff writer

Joseff Cleaver wrestled his way to the Class A State Championships, and he was only one of two students from Central to qualify for the tournament this past winter.

"Stepping on the mat I feel excited from the adrenaline that starts pumping through my body," Cleaver said. His dad wrestled in high school which is what he says to be the motivating factor for him to continue to wrestle.

Often, growing up and being part of any club team of any sport gives individuals advantages over others who start in middle school. However, Cleaver began his trek in middle school where he wrestled on the varsity level his first year and qualified for state his second year of high school.

People's first time at huge events with large crowds are normally when they do not compete at their highest. Having gone this year, Cleaver said "I will go to state next year, and have an advantage over people who haven't."

"I didn't do as well as I had hoped, but I learned a lot and am looking to do better next year," said Cleaver.

He plans taking what he learned this year, to gain understanding of what to prepare for next year. Understanding will include things such as more techniques and advanced moves to help him take down the competition.

Especially because of his age, it is more often than not harder for younger people to handle stressful situations. "When I got up there, a lot of people were watching me," said Cleaver "and all of the guys looked tough."

Cleaver is only a sophomore but will be potentially wrestling against upperclassmen, as long as they are in the same weight class.

For players in clubs or teams outside of school,

more years means more experience and this can give them the upper-hand. He has only wrestled since seventh grade, he noted at state that everyone was strong and knew what they were doing. Despite the frustrations of not placing as well as he had hoped, "It was fun," he said, "especially watching parents who didn't know much about wrestling yell at the top of their lungs."

Even though wrestling consists of coaches and teammates, it is an individual sport. On the mat, it is only you and the other person on the mat. For Cleaver, this is what stands out to him the most and why he does what he is doing.

Having only wrestled for four years, he surpasses many other wrestlers who compete for that little of time and make it that far in competition. Cleaver said he learned so much and has loved the sport with such a passion that he has always felt that he constantly wanted to improve more.

After all, although practice may not ever bring perfection, it sure does make one's game a heck of a lot better, and wrestling is no exception to this mantra. Cleaver hopes to continue to advance his techniques, skills and fitness level in order to better support himself and his team.

"The team and I have grown so much, I feel that we are all brothers and I love that," said Cleaver. Not only wrestling, but other sports such as soccer and football tend to have these sorts of bonds as well because of the team effort needed to succeed.

Now that the season has wrapped up, all that can be done in preparation for next year is training. Cleaver said that he plans on getting stronger and faster this year and learn more technique than last year. Currently, his favorite moves are the single-leg sweep and a cradle.

"I've learned to work-hard and not to get frustrated," said Cleaver "I have been losing a match before, but many times have come back and won."

Professional football lacks definition on catches, officials split on issue

There are many questions in life that puzzle us for centuries. I believe the latest question that will leave us wondering for years; what is a catch in the NFL? Things have become so confusing with the rules of what a catch is and what a catch is not that I am pretty sure nobody even knows at this point.

One of the catalysts of the debate was in a game back in 2015 where the Dallas Cowboys faced the Green Bay Packers in what was a thriller. The Cowboys were facing a fourth-and-two on the Green Bay 32-yard line. Down by five points, Tony Romo threw a lob to Dez Bryant, who was in single coverage. Bryant easily snatched the ball out of the air and lunged toward the end zone. What happens next is quite honestly a tragedy.

Bryant, desperately wanting a touchdown to give the Cowboys the lead, stretched out his arm while lunging for the end zone. The ball seemed to have hit the ground just slightly, and then the ball popped up just slightly before Bryant held it again. In fast motion, it seemed as though there was no doubt the catch was made.

Everything looked obvious. In slow motion, things looked a little less clear, but Bryant still appeared like he made enough

of a football move and held the ball for long enough that it would be considered a catch. However, in what was a controversial call, the ruling of a catch on the field was overturned, and the Packers would go on to win that game.



ALEC ROME
WHEN IN ROME

With all of the added rules and definitions to what a catch is, booth reviews have gone up and overall enjoyment of the game has gone down due to pauses in the game and incredible plays being discounted. If you thought that was the only weird call in a game, then get ready for a brain buster.

