



ANTHEM PROTEST

9

Do professional athletes, who make millions of dollars and are looked up to by people of all ages, have a right to make political statements in order to raise awareness for important issues?



A FATHER'S SON

15

Social Studies teacher Joe Mickeliunas participated in a charity walk to raise money for Hemophilia research, a blood condition which his son Elliott was born with.



NUMBER 1 FAN

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Alongside his duties as a social studies teacher, Rod Mullen is also an ever present sight at nearly all Central sporting events.

the REGISTER



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FINDING "HOME"

Elham Abdalla, junior, is originally from North Sudan. She, along with her father and brothers came to America to escape the Sudanese civil war.

Zoia Morrow
staff writer

Junior Elham Abdalla is one out of 1.25 billion people who follow the religion of Islam. It is a monotheistic religion of Abrahamic faith based off the Qur'an. She and her two brothers, Barareldin, 17 and Negmedlin, 12 came to America from Genana, North Sudan with their father in 2014 to escape the tragedies of the Sudanese Civil War that has been raging since 1955.

In 2002 her mother died of sickness, causing Abdalla to step into a more natural role for her brothers. She has always taken care of them by cooking, cleaning and being a positive role model in their lives, but since moving to the United States it has increased as they don't have their mother or grandmother behind them.

Her freshman year at Central was more difficult to adapt, "The first time I came to Central I was very scared, afraid of making friends [who weren't like me]," said Abdalla. English as a second language (ESL) classes have helped her to adjust to life in America and meet people who struggle with writing and speaking English as well.

The most challenging classes she is enrolled in are biology and English. On the other hand, math and psychology come easily to her.

She did not speak English since her first and second languages were Massalit, a native language to Sudan and Arabic. Since then she said, "Central is the best school in Omaha, the second thing I like is the teachers. They are wonderful." Learning English has at times been extremely difficult to her, but she has more opportunities here in America to better her and her family's life.

Abdalla focuses on school, learning and improving her English now in the eleventh grade.

Like her father, she is just as religious and spiritual in her faith. She freely talks about her religion, not only because as a Muslim she is required to answer the questions people wonder about the religion of Islam, but because it is a big part of her life.

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion and the right to practice whatever religion one chooses. "The difference [between Sudan and Omaha] is freedom. In the United States we have freedom, it's a safe place... we have safety here," Abdalla said. There is not much religious freedom for people in Sudan due to

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Teacher recognized nationally, wins presidential award

Georgia Chambers
editor-in-chief

"In July, I get this note from the White House, which alone was like this moment of [surrealism], because I get this email, and at the top of it it's 'Executive Branch of the Federal Government,'" math teacher Gregory Sand said when he was first informed that he had won the Presidential Award for math and science teachers. The Presidential Award is given out to exceptional math and science teachers nationwide every two years, and it is a "pretty rigorous process."

This honor allowed for Sand to travel to Washington, D.C. for a three day conference, which included a ceremony where he was officially 'crowned' the winner from the state of Nebraska.

The process of winning this award began after being nominated by math department head Brent Larson, and after being nominated, he had to go through an extensive verification. Requirements that Sand had to meet included having a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, teaching 7th grade through 12th grade math and teaching at least half-time in a school. After the submission of the application, a committee from the state graded it with an intricate rubric, and a minimum score had to be achieved.

Sand was one of three state finalists. The three state finalists were sent on to the National Science Foundation where the lengthy process was completed again without any notes from the state.

Sand had made the Presidential Award a goal of his. He had been aware of the award for at least ten years, and he wanted an award like this that featured people judging his work and his accomplishments thus far.

"There's a lot of cool awards I've been fortunate enough to win, but they've all been through letters or nominations by students... So, there's a real satisfaction and a real joy to be able to say, 'Yes, I won this thing that I applied for,'" Sand said.

However, even though this had been a goal of his, Sand was not expecting to win. One of the three finalists was the Neb. teacher of the year in 2003, and Sand knew that the process that went into receiving this award was even more rigorous than that of the Presidential Award, so Sand assumed, "There's just no question that she should win." The other finalist was a teacher from Lincoln High, and even though Sand did not personally know her, he knew of her and knew of how highly people thought of her.

Noting this, Sand felt proud enough to have made it in the top three, and did not expect his accomplishment to exceed a state finalist, but was "floored" when he did, in fact, win.

Amidst writing his comprehensive exams for his students, Sand received the email from the White House. After he received the email, it was right back to finishing up his exams; Sand had no time to enjoy this prestigious honor, and he was restrained from telling anyone besides his immediate family.

"It was like, 'I really want to be excited about this, but [the email said] to not tell anybody but my immediate family, okay, so I tell my wife, and then it's just go back to work,'" Sand said.

The worst part of this was that Sand had so much work that he still had looming over his head. One of the biggest things that Sand was looking forward to going on this three day trip was "the time to stop and enjoy [winning this award]."

After completing requirements prior to flying to Washington, D.C., such as completing a background check to

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ON PAGE 8

WHAT'S ON THE WEB▶▶▶



Local haunted house fails to please. Unoriginal acting and sets result in a disappointing Halloween experience.

RANCH OF TERROR

BOYS NATION

Senior Choteau Kammel spent his summer in Washington D.C. as Vice President of a program that prepares teenage boys for real world politics.



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Local Native Americans protest pipeline, allege water contamination



Photos Courtesy of MARK FRAILEY & KATERI PETTO

Kateri Petto (right) and others protest the North Dakota Access Pipeline on Aug. 20 in Omaha. Around 200 people, including members of tribes, participated in a demonstration downtown.

Simone Davis
staff writer

The Dakota Access Pipeline will extend from North Dakota to Illinois and carry about 470 thousand barrels of oil every day. The goal of the pipeline is to create jobs, save money on transportation of oil and to be easier on the environment. But some citizens, Native Americans in particular, oppose the pipeline.

"It [The Dakota Access Pipeline] belittles the lives of Native people who depend on the Missouri River for their water supply," said Kateri Petto. Petto is a Native American woman who resides in Omaha, and is involved in Native American matters, such as ending the Dakota Access Pipeline and pushing to change Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day.

"The original route of the Pipeline was supposed to be around Bismarck, N.D. They re-routed it because they didn't want to potentially contaminate the water in Bismarck, which is a primarily white city," said Petto.

Now, the pipeline goes through Standing Rock, N.D., which is a Sioux reservation. Protests have increased since then. Many Native people believe that this pipeline will contaminate the

water on this reservation. But, they not only fear for Native American people, but everyone that resides in the Midwest.

"It's not just a Native problem, it's more of a humanity problem," said Dakota Liew, a Native American student studying environmental science at UNO. Because the pipeline flows through the Midwest, there is a possibility that the Missouri River could become contaminated. About 18 million people depend on the Missouri River for water, so if the pipeline were contaminated, these people would be affected, along with the people on the reservations.

However, an argument people in favor of the Dakota Access Pipeline mention is that it will bring more jobs.

"The argument that it [the construction of the pipeline] will create jobs, but those are just temporary jobs that will only be around for maybe a couple of months at most," said Petto. "The only way it will bring about jobs is when it leaks, and we have to hire people to clean up."

Not only do these students believe that the pipeline poses an ethical problem, they believe it poses an economical problem if it spills too. "I think it's borderline guaranteed to eventually spill," said Treyten Ozuna, another environmental science major at UNO. "At that point it's not only contaminating the water

it's contaminating all of the surrounding wildlife."

Kateri believes that the Dakota Access Pipeline is not the only time things like this have happened.

"If you look at the Navaho reservation, they've been without clean drinking water since the 1970s. Even in western Nebraska, they're drilling through the Ogallala Aquifer to obtain uranium," Kateri said.

Another issue they see with the pipeline is greed. They believe large corporations are just trying to make a profit.

"It almost feels like these big corporations are attacking Native communities, and our resources and us as a people. It's like it doesn't matter as long as there is profit or private gain," says Petto.

The Dakota Access Pipeline is supposed to be in service in before the end of the year. To stop this from happening, Native American tribes and others have protested across the country. A protest in Omaha took place in September.

"This is the first time in a long time that the Native tribes have come together and stood in solidarity," Petto said. She and other Native Americans hope that through protesting and raising awareness, they can bring about change.



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).

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, Los Angeles, 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:

We are so excited to present the Register for the 2016-2017 school year. Many long hours have gone into the creation of this publication. We spend much time working on this student-run publication to ensure that we create a more professional and sophisticated paper that in hope honors The Register's lengthy and notable tradition. With aspirations to continue to place on the national level, The Register has really amped up its game. We want this student newspaper to be an interactive experience. Join the conversation on our Facebook: The Central High Register, our Twitter: @CHS_Press, our Instagram: @chs_press, and our Flickr: chspress. If at all possible, we hope the student body can get a little old school and write letters to the editors, which we would be extremely happy to receive. Thank you for picking up this issue of The Register.

Georgia Chambers
Chloe
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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DECA cookies change in price and content, sales remain prosperous

Anna Kaminski
executive editor

Since 1992, the marketing and DECA department have been selling cookies to fund all of the student opportunities the program has to offer. This year, the prices of the cookies changed from \$1 for two cookies to \$2 for three cookies. In addition, the recipe of the cookies changed because marketing department heads Harry Gaylor and Victoria Wiles made the decision to meet federal nutritional guidelines.

The purpose of the sale of the cookies is “to finance the many opportunities that we try to offer for the students in the marketing program and the DECA Club,” Gaylor said. These opportunities include social activities, community service, leadership, professional development, conferences, competitions and trips.

The idea of selling cookies originated from DECA Nationals where Wiles visited a booth of potential fundraising tactics. “I pursued it with the administration,” Wiles said.

“A couple of the other teachers didn’t think it would happen,” said Gaylor. “Including you!” Wiles added. The idea ended up being a success, 24 years of it, to be exact.

When the campaign first started, many teachers worried about cookies being a classroom distraction. “Now cell phones are a classroom distraction, back then it was cookies,” Wiles said.

The reason that the price of the cookies was raised this year is because of distribution costs. “The cost of the product [was raised]. We either had to take away a cookie or increase the price,” explained Wiles.

“There has not been an outrage,” Gaylor said. “The whole project is an enterprise that Central marketing does to help [our] own students and at the same time provide something for all students.”

All in all, despite the change in price, a steady crowd of students continues to line up outside of room 325 to grab their daily fix of delicious cookies.



ALEXIS MENARD | The O-BOOK

Cookies continue to be sold outside of room 325 despite price and recipe changes made in the past year.

NeSA dropped in favor of ACT, challenges, benefits expected by staff

Miles Kay
staff writer

This spring, juniors across Nebraska will not be taking the Nebraska State Accountability tests in reading, mathematics, and science. Instead, students will take the ACT, as approved by the Nebraska Legislature. Legislative Bill 930, passed in April, requires public school juniors to take a college admission test, and, by Sept. 2, the Nebraska State Board of Education had decided to administer the ACT.

This is a major change; one that will have a huge impact on teachers and students at Central. Teachers and administrators are excited about the switch to ACT, but also acknowledge the challenges that will exist in the first year of testing.

The ACT tests students in their math, science, English and reading skills. These skills align with those tested by the NeSA, a reason for the choice of the ACT over the SAT. The Department Chairs in these areas all shared their opinions on the ACT and its impact on students, an impact that they agree will be substantial but overwhelmingly positive.

Science Department Chair Janis Elliott sees several advantages to the switch to the ACT, namely the quality of the ACT test and the improved data that can be gathered in order to improve teaching. “Certainly, the ACT has a history and so we have a longevity of results to compare to, and there is a consistency across the nation,” Elliott said. “The ACT will become a planning tool for staff and a curriculum enhancement tool to improve quality of instruction.”

English Department Chair Jodie Martinez also acknowledged the benefits of the ACT to instructors. “Already, I see that there has been a more fluid and natural delivery of curriculum on the part of the teachers. They are not stressing about this test that is coming up...it’s not intruding into the way that they’re structuring their lessons and the way they’re structuring the works that they’re teaching,” Martinez said. Thus, English teachers no longer need to worry about teaching specifically to the skills required for NeSA; since the ACT is a much different test teachers will be able to prepare students in a way that does not disrupt the normal flow of teaching.

Math Department Chair Brent Larson recognized the greater impact that the ACT will have on students when compared to NeSA. “It’s a useful test,” Larson said. “You know that if you do well on the ACT you can go and use it for anything you need for college.”

When asked about the different instructional demands of the ACT, the Department Chairs were not concerned. “In OPS and at Central High we already have standards based on state and national standards that are high quality, so we will continue to teach those standards...and we will, of course, prepare our

students by including more data tables, graphs, and analysis of information that the ACT is rich with,” Elliott said.

Larson did, however, see a major difference between the NeSA math test and the ACT’s math section. The ACT encompasses material through trigonometry, and many of Central’s juniors are in Algebra 3-4. Instead of trying to teach new material, teachers will need to review trigonometry skills from geometry. “You can’t go through and give the students all of the material and have them do it halfway, we want them to be very strong with what they know and what they’ve seen,” Larson said.

The ACT test also has a specific time limit, unlike the untimed NeSA test, which will definitely impact students. Elliott, though sees this factor as a minor challenge, since students are already used to the length and rigor associated with timed final exams.

In addition, the ACT has something that the NeSA did not: more available test prep. “It has high-quality free test prep that the NeSA did not offer, there are many sources that our students and teachers can use to prepare for the exam,” Elliott said. Larson and Martinez agreed that it will be easy for teachers to switch to the new test preparation material. “Test prep can be done easily and in a concise way,” Martinez said.

There are, however, certain logistical challenges that exist with the switch. Christina Flaherty-Collings organized NeSA testing at Central last year and recognizes several issues that will need to be figured out across the district. Currently, it is unknown whether ACT testing will occur using paper and pencil or via an online platform. If it occurs online, there may be setbacks. “If we’ve got close to 500 kids all going onto the network at one time, then how is our wireless internet going to work?” Flaherty-Collings said. “It’s not just finding a place for almost 500 kids, it’s making sure that everything lines up so that they aren’t getting kicked out of tests.”

Testing logistics compared to the NeSA will be drastically different. For NeSA testing, the majority of juniors took the test over two days on the fourth floor, with two sets of juniors testing. The ACT on the other hand is a four to five-hour test. Since it is ideal to test as many juniors as possible at one time, administrators like Tom Wagner have been brainstorming ways to make this happen.

One idea that is on the table is a junior-only day to emphasize the importance of the test and create a proper testing environment. Wagner believes a junior-only day would work well because it would allow juniors to take the test in smaller rooms with a familiar, trained proctor, and not be interrupted by the noises of bells and passing periods. “It’s a high-stakes test and we need to treat it as such,” Wagner said.

However, there are certain issues that come with a junior-

only day. “Should that high-stakes test for 600 students completely disrupt instruction for the other 1800 students during that day?” Wagner asked. He added that once the district gives its high schools more direction, the procedures for testing will become more clear.

Wagner and Flaherty-Collings also see potential changes in Central’s, and even statewide, standardized testing averages. “Not everyone is directly college-bound and the test is designed to test college readiness,” Martinez said. Flaherty-Collings echoed this, since some students who were not planning on taking the ACT or attending college may struggle with the test. “Our top performers are not going to be in the pool of people who do not see themselves as college-bound on average; there are always going to be outliers, there are incredibly gifted kids who choose not to take the ACT for a variety of reasons,” Flaherty-Collings said.

With more students taking the test, Wagner and Flaherty-Collings agreed that the average scores across the district and the state will drop. “When you decide [that] everybody in the district is going to take the ACT as opposed to just those that sign up for it, obviously the average score is going to go down, and it’s probably going to go down fairly significantly for the district,” Wagner said.

Despite the likely dip in statewide averages, the Department Chairs and administrators alike are excited about the fact that the ACT is a test used in college admissions. “Kids can really have good things happen by getting an extra test in for ACT and we want it to be not just a good reflection on Central but [we’re] really hoping that there are some kids who see that college is an option,” Flaherty-Collings said. There is agreement statewide that taking the ACT can only help students. “This might open the door for someone who didn’t think they were going to be doing college...maybe they take this test and see that there are some opportunities that are available,” Larson said.

Elliott added that a free administration of the ACT to students will remove the obstacle of the price of testing. Now, the first step on the path to college will be given to all students. Students can then assess which path after high school is right for them, whether it be a career, a two-year college or a four-year institution.

Teachers are enthusiastic about this switch, and believe that students should be just as excited. “Students and many adults didn’t necessarily recognize the importance of NeSA,” Wagner said. “NeSA wasn’t going to get you into college, NeSA wasn’t going to affect scholarship dollars, NeSA was something that the state used to rank schools.” The ACT is a nationally-recognized exam, one with real relevance that, teachers hope, will make college a possibility for even more students.

History teacher honored with two awards for educational excellence

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

History teacher Scott Wilson epitomizes the characteristics of excellence such as a passion for his job and willingness to go above the required teaching standards. This past summer he was awarded the Nebraska State Council for Social Studies Outstanding Teacher Award for the Omaha area. Then, earlier in the school year he received the James C. Olson award.

Started in 2004, the History Teacher of the Year Award highlights the importance of history education by honoring exceptional American teachers from elementary school through high school. One exceptional K-12 teacher from each state, the District of Columbia, Department of Defense schools and US Territories is honored. From these winners a "National History Teacher of the Year" is selected and honored at a ceremony in New York City. Past presenters include First Lady Laura Bush, US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, former justice of Supreme Court Sandra Day O' Connor, and former New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The James C. Olson award was proposed for creation in 2007. It is awarded to educators in Nebraska who exhibit engaging, inspiring, and guiding qualities while pushing their students to discover, enjoy, and learn from the fascinating and important histories we share. A committee drawn from the current Nebraska State Historical Society Board of Trustees, the NSHSS Emeritus Trustees, and the NSHS staff nominates the recipient.

Wilson's passion for social studies began early in his life and it still influences his craving for history. "[It was] probably in 8th grade. I wanted to be a marine biologist as a kid, but as I got older I appreciated the science less than the animals. My two grandfathers' war stories got me hooked and they encouraged a more well-rounded understanding of history. They bought me books all the time," Wilson said.

Moreover, his teaching style continues to be influenced by his 8th grade history teacher. Wilson said, "Mrs. Becker, my 8th grade History teacher at Millard Central Junior High, had an enormous influence on me. She was a real professional and she loved and knew history. She had a real talent for engaging and relevant history lessons. I still remember things she said in class 30 years ago and they find their way into my lessons regularly."

He never expected these awards and was pleasantly surprised with the recognition he received. Wilson noted that teachers do not do their work with the intent of receiving such honors. "[I was] very much surprised. I was honestly honored that those who nominated me thought



LILY GILLILAND | The Register

History teacher Scott Wilson teaches his AP U.S. History students about World War I.

enough to do so. I feel very fortunate," Wilson said.

For younger teachers aspiring to receive this level of recognition one day, one piece of advice Wilson received in his first year of teaching stuck out for him. Legendary Latin teacher Rita Ryan pulled him aside and said, "You know what the key to this job is? Entertain yourself first and the kids second and you'll be fine." He still holds this true and continues to practice this concept in class today. "There is a lot of wisdom there," Wilson said, "Do work that makes you happy and you'll be surprised at how many students will come along for the ride. It is ok for students to see that you enjoy your work."

District sought multiple views before field testing different grading scale

Alec Rome
staff writer

Another iteration of a grading scale will soon be implemented into the district, in hopes that the newest scale will fix the flaws that have been reported. A grading committee composed of twenty members that include teachers, administration and OPS staff have come up with a new grading scale and have been field testing it in certain subjects in both secondary and elementary classes. Those subjects include 4th grade mathematics, 7th grade social Studies, 8th grade English and physical science, and high schools subjects such as algebra, English, world history and physical science. These courses were chosen because they represent a wide range of subjects and would affect a large number of students.

The main catalyst behind the changing of the grading scale was the trend of reports in feedback from teachers that a student's understanding of a subject was not adequately reflected under the current grading scale. Students could do below basic work and still pass a class and earn a credit, and others could do proficient work and have one assignment be advanced and earn an A. That was of concern for the grading committee, which then sought out a solution to fix the underlying problem.

The process began with considering that a student could do below basic work and still pass a class. So, that became the cutoff for the grade of an F, between a zero and a one. Then, the last four grades left were split into equal increments, which now made earning an A just a little bit harder. This new grading scale could provide a solution to inaccurate grade inflation, according to Tom Wagner, data administrator for Omaha Central and one of the members of the grading committee. "We had 750 kids earn Purple Feather [last year]. That's a great story, don't get me wrong, and it's great to tout and brag about because I think Central is a great school with awesome academics," Wagner said. "But is it accurate to say the equivalent of a class and a half has a 3.5 cumulative GPA or better?"

While Wagner is administrator, he has come to the conclusions about the grading scale through years of teachers approaching him with examples of students that are barely above the cutoff for passing in the current grading scale. That is due to countless students not turning in assignments yet earning just enough on some assignments to earn a credit.

He ran a report on how many credits were earned by students at Central that had between a 0.76 and a 1.00 in a class during a particular grading period and found that over 600 credits were earned with grades within that range. Then, he ran a missing assignment report on those students and found enough missing assignments to fill 700 pages. That does not take into account the other six OPS high schools.

That was a blaring problem for the grading committee and for the district that needed to be urgently solved. However, there was still some trepidation from some of the committee members in choosing to immediately implement the new scale, similar to

the previous times that the district has implemented new grading scales fairly quickly. That is why the majority of the committee voted to field test the scale in some classes.

There was a minority however; not only was Wagner in that minority but also Marcella Mahoney, English teacher at Omaha Central and another member of the grading committee. She teaches both Honors English for freshman and AP Language and Composition for juniors, and has taught sophomores and seniors previously. "I wanted to have [the new grading scale] applied to all classes and all grades this year," Mahoney said. "I believe that if the bar is this high, a kid will jump that high to hurdle the bar to get the grade that they want."

Both Wagner and Mahoney respect the decision of the majority to field test the scale in order to make sure the district gets this scale right. That was a main focal point for the committee according to Anthony Clark-Kaczmarek, director of Curriculum Instruction and Assessment for the district. "I think it's important that any scale that we have demonstrate the understanding that students have of the content that is being presented," Clark-Kaczmarek said. "The grading scale is a representation of what students know and understand. We want to make sure that is an accurate reflection."

Regardless of when the grading scale is being fully implemented, teachers at Central are happy with it, according to Wagner. He also likes the added rigor the scale brings and the motivation for students to try just a little bit harder. "I like that you have to work a little bit harder to get that credit," Wagner said. "A credit from Central High School or from any school in OPS needs to be worth something."

Some other ideas were thrown around by the committee to improve the grading scale, but more in a hypothetical sense. They considered eliminating the D altogether, adding a 1.5 to the proficiency scale, changing the values of summative and formative assessments and more thought-provoking ideas. However, those ideas will not be part of the changes, they were simply thoughts the committee had.

Other factors play into the changes to the grading scale. The actual grades that are being awarded have not changed; just the scale in which they are based upon. Added abilities for teachers to weight assignments with a multiplier of two, three or four can make certain assignments count more towards a final grade. Teachers now are allowed more freedom to use their professional judgement to give redos, accepting late work and in determining final grades for students. There were also clarifications to the term "zero" and "missing," meaning that "missing" actually means an assignment has not been turned in, even though it may calculate as a zero. "Zero" means that a student does not show any evidence of understanding of a given topic.

The changes on the "blanket" policy for late work and redos were welcomed changes for Mahoney. In her

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OPS GRADING SCALES

CURRENT SCALE

A = 3.51 to 4.0

A- = 3.01 to 3.5

B = 2.51 to 3.0

B- = 2.01 to 2.5

C = 1.51 to 2.0

D = 0.76 to 1.5

F = 0 to 0.75

PROPOSED SCALE

A = 3.26 to 4.0

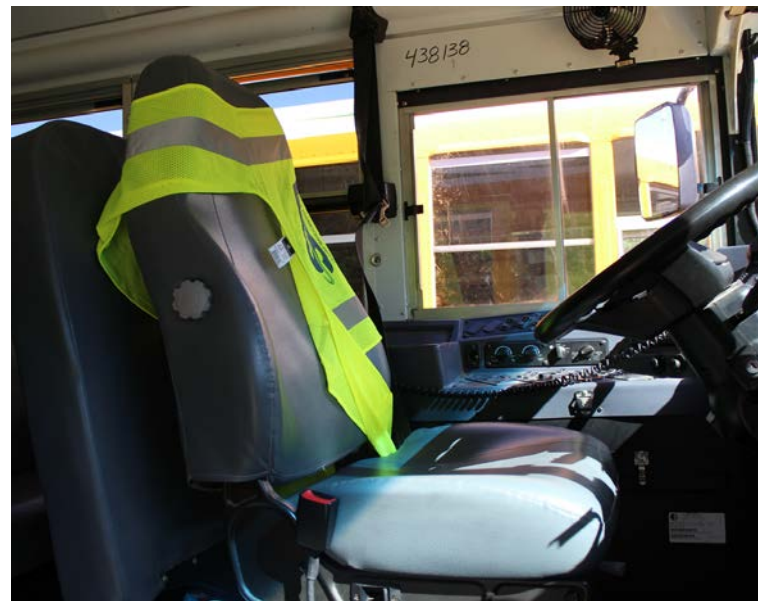
B = 2.51 to 3.25

C = 1.76 to 2.5

D = 1.01 to 1.75

F = 0 to 1.00

Bussing problems persist, OPS administrators seek solutions



CLAIRE LAVENDER | The O-BOOK

Since the beginning of the school year, school busses have had consistent issues including busses being late and even not showing up in the mornings.

Hayley Raney
staff writer

During the beginning of the school year, Omaha Public Schools (OPS) encountered many complications with the student transportation system.

The cause of the complications was the transportation system being short staffed. They did not have enough bus drivers to drive school buses to designated bus stops. Due to the lack of transportation staff students were never picked up at their bus stops, students were late to school and students had to ride conjoined bus numbers resulting in students returning home later than expected.

A few glitches and minor complications are typical in the beginning of every school year for bus drivers learning the routes but it's obvious to say no one expected this from Student Transportation. Superintendent, Mark Evans has been working with the transportation contractor fixing the complications slowly but surely.

"Challenges have decreased significantly from the start of the school year and we continue to work with our contractor to make additional improvements," Evans said.

Last year OPS paid student transportation nearly 25 million dollars for just general education busing, this year's figures are not available yet.

OPS is now working with the Council of Greater City

Schools for changes and potential improvements for next school year if bus driver shortages occur again. "One specific challenge is that some bus drivers commit to coming back to drive for the school system during the spring and summer. However, a number of those bus drivers did not follow through on those commitments and did not report to work on the first day of school," Evans said.

Currently OPS-in-house transportation staff members are covering some routes. Chief Transportation also filled in to cover some routes.

"The district is working diligently to get our students to school and back home safely, securely and as close to on-time as possible," Evans said.

Keeping with Central tradition, alumni inducted into Hall of Fame

Choteau Kammel
editor-in-chief

With a longevity stretching back over one and a half centuries, Central High School stands as one of the oldest secondary educational establishments in this country. Amongst the thousands of students who have passed through its hallowed halls, Central has produced doctors, lawyers, politicians, war heroes, Nobel Prize winners and all else in between. Combining both its age and its ranks of impressive alumni, each year the Central High School Foundation honors several select graduates by enshrining them in the Hall of Fame, where they join dozens of fellow Eagles from across the decades. This year, the 18th annual induction ceremonies for the 2016 recipients was held on October the sixth.

William Baird graduated with the class of 1930, moving on to college and then graduating from law school in 1937. He would then go on to work first with his father's law practice and then found his own, with which he also worked as a legal counsel for the Westside School District. With the advent of America's entry into World War II in 1941, Baird served his country in the U.S. Navy, commanding gun boats in the Atlantic during the conflict. Before his passing in 1981, Baird also received the Nebraska State Bar Association's award of special merit for his 44-year career in law and exemplary service on the bar's ethics and chief justice nomination committees.

Next to be honored was class of 1960 graduate Pamela Bartling Buffett. After experiencing the deep immersion within diverse cultures that Central provides, Buffett gained a desire to help unite humanity, and support those in need, helping them achieve their dreams through education. As a philanthropist, she and her late husband Fred Buffett started the Rebecca Susan Buffett Foundation in order to better support communities and organization dedicated to service. These endeavors include support to Girls Inc., the Northstar Foundation and most recently the Fred and Pamela Buffett Cancer Center. Throughout her life Buffett has faced her share of hardships, but focuses most on giving back.

Graduating with the class of 1967, Rick Chudacoff has been involved in the music industry for nearly three decades. He has applied his producing and song writing talents to many variable and diverse genres from pop, rhythm and blues, country and even Christian music. He co-wrote the 1995 Grammy winning song, "Somewhere in the Vicinity of the Heart," and also made his first breakthrough into the music business, working as a songwriter on Robbie Depree's 1980 hit "Steal Away." Other artists he has worked with include Pattie LaBelle, The Temptations and Clay Crosse. In total, over 25 million units of music he has worked on have been sold, and even today his own music company the Gouda Music Group continues to produce tracks in all genres of music.