The most recent example of why I am completely clueless as to what a catch means was during Super Bowl 50, where Carolina Panthers wide receiver Jerricho Cotchery made a bobbling catch, but clearly looked to have made the catch without the ball touching the ground.

I can understand how the Bryant catch could be disputed. But how was this called incomplete? You can look at any camera angle and clearly see that Cotchery's hand is under the ball through the entire catch, and while he may have bobbed the ball, he eventually stabilized it.

Unfortunately, the pass was ruled incomplete. Even Mike Carey, the senior referee correspondent for CBS who had gotten

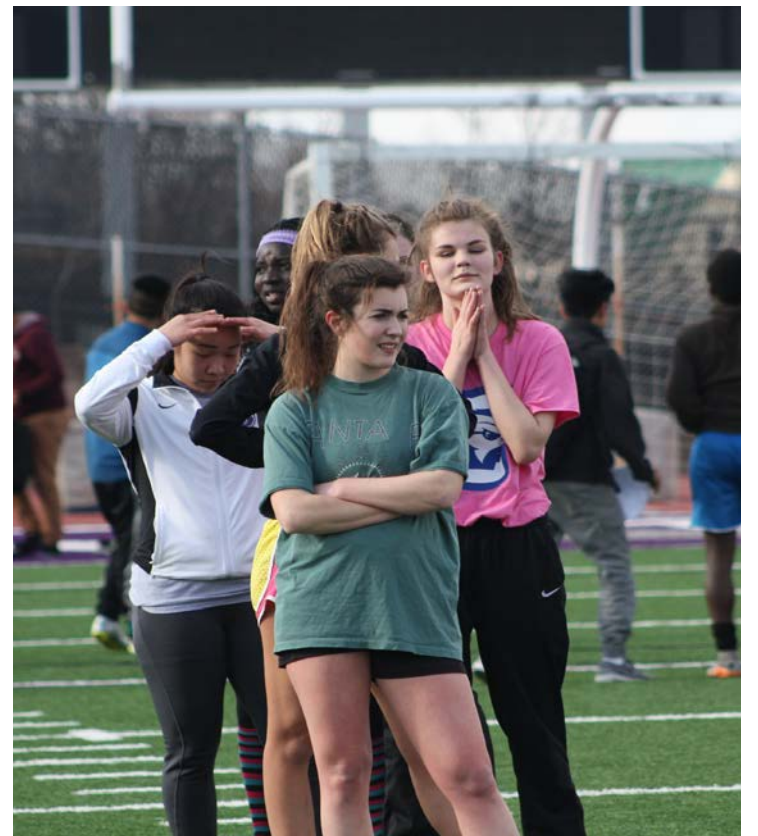
ninety percent of calls right this season, thought it was a pretty clear decision for the referee. It goes to show you that legitimately nobody knows what a catch is. The officials on the field do not know what it is, the review booth cannot show what it is, and the NFL big whigs do not appear to know either.

I don't know about you, but when those in an organization who are supposed to make and enforce the rules, know nothing about them or even simply do not know what they are, there might be a problem.

Fans are sick and tired of being let down by an official call or review bringing back a game winning touchdown or granting one that obviously was nothing of the kind. Being a fan is not always the easiest life-style, and having bogus calls ruin one's hopes, dreams and aspirations can only make that more difficult.

So, I will attempt to answer one of life's newest conundrums as simply as possible. A catch in the NFL should be when someone secures the ball for long enough in bounds. If the ball hits the ground after the catch, as long as another player didn't cause the ball to hit the ground, the pass is still complete. After watching football for all of my life, I know that a wide receiver either has the ball, or he doesn't. There is no in between. Maybe Roger Goodell should try catching some passes so he knows what the difference is.

SPRING SPORTS CONDITIONING



Top left: Senior Mona Deuw runs to condition for track.

Top right: Junior Libby Atherton stands in line, waiting for her turn in a drill.

Bottom left: A soccer player prepares to kick the ball in a scrimmage game with other prospective players.

Bottom right: Senior Mary Winekauf does a sit up with other soccer players. Winekauf has been playing soccer at Central since her freshman year, and club soccer since she was five.

KELSEY THOMAS
The Register