Dr. E. Terence Foster graduated with the class of 1959. He would then go on to earn both his bachelors and masters at MIT, finishing off with his doctorate at U.C. Berkley. After this, he would serve in the military for two years during the Vietnam War, being stationed at first the Pentagon and then the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. Coming back to Omaha in 1970, Foster first worked for an engineering branch of HDR, moving on to become vice president of Union Pacific and then joining the University of Nebraska at Lincoln's engineering staff. Foster dedicated his career to the exploration of the engineering field, and in return for this, in 2014 he was given the Engineering Education Excellence Award by the National Society of Professional Engineers.

The next member of the 2016 Hall of Fame was Donald T. Fox, graduate from the class of 1947. Fox went on to attend Harvard, graduating in 1951, and then earning his law degree from NYU in 1956. Working on Wall Street, Fox helped American businesses navigate the world of international law, working to secure ownership, licensing and also purchases. During this work with legalities crossing national borders, Fox gained a passion for ensuring judicial freedoms across the globe. As chairman of the American Association for the International Commission of Jurists, Fox fought for independent magistrates and against oppressive governments.

Graduating with the class of 1955, Robert Goldstein would go on to attend Harvard and later the University of Chicago for his graduate school, before joining the then small firm known as Proctor & Gamble, soon becoming an industry leader in advertising and business diplomacy, as he chaired the Association of National Advertisers. Goldstein was also one of the first to utilize the cable television industry in order to spread product awareness and brand names, as he served as the company's vice president of advertising for the years leading up until his death in 1987. Goldstein continues to be remembered for his dedication to quality in all aspects of life and was elected to the National Advertising Hall of Fame in 1988.

Aubray Woods Orduna graduated in 1965, and has since then dedicated her life to the service of others in the medical profession. After attending Murray State University in Kentucky, Orduna later returned to Omaha in 1975 to serve as a unit nurse at Clarkson Hospital. Later she became a nursing instructor at Clarkson College in 1979. Through the 1990s she continued to work in a more administrative capacity before being named the director of diversity services in 2000, where she helped to mentor minority students along their pathway to nursing degrees. Most recently, Orduna became the dean of nursing in 2009, and has also been the president of the Omaha Black Nurses Association, receiving numerous awards such as Clarkson's Caring Kind Award and a volunteer of the year award from the Kidney Foundation of Nebraska.

Graduating in 1964, Lloyd Roitstein dedicated his life to others through the Boy Scouts. Roitstein joined the Scouts at the age of eight, eventually achieving the rank of Eagle Scout and continuing it throughout high school. He started his career with the Scouts in 1971, being promoted to Scout Executive in Illinois in 1984, soon returning to Omaha in 1992 as the President of the Mid America Council, rated number one in the nation in 2010. Roitstein also helped to lead a team of volunteers to deal with the aftermath of the tornado strike on a Boy Scout camp in Iowa, in which four young men lost their lives. Before his retirement in 2011, Roitstein was honored by the Boy Scouts with the Distinguished Executive Award, in return for his decades of service, dedication and compassion for his fellow man.

Benjamin Wiesman graduated with the class of 1949, later founding his own real estate business only six years after graduating from Central. He then went on to work with the Whirlpool Corporation to install and develop the first 800 calling system at its base of operations in Michigan. With that experience, Wiesman decided Omaha's location in the center of the country would prove an advantageous spot for call centers of a similar design. This quest led him to designing buildings used by Ramada and Best Western hotels, as well as facilities used by car rental firms and other telecommunications businesses. In return for these efforts and his lifetime of dedication, Wiesman was presented with the Visionary Pioneer Award by Downtown Omaha Inc, and much of his work continues to remain preserved and admired to this day.

The final Eagle of excellence to be inducted into this year's hall of fame is Clarence Wigington, graduate of the class of 1902. During his time at Central, Wigington won three first place drawing certificates during the 1898 Trans-Mississippi Exposition held in Omaha, and then following his graduation, began working for the well-known architect Thomas Kimball, officially becoming the city's first African American architect. Wigington soon started his own firm in 1908, with his work being seen in the rebuilding of Zion Baptist Church, and the Bloomfield and Crutchfield Apartments, which are included on the National Register of Historic Places. Soon after, Wigington moved his family to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he worked in the city architect's office, designing city buildings, ice palaces for the winter carnival and also becoming an active member of the early civil rights movement. Although he passed away in 1967, Wigington's achievements live on, as a structure in St. Paul that he designed decades before, was renamed the Clarence W. Wigington Pavilion in 1998.

With this year's class of the Hall of Fame officially inducted, the torch remains to be passed down for each successive class, as Central alumni are taught to never stop living their lives the "Eagle way," even many years after those high school years have passed.

youth & politics

Even though the majority of young people cannot vote, it is still important to be aware of the role they play in politics.

words of wisdom

Choteau Kammel
editor-in-chief

In the last several elections it has been the votes of young people that have often swung the tide in favor of one candidate over the other. President Obama handily defeated both John McCain and Mitt Romney when it came down to millennial's votes, and as of recently, millennials appear to either be the most politically active, or they don't actually pay any attention at all. With that being said, numerous public figures and members of the political media have called upon the youth the acknowledge the power they could wield and start getting involved. Regardless of political ideology, the call is clear, the youth must get involved politically and make their voices heard.

Michael Signorile is the editor-at-large of the Huffington Post's "Queer Voices," and has been involved in political activism for over two decades. Although he attended Syracuse for journalism tailored towards public relations and entertainment media, he soon took up the cause of political activism when an issue he cared about came to bear on the national stage. Signorile said he began to call on the federal government in the late 1980s to better address the AIDs academic that had come about during that time, and he even founded a newspaper dedicated to stories of that nature, describing his style as "in your face kind of politics."

Although he hadn't been too excessively political interested during his youth, Signorile said, "I would have like to have been more focused," and that youth of today shouldn't simply wait until an issue to impact them personally. He emphasized the importance of millennials understanding the power that they wield in numbers, and that "what they don't like, they can change," he said.

He referenced the upheaval in today's Republicans and Democrats, saying that the youth of today can and must change them to fit what the more contemporary trains of thought are saying, for example young people helping to make socialism a positive word again. He said, "Younger people should not be discouraged but rather they should feel empowered. Be involved with politics and do it with passion."

On the other side of the political spectrum, Austin Petersen is a libertarian journalist, activist and political commentator. Although like Signorile, Petersen had not entertained any political notions early in life, it was one campaign and one man who changed although for him. Petersen volunteered for Ron Paul's presidential campaign in 2008, as he said the Congressmen from Texas's libertarian views represented his far more than Republicans did. He also said he was raised conservatively but disagreed with the social viewpoints, however, "I knew I was not a Democrat because I believed in free markets," he said. The Ron Paul campaign taught him the importance of grass roots movements and also of the power that the youth can wield, as many of Paul's rallies were college students chanting "End the Fed!"

For Petersen the issue that has really gotten him more involved has been federal negligence regarding the



Left: Austin Peterson ran for the Libertarian presidential nomination in 2016. He is the owner of a photo and video consulting firm and the publisher of "The Libertarian Republic", a libertarian news and commentary website.

Right: Michael Signorile is an American journalist, author and talk radio host. His radio program is aired each weekday across the United States and Canada on Sirius XM Radio and globally online. Signorile is editor-at-large for the Gay Voices vertical of The Huffington Post, where he writes regularly. He is a political liberal, and covers a wide variety of political and cultural issues.

national debt and the never ending expenditures it finances with borrowing. He also feels that the youth gravitate naturally to his own libertarian ideals, which are, "You should be able to do as you please as long as it hurts no one else," he said. He called on youth to help move toward a more voluntary society, in which all people are free to make their own choices and live their own lives. Petersen said, "Libertarianism is the idea that you own your life and your body. Young people should care."

All in all, whether it be from the left, right or anywhere in between, people who are involved in politics today want the youth generations to be involved in it tomorrow. Even now, this generation has a choice, choose to utilize its full potential and supplant the baby boomers as a voting powerhouse, or slide into the background, where its grievances or cares may never truly be realized.

Q&A: what will you do with your vote this november?

"I choose to vote because the idea of Trump being president scares me, so I choose to do everything in my power to stop that from happening."



Hannah Goodman

"I'm skeptical of voting this year because I don't agree with a lot of what the candidates say."



Emily Zetterman

"I am choosing to vote because as an American citizen, I both have the right to participate in the election process and freedom to choose who will lead our country."



Stephen Siy

"I'm voting because as a citizen of the United States it is my duty to express this right that so many died to defend."



Cameron Claborn

time to take action

Miles Kay
staff writer

Though many high schoolers are unable to vote, that does not mean that they are not interested in interacting and engaging with politics. Jay Ball, a Central High School government teacher, believes that students can learn a lot from getting involved with politics, but, as Ball said, "Most students aren't [politically] aware and don't know they can make a difference."

By working with a campaign or volunteering in some other way, students can learn organizational skills, how to get along with others and build a strong work ethic. Ball said that dedication to a movement is an important skill for high schoolers to learn.

Many Central students have found ways to get involved by focusing on what they are passionate about. Others have been introduced to politics by their families or through activities in the classroom. Regardless of how they started, each student has been affected by their involvement, and



appreciates the impact that interacting with politics has had on their opinions and knowledge.

Senior Tinca Joyner began volunteering in politics during the 2008 election cycle. She canvassed with her mom, and though she was young took valuable insight away from her time canvassing and is currently in the process of getting involved again. "I learned that everyone can get involved and have their voice heard, even if you are not able to vote," Joyner said.

Joyner's time as an exchange student in France also has impacted her outlook on American politics. In France, she was constantly asked about her political beliefs and whether or not people in the United States truly supported Donald Trump. "I was ashamed to be associated with Trump, and people around the world assume all Americans share the same beliefs as him. I do not want him representing our people," Joyner said. Joyner sees how the American election affects the entire world, and this has given her another reason to get involved with politics.

Joyner believes that it is important that high schoolers develop their political opinions, even if they are not able to vote. "It's important for us to express our opinions to make our voices be heard," Joyner said.

Senior Chloe Klare also started engaging with politics through canvassing for a campaign. She has volunteered for the Nebraska Democratic Campaign and also attended political events, such as President Obama's speech at the Baxter Arena in January and the Hillary Clinton rally in August.

Klare also believes it is important for high schoolers to develop their political opinions. "In high school, people are exposed to diverse cultures and political standings...so they can develop more informed and open-minded political views," Klare said.

Similarly, senior Olivia Larson has volunteered at a local level and engaged with politics through Central organizations. Volunteering has exposed Larson to a variety of perspectives. "I've met people who don't think they matter or don't know their politics, but simply having an opinion on an issue makes one political," Larson said.

One of Larson's favorite parts

about volunteering is the fact that her own political knowledge allows her to be treated as an equal. "Having the ability to speak on the same level about economic issues, especially, in addition to social ones, earns me so much more respect in a volunteer setting where I'm typically the youngest in the room," Larson said. Her opinions are valued just as much as those of older volunteers and she feels that she has an equal impact.

Currently, Larson is involved with Central Student Democrats, works with nonprofits and other organization and has signed up to volunteer for Planned Parenthood. She intends to continue her work in politics in college too. "I have a personal goal to work in a more permanent capacity on a campaign in the future," Larson said.

Larson firmly believes that high school students should interact with politics. Many high schoolers are able to vote by the end of their senior year, and failing to get involved early on may lead to political apathy. Larson herself has learned many lessons from volunteering, especially on how much effort it takes to get any candidate elected. "[It takes] so much more than a real deal candidate, so much money, planning, and so many people go into an election," Larson said, "A great team and a message are necessary for success and that goes beyond a recognizable slogan or catchphrase."

Senior Jack Doody has also been involved with several campaigns and intends to continue volunteering in the future. He was first introduced to politics through his parents and grandparents. His grandparents have both held local offices, and one of the first campaigns he worked on was his grandma's National Resource District board campaign. He also was actively involved with Barack Obama's 2008 and 2012 campaigns and intends to work on the Clinton-Paine campaign. In addition, he attended Boys' State this past

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CLAIRE LAVENDER | The O-BOOK

a responsibility to vote

Georgia Chambers
editor-in-chief

Our Founding Fathers sacrificed a lot in order to give more freedoms and power to the citizens. One of these freedoms that these men deemed pertinent to the survival of democracy was the right to vote. Later on, the right to vote included African American men once the 15th Amendment was ratified. Further, the women's suffrage movement took a stand against the 1920's stereotypical stay-at-home mom and, after much sacrifice, gained women the right to vote. Even after this, the 26th Amendment made it possible for people 18 and older to vote. However, amidst this persistence among groups to ensure people equal opportunities to vote in our country, voting turnout is respectively low in our society today.

Breaking it down even further, it is understood that voting turnout among young people is the lowest. The first time there was actually an increase in younger people voting was when President Barack Obama ran for his first term, but beginning during this second term, the numbers went down again. It is a pressing issue in politics today on how to encourage young people to vote.

Both political candidates this year are trying to appeal to the younger adults in hope to attract their vote and have supported issues that younger people are passionate about on their party platform. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton has made it a focus in her campaign to visit high schools and give speeches there, and she even took selfies with Omaha North's football players when she stopped along her campaign in Nebraska.

It is important that political figures stress the importance of voting for younger Ameri-

cans not only because the 26th Amendment should not stand for nothing, but more because these young Americans will one day be the face of the nation. One of these younger Americans will one day mature and become the president, many may run for Congress and even more will find positions throughout other levels of government. This is daunting when you put it into perspective that many young voters fail to cast their votes once elections come along.

Who wants the leaders of our nation to be among a group of people that only seem to care about Twitter and how to contour their face right?

Obviously this is an exaggeration, but my point is that more teenagers and young adults need to prioritize and realize that politics are not "boring" or "too confusing," but rather that it is something that they can be passionate about and help advocate for what they believe in. There are many young people involved in supporting issues such as Black Lives Matter, so it would only make sense for them to develop a political opinion based on their views and find a candidate that supports views similar to theirs.

Hopefully this election brings more young people to the polls, and hopefully, if the numbers do increase, they do not go back down after Republican Donald Trump or Clinton is elected for his or her first term. Especially since there are multiple ways to vote, including through mail or online, there should be no excuse for people very passionate about other issues today to not cast a vote, which is a right many people suffered greatly to achieve.

Students actively involved politically in many ways, believe in importance

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summer.

Boys' State was a key event for Doody because it helped him further understand the workings of politics and campaigns. "We worked in mock political situations and I worked as the head of the committee that planned party platforms as well as voting for candidates in mock elections, and funding mock PACs [Political Action Committees]," Doody said. His work with campaigns has also helped him understand the importance of events such as town halls and debates.

Doody believes that young people need to pay attention to politics because they can make a difference in every election, regardless of whether or not they can vote. "You may not take an interest in politics, but politics will always directly and indirectly impact you," Doody said.

Doody's favorite memories from volunteering are the interactions he has had with people. His positive memories combined with his interest in politics have made him excited about continuing his involvement. "I hope to support candidates who I think will improve local, state and national government. That includes campaigning, voting and educating myself on the issues," Doody said.

Central junior Jocelyn Sisspa has even taken her political interests to a national level. After being introduced to Planned Parenthood and reproductive justice issues, her interest continued to grow, and in August 2015 she joined the Teen Council. "As a part of this group I lobbied this past July at Capitol Hill in D.C. for Planned Parenthood, One World and St.

Charles Drew Title X funding," Sisspa said.

For Sisspa, lobbying in D.C. made her feel like a true activist, a feeling that has profoundly affected her. Lobbying has also taught her valuable lessons, including the importance of patience in politics. "Our government moves at a snail's pace when it comes to human rights," Sisspa said, "It is just going to take some time before we see a real push towards clinic funding and abortion rights. We have to be patient."

Sisspa looks forward to getting involved with other move-

“ You may not take an interest in politics, but politics will always directly and indirectly impact you.

JACK DOODY

Senior

ments, such as Black Lives Matter, and continuing her involvement with Planned Parenthood. "Starting off young gives you a chance to learn and solidify your political views before voting," Sisspa said. She believes that it is important for the young to make their voices heard and cause what Congressman John Lewis would call "good trouble."

Many students at Central who are involved with politics are concerned with social issues. Ball stated that for many students, the most important issues are social ones and ones pertaining to education, especially the cost of college. When

asked what issues would be at the top of their agendas if they were president, students responded with answers including prison reform, protection of the environment, immigration reform, women's healthcare, and allocation of funds to public schools. Clearly, students are concerned with many issues, and their political involvement reflects their concerns.

How can students who want to get involved find a way to volunteer or engage in some other way? Ball believes that there are several ways students can find opportunities. One is to contact a candidate that you support, since campaigns are always looking for volunteers. Another is to join a local party and try to become a delegate to local conventions. A third way is to find an issue you are passionate about and find an associated interest group.

All students have the ability to get involved with politics. Change starts at the local level, and by engaging with politics all students are capable of making a difference in local, state, and national politics.

Muslim Sudanese student grateful for freedom, opportunity in America

CONTINUED FROM 'ISLAM' ON PAGE 1

the civil war between Arabs and Christians. Each religion fought for power and control over all of Sudan and its resources, resulting in the largest country in Africa drawing a line through it to separate the Muslims [Northern Sudan] and Christians [Southern Sudan].

They used violence and physical force that endangered the innocent people of Sudan. Over a million people have been killed in this ongoing conflict. The little freedom Sudanese people have culturally and religiously is the biggest push factors emigrants face when leaving to seek new homes and safety.

All Abdalla and her family want is a livable, safe environment where they can practice their religion freely and not be scared of people inflicting violence on them for being Muslim. Terrorism has no religion, race, or gender. "He's Muslim and I'm Muslim too, but I'm innocent," says Abdalla.

Terrorism is the use of violence and intimidation for political purposes. There is no practice of terrorism in Islam according to the Qur'an, "...Not everyone is the same. It makes me sad about what the people blame all Muslim people for being terrorists," it is one thing to tolerate Muslims and understand what they practice and how dedicated and loyal they are to Allah [God]. "They don't know anything about what's going on,"

Abdalla said.

Here at Central, a world religions class is taught by Gary Groff to educate high school students on the different types of religions besides their own.

Some people may find it harder sticking to their values in school, however, Abdalla does not have a hard time balancing her faith and 'fitting in.' She said she is enjoying her junior year meanwhile she continues to progress in her English writing, reading and speaking.

Math teacher honored in D.C., confident in district's standards

CONTINUED FROM 'SAND' ON PAGE 1

receive the money that came with winning the award, Sand was ready for the trip. He was ready to become a part of "a really cool club" of great teachers that Sand had "sort of sneaked" his way into and convinced everyone that he belonged.

Registration was on a Wednesday, and from here Sand's schedule was packed. Recipients got to enjoy walking around and exploring the National Zoo on the day of registration, and had free time later in the week to walk around the city, but mainly days were filled with ceremonies, dinners and sessions. Sand said it was very regimented, but no one complained.

Before the trip, Sand had looked forward to getting a chance to converse with all the recipients from the other states.

"You know that once you get a lot of like minds together for a short period of time it is really enjoyable..." Sand said.

He was not disappointed. Sand, alongside all of the other people that attended, did policy work during the three days away.

"We really had a chance to talk with people who set policy... Their view is, 'How do we prepare the next generation of workers, and what are the things we need.' The discussion wasn't at the classroom level. It was like how do we set policies at the federal level that empower the teachers at the classroom level... It was really an intense three days' worth of work," Sand said.

The only downfall of the trip was that President Barack Obama was in Laos an extra day, so they were not able to meet the president and take a quick picture with him. Sand was a bit upset, since he was very excited prior to the trip about meeting the president, but he did get to hear from the Secretary of Energy, and his assistant who was the first female executive for Google.

"You learn quickly that everyone who is in one of those positions is the coolest person you've ever met," Sand said.

From this trip, not only did Sand create great relationships with both math and science teachers, adding that there was no 'average' person in the room, but more, he realized how great Central is doing compared to other high schools across the country.

Sand sometimes found out by talking to other teachers from other states that it is a struggle for them to offer a more advanced class than geometry at their school. So, Central, and more Omaha Public Schools, are doing respectively well.

"As a state and as a district, we are doing a great job. I said to a number of people that we are very critical. We should be critical... but at the same time... half of U.S. high schools don't offer calculus... A third of high schools don't offer pre-calculus and a quarter of high schools don't even offer advanced algebra or algebra %... The fact that Omaha Central has an immensely diverse population... and we're meeting all those needs... the fact that we can offer them is tremendous," Sand said.

Sand plans on continuing to teach at Central, and later meddling in the college scene, but knows now he is held to an even higher standard than he was held at before.

New grading scale implemented in select classrooms, seniors unaffected

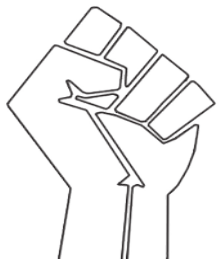
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teaching experience, she has had students get back assignments and use her as an "editor" of sorts to earn higher grades, whether they had an F or an A on a particular assignment. "There's just not time in any teacher's life to have an endless cycle of redos," Mahoney said. "What teachers are given now is their professional judgement to decide when a redo is the best option and when accepting late work is the best option. I appreciate that the new system is letting the professionals use their

training, their judgement and their relationship with the kid to be able to make the best decision for any student at any given point in time."

The overall agreement between teachers and administrators across the district is that the new grading scale is a positive solution to the inaccuracies in the current grading scale. "Right now, the changes aren't terribly drastic," Wagner said. "This isn't perfect but I think it's a step in the right direction." Mahoney hopes that this is the last time the public and the learning community will have to have a conversation about the

grading system. "While [the committee is] open to revision, we think that this is going to work out," Mahoney said. "Hopefully this is the last revision to the day-to-day grading practices, but I'm also enough of a realist to know that things evolve, and new situations come up."



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Effective protest? See two students' views on the debate that has made headlines recently.

NSAA GRADE POLICY

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Should athletes with failing grades be allowed to play? Focus should be on the academic part of student-athletes.



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Health should not be a pressing factor when deciding which candidate to vote for.

perspective & commentary

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TAKING A 'STAND'

EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO PROTEST AGAINST SOCIAL INJUSTICE



WHATEVER THEIR INCOME OR OCCUPATION

PRESTON McLAUGHLIN | Contributing Cartoonist

Alec Rome
staff writer

The First Amendment is the most widely interpreted piece of law in the United States, and it is the spark that ignites the fire of heated debate and argument. In this instance, the argument comes in the form of the right to protest, and more specifically how Colin Kaepernick started a whole new conversation by choosing to kneel or sit during the national anthem.

On Aug. 26 Kaepernick was playing in a preseason game versus the Green Bay Packers and chose to sit during the national anthem in order to protest racial injustice and police brutality. His initial statement as to why was, "I am not going to stand up to show pride in a flag for a country that oppresses black people and people of color." Kaepernick chose to do something in order to bring to light the problems that are happening in this country and the people who are being wronged in communities across the United States.

It is amazing how one act and one protest has now sparked debate across the nation, from the big stages of the NFL to the Friday night lights of high school campuses. In a society that is incredibly complex, there are so many sides of this issue to cover. From the arguments about respect for first responders and military, to the responsibilities of athletes as well as Constitu-

tional rights for citizens of this country.

The first argument is obviously the main catalyst behind this issue, that when an athlete chooses not to stand for the national anthem they choose not to stand for the men and women that defend our country. However, people seem to forget what those same men and women actually defend. They do not just defend our country and our people. They defend the Constitution of the United States, which means they defend the rights one has as a citizen, such as the right of free speech and protest.

The military gives Colin Kaepernick and other athletes' the right to protest like they have. They do not do their job so that others can worship them and salute them when they want to. It is a thankless duty and they serve their country; service meaning they do not expect anything in return. Those who are currently serving in active combat probably do not care about the anthem. The military has a job they are currently focused on.

In a way, Kaepernick was respecting the armed forces by actually using the rights they fight to defend. He chose to say something and at least attempt to create change instead of sitting on the sidelines and doing nothing. Now admittedly, Kaepernick sitting on the sideline is what you could call

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Morality of natural law, not legality, should dictate one's choices

Choteau Kammel
editor-in-chief

The teenage years are ones of great trial, tribulation, opportunity and a growing access to actions, behaviors and items that had not been previously accessible. Of course one of the many tidbits of wisdom handed down to members of this age group and during this time, is the age old, "DON'T, because that's illegal," as if that appeal to authority should rationally hold the ultimate sway over all decisions. Now, this is not to necessarily advocate for the doing of illegal things nor is it to suggest that things that may be illegal are even moral, but rather it is to attempt to understand and hopefully put an end to the perpetual notion that legality absolutely must be synonymous with morality.

Americans are raised to believe that contrary to the rest of the world, their government and their laws are somehow inherently superior, that here, if it's a law, it must be moral. To believe this however, is to forget a large portion of national history, in which the law allowed for ownership of a human being, denied women the right to vote and it was city ordinances and state laws that prevented blacks from patronizing many southern establishments in the mid-1900s. Although these may all seem like extreme examples, is it not valid to suggest that during the

times those various laws existed, it would have been scoffed at to dare suggest otherwise regarding their morality. Through natural law, individuals as inherently free, beautiful and independent human beings can see that it is wrong to take another's life, property or initiate unprovoked force against him or her. Outside of those building basic blocks of morality, it soon becomes rather grey in terms of what can be ordained to be moral for all, as not all people may have the same beliefs or compass in that regard. That being said, in a free marketplace of ideas, those moral codes most conducive towards civil society will ultimately win out, assuming people are held responsible for their own choices.

Frederic Bastiat wrote in *The Law* that the idea of law as upheld by an authority was not to restrain the common man, but rather to restrain the uncommon one, that would seek to do damages to the other. James Madison would further elaborate this point saying that should all men be angels, there would be no need for governance. That being said, it is understandable that some actions and items be deemed illegal, as not all beings are capable of rationally discerning the proper course of action, however the idea that illegality in and of itself is synonymous with

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BRINGING HOPE OR HATE?

Is the #BlackLivesMatter movement doing more harm than good?

HATE:

BLM ignores stats, advocates violence

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

Recent surges in police brutality and racial violence have provoked riots, protests and... well, more violence. This is (and has been) an ever-growing issue in America, and the problem is rooted in how police are trained. Too much power is given to certain people that don't know how to use it, and this is why people are unjustly killed by the police. While this is a legitimate danger, the retaliation from groups such as Black Lives Matter (BLM) is often just as harmful to the communities experiencing these tragedies.

Just to clarify, the notion that "black lives matter" and the actual organization called "Black Lives Matter" are two very different things. The conflict of interest is in regards to the organization.

BLM claims to advocate for "dignity, justice, and respect" for the black community, yet almost immediately resorts to aggression or violence when an African American is killed by the police. Just recently in Milwaukee, 23-year-old Sylville Smith was shot at a traffic stop. Upon hearing about this, BLM took to the streets. Protesters quickly dropped their peaceful agendas and started blocking traffic, burning cars and buildings, throwing bricks at police cars, looting businesses and inciting violence with police officers. This went on for nearly 24 hours. What the protesters didn't take the time to read into was the actual nature of the shooting.

Smith was carrying a stolen handgun, which he refused to drop after being asked by officers twice. The weapon had 23 rounds in it, according to Milwaukee Mayor Tom Barrett. Both officers on the scene were wearing body cameras. Oh, and the officer who shot Smith was black. Yet, for whatever reason, protesters supporting BLM still tried to make it a racial issue.

It's ridiculously easy to set BLM off. What's sort of backwards about the whole organization is their inconsistent representation of the message they supposedly advocate for. It seems like BLM regularly ignores crime statistics, which is probably because these numbers would rip their anti-police brutality arguments in half. Statistically, black-on-black crime kills more African Americans than police brutality. Yet, you don't see any rallies advocating for a change in black-on-black murder rates. It seems that BLM only reacts when police are the ones killing blacks, rather than blacks killing their own.

Black-on-black crime is a product of the environments within predominantly black communities. Unfortunately, a mix of poverty, drug-related crime, dysfunctional family structures and inadequate education systems plague these areas. These detriments are responsible for the lack of opportunities in lower-income communities, which statistically house mostly minorities. With this being said, the black community is already at a big disadvantage. When racial tension is thrown in the mix, it creates a whole new dilemma.

Just so it's completely clear, racism still exists in America. It affects the American society and way of life, and needs to be put to rest. Unfortunately, most people don't realize that racism is a two-way street. When people hear the word racism, most would immediately associate it with white people. This is a problem that contradicts BLM's stance on racism. The notion that the black population is being oppressed by the white population (therefore blaming whites for the downfall of blacks in society) is racist in itself. Negative connotations begin to materialize, and this is why whites are often attacked at BLM protests.

Another thing BLM is being criticized about is how the organization's advocates represent themselves. The fact of the matter is, for true peace, both sides of a given conflict need to behave. When a black individual is killed by the police, regardless of who was in the wrong, BLM (almost without fail) resorts to violence of some kind. If BLM truly stood for peace, this wouldn't happen. Yes, a good percentage of the black individuals being killed or victims of police brutality, but BLM supporters seem to think that the appropriate response is to burn down businesses that had nothing to do with the isolated incident. In reality

BLM claims to push for social equality and better treatment for the black population, yet there aren't any protests against the problems in black communities themselves. BLM should be against the systems that cause these areas to fail, instead of pointing the finger at racism and "white privilege." Based on this, it strongly seems that BLM only cares about black communities when an African American man is shot by the police. This is part of the reason why BLM is sending off mixed signals to the general public, because it's hard to tell exactly what they stand for. Protesting a death is one thing, and something like that can be kept peaceful. However when protesters who claim to support BLM loot stores, burn businesses and attack white people in the area, the organization's true effect on the community

HOPE:

Movement justified, time for change

Anna Kaminski
executive editor

The #BlackLivesMatter movement is incredibly critical to modern society. It encompasses values of equality, justice and freedom for which has been recognized across the world. This is majorly because of the extensive role social media plays in contemporary society. In the digital age, if an individual or a movement is made public, they can no longer hide anything. All of their flaws, insecurities and mistakes are out on the table for the whole world to see. Again, this can be an advantage and a downfall.

No movement is going to be perfect. Furthermore, no individual is going to be perfect. If everyone knows this, why are people so quick to judge and immediately discredit every single thing an individual or a group has worked for because of one mistake?

In 2012, 17-year-old Trayvon Martin was murdered by George Zimmerman who was eventually acquitted. From this, #BlackLivesMatter was formed. Ever since 2012, people of all backgrounds have banded together to protest the systematic dehumanization of black people. The fact that instances of racially motivated crimes by the police force in America has only caused #BlackLivesMatter to grow and become even more relevant.

In the matter of the movement, a vast majority of their protests are peaceful, but there are some branches of the movement who do participate in violent behavior.

Because bad news is more exciting than good news, the media tends to twist and exploit the violent branches of Black Lives Matter. Subsequently, an entire group of people – an entire race – is generalized.

Violence is not the way execute a message, but why focus on the bad? Why not focus on the ongoing struggle of racism that is somehow still prevalent in today's society?

The #BlackLivesMatter movement is about bringing an end to deep-rooted racism in this country. It is about reaching equilibrium between white people and people of color. Most importantly, it is simply about equality.

It is not about black people being better than white people, God forbid. It is not saying that Hispanic or Latino or white people don't matter. #BlackLivesMatter is saying that black lives matter too. They are saying that all people should be equal, no matter what skin color, ethnicity, religion, gender or socio-economic status.

Here are six instances, three of them within the last year, of the murder of black people by police officers:

On Sept. 16, an unarmed 40-year-old black man by the name of Terence Crutcher was shot in Tulsa, Okla. by a white female officer. Crutcher was unarmed and, according to copious amounts of camera footage, he had both of his hands in the air before he fell to the ground with blood stains on his shirt.

On Sept. 14, a 13-year-old boy named Tyre King was shot and killed in Columbus, Ohio by police officers after King had brandished a toy gun.

On Aug. 30, an unarmed 22-year-old black man by the name of Levonias Riggins was shot and killed in Tampa, Fl. by officers who raided a home because of reports of marijuana. Police said that Riggins appeared to be an immediate threat and that he was always a trouble to the law, despite the fact that Riggins had not been arrested in over a year.

On April 12, 2015, a 25-year-old black man named Freddie Gray was arrested on a weapons charge in Baltimore. Video accounts recorded Gray screaming as police officers roughly carried him to a prison transport van.

Gray was eventually moved to a trauma clinic and he goes into a coma because of a severe spinal injury. Gray dies a week later. Protests of Gray's death in the streets of Baltimore transformed into riots, and the National Guard was called in to handle the situation. All six officers involved in the murder were acquitted.

On August 9, 2014, an unarmed 18-year-old black male by the name of Michael Brown was shot 12 times and killed in Ferguson, Missouri by Officer Darren Wilson. Consequently, around 1,000 protestors gathered and tear gas and rubber bullets were utilized by police after the protest turned violent. Wilson was never indicted.

On July 27, 2014, an unarmed 43-year-old black man named Eric Garner was choked to death by a New York police officer. The officer, Daniel Pantaleo pursued Garner because he was allegedly selling cigarettes illegally. Pantaleo was never indicted.

In many of these cases, protests arose; some were synonymous with #BlackLivesMatter, and some were not. One cannot consider the #BlackLivesMatter movement to be mutually exclusive with all demonstrations protesting the murder of black people. This is an over-generalization. It is like saying that all cops are racist. Many of the people at a demonstration could be members of the movement, but not all, not unless it is specifically an organized #BlackLivesMatter protest. Furthermore, there are a great many police officers who are not racist, but there are those who do commit crimes against people of color with an ingrained racial discriminatory intent.



ANNA KAMINSKI | The Register

BLM too often resorts to violence, sends mixed symbols to public

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comes to light.

Milwaukee declared a state of emergency once the protests following Sylville Smith's death turned violent. Black protesters started fires, looting sprees and attempted to pull white drivers out of their cars. A white man attempting to record a shot of a burning police car was pelted with rocks by black protesters, simply for being there. It's pretty backwards that BLM still claims to stand against racism, especially when protesters have a track record of attacking white individuals.

Smith's sister even went on live TV. CNN shows her standing against the destruction of the community, saying it doesn't help anything. However, what media failed to show was the rest of her speech, in which she shouted "Take that sh*t to the suburbs, burn their sh*t down". Targeting the primarily white suburbs of Milwaukee somehow doesn't equate to racism in the eyes of BLM.

For the people saying things along the lines of "Don't let the actions of a few people define the whole group", here's the deal. An organization (or group of any kind) is comprised of the people that represent it. If a vast majority of the people claiming to represent it are burning communities to the ground, then that's exactly how the organization will be perceived. Is that not logical? Combating racism and violence with more racism and violence won't solve anything.

Now, if BLM was diplomatic with their interactions (as opposed to aggressive), they'd have a lot more respect from the media, the general public and the percentage of the population that has their doubts in the movement.

America is in dire need of a change, specifically in how racial tension is dealt with. Again, racism is a two-way street, so both sides of these conflicts need to compromise. White racism shouldn't be remedied with black racism, and vice versa. The problem not only lies with how police in America are trained and selected, but in the high crime rates in black communities that cause tension in the first place.



Photo Courtesy of JAREL ALLEN

Protesters gather downtown on Sunday, Sept. 25 to address racial tensions in the community.

Controversial presidential election proves both candidates hypocrites

By all possible accounts, the 2016 presidential elections have been the most watched, talked about and controversial in United States political history. Observers saw a staggering number of Republicans, over one dozen, head through a vicious cycle of primaries, leaving the least qualified and least expected "candidate" standing, Donald Trump.

On the Democrats side, it was fairly well understood that the contest would come down to Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders. For much of the early primaries and caucuses, it remained fairly close up until the beginning of the summer, with Clinton pulling ahead sizably and Sanders going on the suspend his campaign, ultimately endorsing Clinton.

Recently however, as emails from former DNC Chair Debbie Wasserman Schulz were released from Wiki Leaks, it became clear amongst other things that the intent of the DNC had been to sabotage Sanders from the beginning, as well as also detailing plans to attract Latino voters, likening them to grocery store customers, along with other patronizing remarks.

With such heated and already controversial beginnings, there really was no way the 2016 elections could have gotten any less repugnant after the primaries had ended, and Americans had chosen for themselves the two most disliked candidates in history, Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump. With a winning combination such as these two brilliant individuals, could anyone expect nothing less than the most hypocritical presidential race ever to be a blight upon the freedom of humanity?

For starters, the bombastic Donald Trump has never held the same political views for any longer than a year or two, similar to a free agent in sports, going wherever the money happens to be at that particular time. He now tells evangelical Christians that he has always been a conservative, he even knows one whole Bible verse... and hopes they don't know that in the last two election cycles he has donated money to both Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama, and that up until this year he was a very vocal proponent of abortion.

Trump claims that trading with other countries is a terrible scourge upon the working class, while knowing full well no American would ever make 15 cent "Make America Great Again," hats as a career, which is precisely why he has them made in China, who then sends them here. Because nothing would make America great again like bringing back terrible and tedious jobs that were shipped out because they were terrible and tedious.

Immigration has been one of Trump's most vocal issues, calling for the deportation of 11 million illegal immigrants and the building of a wall between the U.S. and Mexico. The stupidity of this aside, Trump has never seemed to have a problem with illegal immigrants as long as they are working on his own buildings. Also, for a guy who claims to oppose the Iraq War, his policy proposal to drone strike the families of suspected Islamic terrorists, key word suspected, is absolutely contradictory to the notion that regime change hurts world peace.

Just as neither Republicans nor Democrats have a monopoly on stupid ideas and lust to control our lives, Trump does not hold the lone seat of hypocrisy in this election. Hillary Clinton has her own hypocritical ways, but of course to speak against her at all is an obvious endorsement of Trump, as MSNBC would have you know. Similarly, according to Fox News, criticism of Trump is just the same as being a communist.

Just as one would expect, since not supporting Obama in 2008 and 2012 made you a racist, not supporting Hillary Clinton in 2016 makes you a sexist. Clinton has spent much of her time campaigning on becoming the first female president of the United States, and as such often brags of the support she will bring for women and victims of sexual assault in this country. Ironically enough, as a lawyer in 1975 she actually defended and got off with a minimal sentence the rapist of a young girl, later being recorded saying with a laugh, "I had him take a polygraph, which he passed—which forever destroyed my faith in polygraphs." This was only several years after she was removed from the Congressional investigative committee on the Watergate Scandal for gross negligence and dishonesty.

Clinton's own hypocrisy regarding her apparent support for women's rights as well as the LGBT community only worsens when one looks at the bulk of her funding relative to the Clinton Foundation. Saudi Arabia, where women can be forced to marry their rapists and where homosexuality is punishable by death, has donated upwards of 25 million dollars to the Foundation, while also conveniently having multibillion dollar weapons deals signed off by the then State Department. One would think that if women and gays were worth more than just votes to Clinton she

would refuse funds from such tainted sources.

Foreign policy wise, Clinton like Trump proves a hypocrite once more. After having voted for the Iraq War in 2003, Clinton has said if put in a similar situation again she would vote no, however facts seem to say otherwise, as she has had several opportunities since to prove herself a friend of peace. Clinton led the push to enforce a NATO no fly zone over Libya as well as the arming of rebel groups battling government forces there, leading to the ouster of Gadhafi and the creation of yet another power vacuum to be filled by radical terrorist groups, first the Libyan Dawn and now the Islamic State.

Following this, she supported President Obama's efforts to do the same in Syria, and during her time in the State Department and even after regularly has advocated for increased weapons transfers to "moderate rebels," or in other words groups that give the weapons to ISIS after saying they won't. All in all, Clinton as with Trump provides America with just another liar who will only lead to more wars and more bombs being dropped in the name of "spreading democracy."

Clinton's last piece of hypocrisy that she so adamantly professes has been her stance that she will take on the big banks and make Wall Street pay, she never actually mentions the Federal Reserve that funds both the former and the latter. Anyways, for someone who says she'll stand up to big business, one would think she wouldn't be too popular with such institutions. Think again!

Along with accepting hundreds of thousands of dollars to give speeches for Wall Street firms, several of Clinton's top campaign donors and donors to the Foundation are Goldman Sachs, Citi Group and Chase, all of which have ties to the "too big to fail" banks that Clinton supported bailing out. All in all, it doesn't appear that she really is this saint untainted by greed and coming to rescue the little guy from the big bad banks.

All things considered, both of America's choices are just as hypocritical as the other, perhaps only in different areas. But could we expect anything less? After a decade of wars, media dedicated to ratings as opposed to truth and a president and congress who never once bother to follow their own rules, it is poetically fitting that we reap what we have sown.



CHOTEAU KAMMEL
SHOW TIME

NSAA grade policy for athletes too lenient, changes necessary

Georgia Chambers
editor-in-chief

As an athlete, it is sometimes difficult to balance the hefty workload of school with the demands of any athletic team at Central. Varsity athletes sometimes do not get home until around 6:00 p.m. after practices, and even later after what are oftentimes weekday games. However, it is pertinent that students are passing their classes, hence the name student-athlete, and should be hindered from playing if they are failing any class. If they are not able to pull the grade up in a week's time, two weeks is pushing it, they should be ineligible to play.

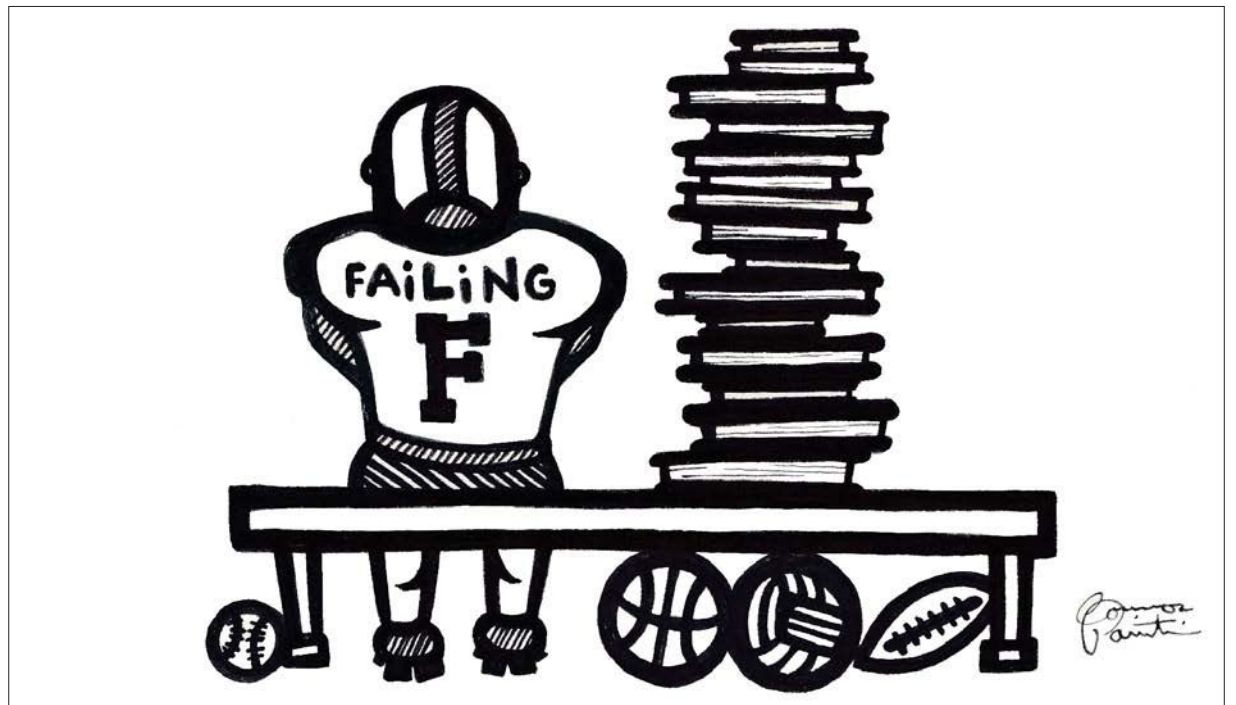
There are currently two policies, Omaha Public School's (OPS) policy and the Nebraska School Activities Association's (NSAA) policy. The seniors are the only athletes to follow the NSAA's policy, but after this year all grades will follow OPS's policy regarding athletes and failing grades.

This is justly so, because OPS's policy is stricter. The NSAA only requires athletes to be passing four classes, while OPS states that athletes cannot play if they have a failing grade. At Central, sport teams follow variations of this policy. The volleyball team benches players with an F in any class, while other teams allow two weeks to pull that failing grade up. If any athlete has a D, academic coaching is required. Either way, these policies are both better than what the NSAA states, because the NSAA allows for athletes to fall behind in academics.

It would be ideal for the NSAA to adopt a more strict code enforcing athletes to work just as hard in the classroom as they do on the court, field, track or pool and for there to be consequences if they do not. Not only is it unfair for athletes who are currently monitored on a regular basis, but it is more about preparing athletes and setting them up for success.

Many athletes aspire to become a pro athlete, but the chances of that happening are respectively low. So, it is vital that athletes have a backup plan if they are not offered an athletic scholarship to play in college, or if they are denied in the pros.

Having good grades now will secure admission into a good



CONNOR PAINTIN | Contributing Cartoonist

college, and athletes will not need to rely on solely athletic performance to be able to take care of themselves after high school graduation. Plus, good grades benefit athletes and make them more desirable by college recruits. There are many exceptions for great athletes with poorer grade point averages in college, but there gets to a point where colleges will not offer due to too low of a GPA. Focusing on school will reduce this risk, so either way it is a win-win situation.

By not enforcing a strict guideline for athletes, athletes can slide by with making average, or below average, grades in some cases. This is in no way beneficial, because even though they might be able to stand out in athletics, they will fall behind in academics. Academics is the main purpose of high school; it is not scoring the most touchdowns, running the fastest in a meet or having the most kills in a match-- even though these are nice

to have.

Therefore, regular grade checks should become standard, and academic coaching should continue to be provided for athletes that are struggling and need extra help managing their time or understanding concepts in any subject. If they are not able to comply and fail to be passing in any class within a week of a regular check, they will have to sit and the coaches will need to make adjustments to the line-up. Passing a mere four classes is not enough.

Hopefully this encourages the student to work hard to get back to playing, but again, it is the student aspect of any athlete that trumps their duties on his or her sport team. The NSAA needs to stop holding the hands of athletes and hold them to standards that will only help them once they finish high school.

Athletes right to use position to advance societal grievances

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"slacktivism," where some advocates for something without actually doing anything beneficial to support their cause. However, Kaepernick did pledge to donate the first million dollars he earns this season towards helping with the problem of racial injustice, whether that be through community support organizations or some other outlet. While he did choose to donate money after the fact, at least he is trying to do something instead of just talking.

However, the situation with Colin Kaepernick brings up an interesting question that we must ask the rest of the athletes who protest. There is no debating that every citizen that lives in the United States has the right to protest. But do they have the credibility and justification to protest? Or are they just protesting to protest and not actually trying to change things?

For example, an athlete like LeBron James certainly had the credibility and justification to say something during the ESPYs about racial injustice and athletes helping their communities. James supports his community near Akron, Ohio through his foundation, the LeBron James Family Foundation which does numerous things for children such as gives them rides to school, provide financial support for their education and much

more. He also has a show on CNBC called "Cleveland Hustle," which provides support for people who want to open their own small businesses.

These things gave James credibility when he spoke out and it made everyone listen. Not only did his fame help his legitimacy but so did his service to his community. So when other athletes choose to protest during the anthem, we have to ask if they donate not only money to their communities but also their time. Revisiting, rebuilding and encouraging communities to become better. Every problem, whether it be racial, social, financial or personal must first be solved from within someone before he or she can attempt to solve problems in the outside world.

Athletes have an increased responsibility to use their fame and fortune to do good. However, when we as a society choose to hold them to that standard, we cannot stop the boundaries of sports and politics from overlapping. Some people complain when sports and politics combine. Yet those people probably get upset when an athlete does not act like someone you would have in your home or in your community. When we ask our athletes to get involved in social issues and politics, they are free to speak their mind. People cannot get picky and only want athletes to speak when it agrees with their values or what they

have to say.

Nobody calls Muhammad Ali a thug when one reflects upon his social impact upon society. He was one of the many athletes at the front of the Civil Rights Movement, with acts such as speaking against the Vietnam draft. Ali's words and Kaepernick's are eerily similar. About the Vietnam draft, Ali said, "Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go ten thousand miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights?" He chose not to serve his country. Sure, he might have been called names back then. But now, do people call him unpatriotic? Do people say that he is sympathetic to terrorism? Do people call him a thug? No, they call him a hero and a leader for civil rights. So why are athletes being criticized for standing up for what they believe in?

These athletes are advancing and continuing the conversation when today's society will talk about it only when a tragedy occurs. They are getting people to pay attention to these issues in their towns and communities. Are they perfect? Absolutely not. Sometimes these athletes cross over into the gray area of protesting and insulting. But they are doing more than a lot of other people are willing to do to create change in society.

Legality does not equate morality, fallacious appeals too common in laws

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immorality must be put to rest. For example, people may not choose to abstain from drugs or alcohol because some bureaucrat in the most corrupt city in North America has deemed it to be illegal, but rather because they freely choose their health and full control over my mental faculties instead. Similarly, can it truly be said that a those who make the converse choice is doing so immorally? Unintelligently, quite possibly, harmful, certainly, but can the state, which globally has killed more people than anything else, and deprives more people of their natural rights than anyone else, really tell those people that they are the immoral ones?

A common debate in the political world has often been over whether or not it is possible or perhaps more accurately permissible to legislate morality. The 18th Amendment and Prohibition became the first experiment in these vein of thinking, and as any student of history can tell you, it failed miserably. The same result appears to be reoccurring with regards to the War

on Drugs, as it becomes more and more apparent that the way to deal with those who struggle with substances that are generally accepted as harmful or dangerous is not to treat them as an immoral dreg of society to be caged alongside murderers and rapists, but rather as someone in need of help and compassion. The importance of this issue becomes greater when one recognizes that the more the idea of legality and morality being one in the same has become accepted, the more the justice system has shifted from rehabilitative to retributive. It is far easier to levy a crushing punishment on someone if you believe they are morally inferior. However, if you understand that morality outside of the protection of human beings from each other is actually quite relative from person to person, it is possible to better tailor a sentence to help that unfortunate person rather than simply punish them.

In that same vein of thought, too often than not the law is an attempt to enforce morality by an entity that doesn't even abide their own rules, and as such shows that today's government no longer is restrained by law, but rather it uses law to

restrain its subjects, formerly known as citizens.

All in all, the very fact that something may happen to be deemed illegal or legal by someone with a fancy title and an income funded by theft should not automatically exhibit an obedient response, because as Martin Luther King Jr. said, "We should never forget that everything Adolf Hitler did in Germany was "legal" and everything the Hungarian freedom fighters did in Hungary was "illegal." It was "illegal" to aid and comfort a Jew in Hitler's Germany." In this crucial election, with two candidates who either want to legislate what is moral for people's wallets or social opinions, it is absolutely imperative that people start thinking for themselves and understanding that good ideas, and valid viewpoints, shouldn't really require the force of government at all. People must first use the very intuition that makes them human, and decide what is best for them, within the moral confines of natural law, and when doing so, it becomes readily apparent that legality does not necessarily equate morality.

Justice system biased, rapists often given too little punishment

Zoia Morrow
staff writer

The law states commit the crime, do the time, but apparently that doesn't matter anymore. It really only applies to people who don't commit rapes.

As reported by rainn.org, out of every 1,000 rapes 994 perpetrators walk away free and only two out of three sexual assault cases are reported to the police. This statistic makes offenders think they can get away with sexually assaulting someone.

Many victims fear retaliation from their attackers and don't speak up. Because of people like Brock Turner any human would live in constant fear of what can happen to anyone. The mentality that instead of helping an unconscious drunk person, one would rather commit rape behind a dumpster is disturbing. Caught in the act and chased away by two guys, Turner ran until he was tackled and held down until the police came.

Here is where the real issue lies, Turner and his family refuse to accept what he did. Turner was sentenced to a far too lenient six months in jail, but only served three. Judge Aaron Persky sympathized the victim, yet still sided with the perpetrator and his father when Turner's father said he should not have to pay for his "20 minutes of action."

May anyone remind him that "action" was rape. Persky based his decision on the fact Turner did not have a previous criminal record as if that excuses anything.

The victim's feelings and mental state didn't matter during the trial, only Turner's. Persky did not seem to think about what Turner had taken away from the girl he consciously decided to violate. No matter what she was wearing, how drunk she was, how hot she looked, she did not consent and was not awake to give it.

Seeing that fraternity and sorority parties are not a new thing to college campuses, it is still not an invitation to rape someone. Neither is a drunk person who says yes, but is not in the right state of mind to remember, that is equally as unjust.

According to an online article from Aljazeera America, 58 percent of seventh to twelfth graders said they have been experienced sexual harassment. Groping in the hallways, calling someone a homophobic slur and vicious rumors even count as sexual harassment. The percentage of being at risk for sexual harassment is higher for girls than boys, but that does not mean it can't happen to them as well.

In a different case, the at the time 16-year-old Kraigen Grooms sexually assaulted a 1-year-old and the act was



ANNA OVERBECK Contributing Cartoonist

streamed online for the internet to see. A viewer online watched from their computer and filmed it on their phone to show to the police.

The court waited two long years until Grooms was 18 and finally prosecuted him. He pleaded guilty to crime of molesting a child who can't even talk and not be able to recall the incident and was sentenced to ten years. He only served two years before he was released.

Why is it that someone with stolen cigars can be shot on the street, but one can be released from jail early even though they raped someone? Why is it that a person of color caught

with an ounce of marijuana more time in jail than a non-person of color who committed a worse crime?

The answer comes back to white privilege. It's an immunity from certain burdens or liabilities a non-person of color has over a person of color. Corey Batey, 19-year-old football player committed the same crime as Turner, a 20-year-old swimmer. Both athletic and star players, but unlike Turner's sentence, Batey received 15-20 years at minimum. The difference is race.

If a person has enough courage to speak up about their situation, they deserve justice. Rape can happen to anyone. It happens everyday, more than anyone would care to say.

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Health should not be considered when electing a president

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

During this election, both candidates are attempting to do anything they can in order to gain control of the White House. This includes bringing up personal issues and even the speculated health of the opposing candidate. Neither of these things have any relation to whether they are fit for presidency, however. When a president is elected, it should be for their beliefs, not the physical state they are in.

The health of someone is simply too unpredictable to be used as part of the guidelines for who should hold office. For example, someone could be nominated as president one day and diagnosed with a life threatening disease in the following days without showing symptoms of this prior to the election.

The same could be said for one who is supposedly sick while in consideration for office. Many will say that they should not be elected because of their physical state; however, unless they are actually dying, in which case they would take themselves out of contention, it is completely possible that they recover. For these reasons, it is not smart to make a voting decision based on something as variable as health. Furthermore, John F. Kennedy was suffering from Addison's disease, which he hid from the public. With full treatment, this ailment could be contained and he was still able to serve as president fully and the public were not affected by this. If we selected candidates solely based on health, some of the most beloved and in history, such as John F. Kennedy would not have become president.

Unless a candidate is dying from an illness, it is not necessary to base one's vote on their health; however, the American public does deserve to know for themselves the medical history of each contender so that they can make this decision for themselves. For this reason, it should be required that the candidates make their medical histories public so the public can see what they are getting in a future possible president.

Moreover, this disclosure of medical history may actually help a candidacy. For example, John McCain, the republican nominee for president in 2008, faced many questions over whether he was fit to hold office. Accordingly, he released more than 1,000 pages of health documents which showed he was healthy and had no psychiatric issues. It even demonstrated his mental and physical fortitude when considering all that he had gone through.

Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton should both be held to this medical standard. Amidst all the questions posed regarding their health, each should release full medical history as McCain did in 2008. This is especially relevant now as Clinton attended the September 11th Commemoration Ceremony for just an hour and thirty minutes before leaving because she felt overheated. Although this may not be anything other than a case of pneumonia as it was reported by her campaign, this incident leads many to question her health. And being 70 years old, plenty question the health of Trump as well. As a result of these queries, an independent and bipartisan review of their health records could help voters around the country. Neither candidate has released much regarding their history thus far. Trump and Clinton have each released perfunctory statements on their respective health's but nothing with much substance and specific information.

With the release of records by both candidates, closure would be provided for many of the voters. Although neither candidate has a life-threatening illness to the public's knowledge, the release of these documents would validate these beliefs and once and for all take medical history out of the equation in determining the next president of the United States.

Trump has said he would be willing to release his full history if Clinton does, and that he may even disclose first. Nobody should expect a president to be an Olympic athlete and their records may make no difference in the way one's vote goes; however, the public is entitled to a review over the evidence to see if it is worthy for them to be conscious about when thinking about which candidate to cast their vote for.



DONOVAN DINOFF | Contributing Cartoonist

Implementation of two different grading scales confusing to students

Grace Turner
staff writer

The new school year has brought many new changes to the OPS school system. However, perhaps one of the biggest changes is the trial of the new grading system. Currently the new grading policy is being tested in nine classes throughout the 2016-2017 school year.

These nine classes are field testing this policy to test how effective it is compared to the current grading policy. With the current system students can get an A if their grade is from 3.01 to 4.00, and on the other side of the spectrum they will get an F if their grade is between 0.00 to 0.75. The new grading policy will make it so in order to get an A students grades have to be between 3.26 to 4.00, and an F is between 0.00 and 1.00. The new system is being field tested in nine classes. Elementary schools are testing it in fourth grade math. Middle schools are testing it in seventh grade social studies, eighth grade language arts and honors language arts, eighth grade honors physical science, and algebra or honors algebra 1-2. High schools are test-

ing it in modern world history 1-2, English and honors English 3-4, algebra and honors algebra 1-2, and physical science and honors physical science.

This policy is not being used by all classes so some kids may have a few classes graded one way and other classes being graded another way. This could be very confusing for students being graded in some classes differently than other classes. For example, in one class using the current grading system a student could receive an A, while receiving the same invidual assignment grades and receive a B in a class using the new grading scale. This mix-match of grading policies will be difficult for kids to keep straight with some being graded and others another way.

The biggest area where this can be seen is in the fourth grade math class. In fourth grade students do not switch classes. Most of their classes will be grading using the old grading system. However in math they will be graded with the new system. Normally in Elementary school there is very little change when moving from one subject to another. Therefore, having completely different grading scales could be confusing for the

students.

Not only could this new system be confusing for the students but it could also be confusing for the teachers. There are many teachers who will be facing a new problem this year, having classes graded on a different grading scale. For example, fourth grade teachers have to grade most of their students work using the old grading policy. However, they also have to grade the math with the new grading policy. This could be confusing for the teachers who are having to grade in multiple grading scales. A few Central teachers who could be effected by this new change are teachers who teach both algebra 1-2 and another math class.

This new grading scale is a good idea but needed to be enacted across the entire district instead of just some classes. As it is now the new policies could be confusing for the students and teachers to understand. There are many students who are currently having two classes graded on a different grading scale. Similarly, many teachers are having to grade on two different scales. If this new policy was enacted across the district then most of the confusion would not be present.

A TALENTED DEPARTMENT

Outside of the core curriculum, many Central students apply their talents to the visual arts, utilizing unique means to make thoughts come to life.



Senior Olivia Larson

Alec Rome
staff writer

Alongside literature, visual art has been a mainstay of human creation and innovation for a millenium. Many are born with the gift, for others it takes time to develop those skills. At Central, many students have begun their ventures into the world of art in similar ways. Senior Olivia Larson's interest in art started just a little differently than most. Her parents tell the notorious story of when she was four and her father had asked her, "Do you want to be an artist when you grow up?" Naturally, in her sassy persona she had during that time, she replied, "Dad, I already am an artist." Now, Larson follows that passion in a much different and less snarky way.

One of the reasons why Larson loves making art is self expression. It allows her to "talk" without needing other people to listen. While it is difficult to decide, her favorite project was some clay portraits she made last year. "I got to work with people's faces," she said.

She took plenty of pictures of her friends and made clay heads of each person. The heads

also had wires and glass sticking out of the back, along with patterns to clash with the calmness of each person. Larson differentiated between the types of glaze and other techniques to accurately represent what each person truly looked like. "I really like perception versus reality," she said. "I really want people to be challenged when they look at my stuff, and I think I achieved that the best in that work out of everything I have done."

Using clay sparks the same love of getting messy and dirty as the finger painting did when she was four years old. She said she loves the versatility of clay and how it can fit the wide range of ideas she has for pieces. However, she is branching out with wood and wire to create other three dimensional pieces.

Some of Larson's future projects include creating a castle out of aluminum cans, making a woman's face out of wood and using pearls costume jewelry to recreate an old phrase, "fair for the ferryman," and other adventurous projects including found objects. "I'm realizing you don't have to just use paint and a canvas to express yourself," Larson said.

Junior Ashleigh Sampson

Junior Ashleigh Sampson had her interest in art passed down through the family; her father was an art major in college. She grew up with him always drawing, and that turned her into what she describes as a "left brain kid." Later, her sister started watching anime, and her love for art began to increase from there. She started taking art classes in middle school and high school, and her passion for it has not halted since.

Asking her to pick her favorite piece of art she has completed is like asking a mother which child she loves the most. However, one comes to mind recently that has a fond place in her art portfolio. She did a scratchboard piece over the summer, for Mothers' Day for her sister. It was a family portrait of all of her sister's children. The portrait was quite the undertaking; two months of hard work to make a very large piece, a piece so big she cannot even remember the dimensions of it. She said she considers it one of her personal favorite because of the family attachment and how much she cares for her sister and the kids.

Sampson loves the fun of art, but realizes that with the fun comes the opposite side of the spectrum: tedious work. "I'm a perfectionist," she said. "I'm very big on doing itty bitty little lines. It does get boring sometimes and since it's delicate art, you have to be very careful."

Scratchboard is among her favorite types of art; using an exacto knife to make small scratches and indentations in a board, but she's also fond of graphite and ink pieces. "I really like the shading and the negative look," Sampson said. "They're very contrasting looks." On the other hand, she is not big into three dimensional pieces or pieces involving paint or pastel.

Selling pieces of art can be tough for some artists, but Sampson seems to have found the formula to success. She now commissions pieces regularly, and has around seven customers she sells her art to. Her future projects grow in size and in detail and she is trying to get some apprenticeships. To anyone looking to delve into the arts. Sampson said, "Art is 99 percent hard work and 1 percent talent."



Senior Maddie Badura

Senior Maddie Badura has always been drawing in some form or fashion, ever since she could hold a crayon. She has always loved coloring and rendering things as realistic as possible. Through all of her experience drawing, her skills kept improving. "[Art] is one of those things that if you're good at it, you enjoy doing it," Badura said. "It's not really work. I like to try and recreate the beauty of things I see in life." She also loves art because it is like life; incredibly versatile.

She said does not have a favorite piece of hers that comes to mind, but she loves drawing people. According to Badura, her portraits are usually the ones that end up coming out the best. Her materials when making art are fairly simple; colored pencil, graphite and paint. "Anything that portrays the mood or the tone that I sense in a subject."

There are of course challenges when it comes to drawing people. She finds it tough to

recreate emotion, because while one can make people recognizable in terms of facial features, making the emotions the subject feels in a certain situation is a much tougher ask. "The corner of a mouth or eyes can change the whole mood [of a piece]," Badura said.

Even though Badura may not pursue art in postsecondary education, she will continue to make art in her spare time. She has done contests and competitions before and has actually sold a few pieces, mainly through school. "People are just so nice," Badura said. "They're always telling me how good my work is. I think it's really important for an artist to hear. It has an effect on how often I do my art, and I think it matters."

Adopted sophomore survives hardships, finds comfort

Anna Kaminski
executive editor

Sophomore Carlyne Hanson is only 15, but she has had enough experience to last her a lifetime.

She was born in Russia, but has lived in Omaha for the majority of her life. She has endured countless obstacles and hardships along the way, but all of it has made her the person she is today.

This summer, Hanson was interviewed by the Omaha World Herald, and her story was shared with the whole population.

"I was nervous at first because I'd never done that kind of thing before," said Hanson, "but it was really fun."

Hanson was born in Russia on Dec. 21, 2000. She came from a fractured home in which her mother was a drug addict. "She just couldn't take care of me," Hanson said. In addition, Hanson's biological mother had reoccurring miscarriages, "It's a miracle that I wasn't one of them," she said.

Hanson was given up for adoption as an international baby and was eventually adopted by a family in Omaha at nine months old.

The husband was in the military, and Hanson had a sister with Down syndrome, "She was treated like an angel," Hanson said. However, Hanson was mistreated and abused. She attended daycare almost every day, but her "mother" stopped taking her. The daycare provider was concerned, so Child Protective Services was called.

"They went into my room and my crib was broken, it wasn't really a crib. The walls were just a plain white...and I had a full head of lice, so they had to cut all my hair off," recalled Hanson.

The family did not want to fight with the law, so Hanson was put up for adoption again at around four years old. She was placed in emergency foster care, and she was in need of a permanent home as soon as possible.

In 2005, Carlyne was finally adopted by the Hansons. "They basically saved my life," Hanson said.

Hanson is heavily involved in art, dance and mechanics. She dances at Backstage Dance studio and her favorites are hip-



Photos Courtesy of CAROLYNE HANSON

Ever since she was little, sophomore Carlyne Hanson has always been a happy child, especially now that she's home.

hop and gymnastics. Hanson's knack for art is obvious based upon the photos featured in her World Herald article. She enjoys painting and drawing people.

Hanson's father is a mechanic, and she likes to spend some of her free time helping him out in the garage.

"I want to be a mechanic because me and my dad have great bond because of it," Hanson said.

Not only does Hanson want to be a mechanic, but she also wants to travel. "My goals are to travel everywhere," she said. "I want to travel to Russia especially."

Hanson describes her life now as "interesting." "I survived a lot of battles when I was little," she said. "I'm just really grateful for my family."

She attended Morton Middle School and is now in her sec-

ond year at Central. She prefers to stay in Omaha and potentially attend the University of Nebraska at Omaha for college. Hanson has never had trouble making friends. She has been a very sociable person ever since she was young.

Coincidentally, Hanson recently found out that two of her best friends are adopted as well. She said that it is really nice to have a connection with people who understand her. She considers herself to be independent, strong-willed and unique.

Despite all of the challenges Hanson has faced, she maintains a positive outlook on life. She spends her time with friends, dancing, painting and simply living her life to the fullest.

"I'm proud of myself," said Hanson. "I'm a survivor."

What to wear this fall: neutrals, old trends brought back to life

The season of fall is always one to be expected in the fashion world. Collections appear twice a year, mid-February to mid-March, for the most anticipated fall collections. The trends set during multiple fashion weeks are the clothes to be worn for the rest of the year. Each city brings vogue to another creative level that many fall head over heels for. Here is an insight on what to wear, how to wear it and what styles to expect for the upcoming fall/winter seasons.

Shades of Tan: Tan is the most classic and chic color there is. It pairs with any accessory or article of clothing; it is a burst of color without much of an emphasis at the same time. Paired with typical autumn colors such as, burnt and amber orange, canary yellow and sepia brown, tan can be the perfect color to top off an outfit. Anticipate an abundance of tan skirts, coats, scarves and sweaters this fall.

Thinking Pink: Every runway show different shades of pink are on display, but this time round a rose quartz, pink made several appearances. The unexpected color pairing this season came from wearing pastel on pastel, or a velvet pink on canary yellow. Sheer and flimsy dusty pink blouses are bound to stand out.

Cold Shoulder (Renaissance Woman): A widespread trend this summer/fall has been of cold shoulder tops and dresses. It can lightly flow with long sleeves to make for a nice day. On the other hand, shoulder-less shirts chically professional. It does not necessarily have to be cold shoulder to be considered cold shoulder material. The shirt or dress may have a slanted neckline but does not show any skin of the shoulder. Runway looks include Renaissance woman retro looks and diverse cold shoulder patterns and prints.

Straight Knit Jeans: Part one of the Holy Trinity of autumn fashion 2016. Straight knit

jeans make anyone look stylish without trying too hard. Anything matches with these types of jeans. Most would throw on a band or plain tee with a jacket to top it off. It is not about the vintage look to them, but the fit and style that comes with it. "It's more like a tailored trouser that happens to be in denim." Katie Green, British designer of Kéji said (Vogue.com). This trend has blown up on the everyday street style. Skinny jeans are a no go when it comes to straight knit jeans.

Turtlenecks: Part two of the Holy Trinity of autumn fashion 2016. Turtlenecks are every elementary school kid's nightmare. For the rest of the world, it is a warm dream come true. After being around since 1870, women, with the help of celebrities like Marilyn Monroe and Audrey Hepburn adapted and feminized the look in the 1950s. There it became associated with academics as preppy students wore them more often, but that is not the case in the year 2016. Turtlenecks or skivvies are worn any and everywhere. It is a casual look, a classy look, and even a party look. The least common look is silk turtlenecks worn with printed, loose fitting trousers. In addition, if the collar is too high or long, rolling it down to your collarbones is shown to be as stylish. Depending on what is worn with and the type of knitted shirt or sweater, one can make the turtle neck their own.

Booties: The conclusion to the Holy Trinity of autumn fashion 2016. Boots with heels, also known as booties. Popular Street and party style, these booties are art in shoe form. Particularly velvet booties rocked with straight knit jeans. However, one does not have to wear it strictly with jeans. Button up skirts worn with booties, and even turtlenecks is a sight to see. Many designers like Ralph and Russo and Gucci have fit to put floral prints on these ankle high-heeled boots. It makes to spice up an outfit per any person.



ZOIA MORROW
FUNKY, FUN, FALL

'Dance Chance' offers choreographers opportunity to showcase work

Simone Davis
staff writer

When thinking of fun activities or weekend plans, Omaha has plenty to offer in the arts department. When looking for ways to have fun or to broaden one's horizon, Dance Chance Omaha is a perfect opportunity. Dance Chance is a performance one Saturday a month at the Bancroft Street Market.

Dance Chance is a chance for choreographers to informally present their work in a welcoming environment. It is also welcomes non-dancers to see works of art from local performers and dancers.

Pieces of work are performed or presented in a unique set-up because there is no formal stage. At each performance, there are usually three of four choreographers that present a dance. The first Dance Chance was in September of 2015, and Carly Sinn, the co-host, showed her work at that time.

"Erin Brandt told me about Dance Chance Atlanta and Dance Chance Chicago," said Sinn. Brandt is the other co-host

of Dance Chance. "We had discussions about wanting to create a place where the dance community could come together to connect, network and share feedback with each other. Dance Chance seemed to fit the bill."

That's exactly what Dance Chance does. Every month, performers sign up to showcase their choreography. Once they perform their work, the audience is free to give their feedback to the dancers. The point is to have an interactive environment that benefits both the dancers and audience members alike.

"It felt totally safe and like anything was possible," Sinn said. Though Sinn is the co-host, she has performed and presented work in Dance Chance as well. "The people at Dance Chance are hungry to see new things and ideas, which helps promote an environment of being able to try new things".

Dance Chance is not exclusive to dancers; it welcomes and encourages non-dancers to participate.

Sinn and Brandt hope to expand Dance Chance to performers of multiple dance backgrounds and even filmmakers and musicians.

"I would love to see [Dance Chance] be the place to help

nurture an artist's process." Until then, Dance Chance will continue to mostly see dance, although a few musicians have performed too.

Because Dance Chance is largely based on audience participation, the more people that come to see the show, the better. Not only does it benefit the feedback that choreographers receive for their work, but it will be an opportunity for people that are unfamiliar with dance to come and experience something new.

"Community outreach is a huge part of the growth," says Sinn. Some months, the audience number isn't as large as it could be and in the future, Sinn and Brandt hope that Dance Chance grows even more.

Dance Chance can now be added to the list of the other endless art and performance offered in Omaha. All are welcome to attend and enjoy the show.

Makeup evolves past looks, develops sense of self expression

Hayley Raney
staff writer

Kendyl Clayton and Mayra Santos, juniors, are two makeup gurus. Both say makeup is a way of expressing one.

Santos has been using makeup since the eighth grade and became fascinated with makeup from Youtube, while watching makeup artists like NIKKIETUTORIALS and Carli Bybel.

Santos said it took her forever to achieve the look she wanted, as she explained. "I wouldn't say I'm a professional but I know how to make things look the way I feel it should look."

Santos admires the makeup artist, Patrick Star. "He's a guy and he sets an example that makeup's not just for one gender it's for everybody."

Makeup allows you to create any look you desire and as such makeup brands are expanding and increasing popularity. "You can do so much with makeup and have a different style every day," Clayton said.

Clayton has been using makeup since the seventh grade, but really got into makeup her freshman year, when he was inspired to try out more makeup from her older sister, McKenzie and Youtube tutorials as well as Santos.

"I actually got good at makeup and got a routine down in tenth grade," Clayton said.

Clayton really decided what she was looking for the longer she practiced with makeup. "Makeup makes me feel not so basic, I have a little bit more going on, or use makeup to make my outfit look more interesting."

"Makeup makes me feel confident but not like in an insecure way, it makes me feel good," Santos said. Makeup this day in age is used more to feel good about yourself personally not to hide insecurities, she added.

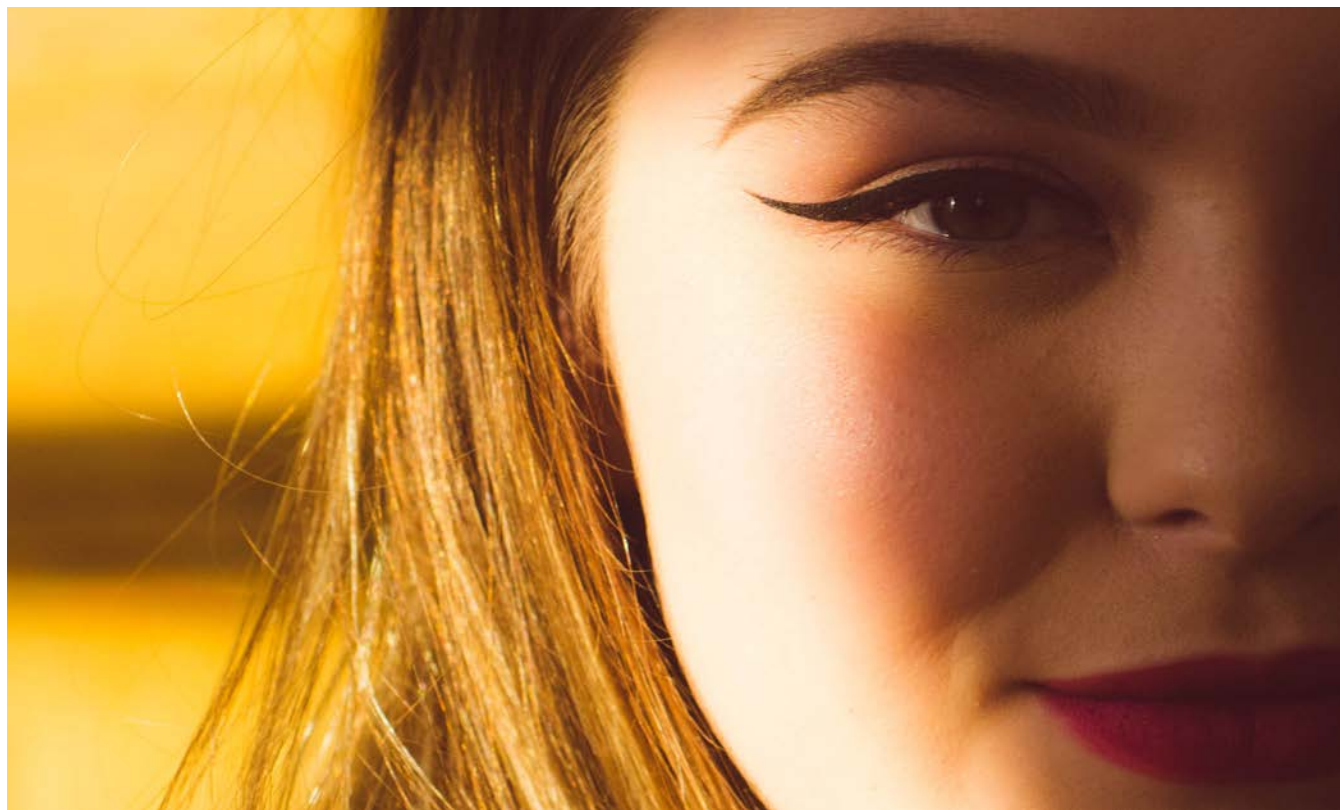
Clayton's most satisfying part of doing makeup is her eyebrows, with her favorite piece of makeup being full coverage NARS foundation.

Highlighting is Santos' favorite part about doing her makeup, that is applying either a powder or liquid glitter to the high points of your face, such as cheekbones, chin and the tip of your nose.

Santos' favorite piece of makeup is fake eyelashes and she wears Vegas Nay lashes in the style grand glamour.

Clayton had struggled with acne before she started using makeup, as she said, "Makeup has helped me get over insecurities." Now Clayton is no longer insecure of herself and she uses makeup to also feel good about herself.

Clayton's opinion on why make is so popular this day in age is because "social media has made makeup seem like its necessary,"



LILY GILLILAND | The Register

Zoë Runge, junior, is one of many who express themselves through makeup trends such as bold brows and sharp eyeliner.

Clayton feels makeup should be "used just to add on" and enhance yourself.

Eyebrow perfection are one of today's biggest trend, with shaping and filling in. "Eyebrows are everything," both Santos and Mayra said. Eyebrows are highly prioritized by today's young generation. "Eyebrows are kind of the first thing you look at, it's something in our society that's become a big deal," Clayton said.

Santos still struggles perfecting her eyebrows. "It's a process to get my eyebrows done." Santos says that eyebrows are pretty important because they frame the face.

Clayton's biggest struggle with makeup is getting it to last all day. An amazing setting spray used by top notch makeup artists is the Urban Decay All Nighter.

When it comes to living without makeup, Santos could not live without mascara. "I could not have makeup on, but I

have to have mascara," she said. Clayton could not live without her Rimmel eyebrow pencil, eyeliner and mascara.

Santos has made new friends exploring the world makeup. She's able to relate to others who love makeup. "Makeup is something I do for fun," Both plan on using their hobby in the future. Santos thinks makeup will benefit her in the future by becoming a makeup artist.

Clayton believes makeup will benefit her future by boosting her creativity in art. "I'm really into art I can expand on makeup art wise."

When it comes to recommending makeup to others the girls are on completely different standpoints. "Just do you. If you wanna cake your face then do it," Santos said.

Clayton's opinion is, "don't use makeup to completely change how you look, try to use it to add just a little pizzazz to your face."

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food:

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

Block 16, a restaurant which prides itself on farm to table street food, is located at 1611 Farnam Street and open six days a week: 11 P.M. to 3 P.M.

Monday through Saturday for lunch and then again from 5 P.M. to 9 P.M. for dinner Thursday through Saturday. It is owned by a couple who met in Metropolitan Community College's Culinary program, where they earned credentials and broadened their network of friends, chefs, and fellow foodies.

Their families remain the original culinary inspiration. An Italian-Canadian great-aunt and Belgian-American grandma from South Omaha are inspirations of theirs. They pride themselves in offering the freshest food possible. They buy local, humanely raised, and preservative-free ingredients. Block 16 has offered 1,400 different specials in the past four years, with only a few repeats and they try to introduce customers to new food preparations every time they enter the door. Along with taking pride in the freshness that each menu option provides, they also provide vegan options so that no one is limited in their choices of what to order.

Block 16 has a certain cozy feel when one enters the door. It is almost like a family kitchen because of the smaller space and fresh food that one knows he or she is about to receive. The service was exceptional and one can tell that the employees truly care about your experience at the restaurant and want to make it the best that it can be.

During my visit to Block 16 I tried the "Croque Garcon Burger" and it was fantastic. The burger was well done as I asked but remained tender and juicy. The egg adds a good amount of unique texture to the burger that one does not experience many other places. The ham and cheese added another level of richness, making it hard to finish despite the quality of the meal. Their sweet potato fries are also recommended with this meal because it adds a melodious twist to the burger that one would not get with regular fries or any of the other sides when paired with it.

Despite the quality and freshness of the food, the price range is quite respectable. Most of the menu options are under \$10 making this a great place to grab a quick lunch when in the Old Market. Although this is a great lunch option, especially for those in or near the Old Market, it is also a great family dinner restaurant. There is a wide variety of options on the menu so picky eaters should have no problem finding something they like.

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ON PAGE 20

film:

Miles Kay
staff writer

Following the disappointing debut of *Batman v. Superman: Dawn of Justice*, audiences worried that Warner Bros. third entry into the DC canon, *Suicide Squad*, might fall short of expectations. But, by bombarding the world with an expansive advertising campaign focusing on the movie's humor and unique ensemble, Warner Bros. kept audience excitement high.

Upon its release, the film generated more mixed reviews and generally divisive opinions, with some loving *Suicide Squad* and others extremely disappointed. In my opinion, *Suicide Squad* may be one of the most unique superhero films to date and the best blockbuster of the summer because of its stellar performances by its top-billed actors, humorous tone and consistent pacing.

Director David Ayer's *Suicide Squad* follows a group of supervillains assembled into a government strike team, Task Force X, by the aloof Amanda Waller. The team consists of comic book favorites Harley Quinn, Deadshot, Captain Boomerang, Katana, Slipknot, El Diablo and American soldier Rick Flagg. The movie opens with an explanation of each villain's backstory and the reasons for the creation of Task Force X. When one government asset, the Enchantress, goes rogue, the team is deployed on a classified mission into a city overrun by the Enchantress' soldiers. The film continues moving from action set piece to set piece, ending with enough of a cliffhanger to leave fans hungry for a sequel.

In the movie, the top-billed actors do a phenomenal job in their respective roles; their impressive performances hold *Suicide Squad* together. In my opinion, Margot Robbie is the movie's biggest hit as Harley Quinn, a psychotic but hilarious character. Her one-liners and mannerisms keep the movie's tone lighter than that of *Batman v. Superman*. Her acting perfectly complements Will Smith's as Deadshot, an assassin with traces of a moral compass. Other strong performances include, Viola Davis as Amanda Waller and Jared Leto as the Joker.

Suicide Squad's tone is aided by its phenomenal soundtrack- a combination of original songs, including some by Twenty-One Pilots, Imagine Dragons and Wiz Khalifa, and older hits such as "Bohemian Rhapsody." Though the songs help move the movie between action scenes and lighten the tone, the movie still struggles with transitions; it is clear that some explanatory and transitional scenes were lost to editing.

Suicide Squad's tone is aided by its phenomenal soundtrack- a combination of original songs, including some by Twenty-One Pilots, Imagine Dragons and Wiz Khalifa, and older hits such as "Bohemian Rhapsody." Though the songs help move the movie between action scenes and lighten the tone, the movie still struggles with transitions; it is clear that some explanatory and transitional scenes were lost to editing.

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ON PAGE 20



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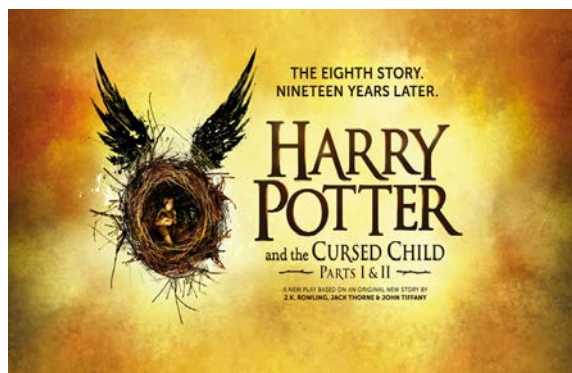


Photo Courtesy of POTTERMORE.COM

book:

Cecilia Huber
staff writer

Bookstores were packed July 31 with Harry Potter fans for the midnight release of the newest book to the beloved Harry Potter series, *Harry Potter and the Cursed Child*,

or book number 8, is just as amazing and unique as every other book in the series. The authors really outdid themselves by writing in play form, letting each chapter act as a new scene, separated into different acts. This style of writing makes the book so much easier to read. It took me less than a day to read, and I'm sure some of the bigger Harry Potter fans read it in only a few hours.

The idea for the story was formed into book form by Jack Thorne, J.K. Rowling, and John Tiffany, but Jack Thorne was the one who transformed it into a play. Previews of the play began at the Palace Theatre, London on July 7 and was scheduled to officially premiere on July 30.

The book is very different from any other book in the series, aside from the new writing style. It is set about twenty or so years later, making Harry Potter and all of his friends grown up. This time, the plot is revolved around Harry's children and their experiences at the new-and-improved Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. This way, it introduces many new characters and blasts from the pasts of previous books from the series, tying it all together. These connections give the play boosts of recognition as readers journey with the new main character, Harry's son, Albus Severus Potter. Albus goes through the normal challenges of being a teenager, but he struggles under the weight of trying to fix the future by traveling to the past with his friend Scorpius Malfoy, Draco's son. The two best friends secretly team up to try and bring back characters from the past, but end up getting into more and more trouble along the way. They end up only having each other to trust and rely on to fix what they were trying to fix to save the day.

Of course, Rowling incorporated her famous plot twists that make any reader, Potter fan or not, hold their breath and keep the pages turning. Her humor and clue connections are spread throughout the book.

Harry Potter and the Cursed Child was a quick and fun book to read and I recommend it for anyone who has read the entire series. I also encourage those who have not read any of the books to look into completing the series because this book tops it all off. J. K. Rowling definitely satisfies all her readers. Hopefully we can look forward for an equally brilliant movie to match the text.

series:

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

The 1980s was an extremely fertile time period for movies. Many cult classics come from this era, be it the laughable flops, or the truly awe-inspiring masterpieces that are still relevant today. Netflix recently released a nostalgic thriller-mystery titled "Stranger Things", incorporating the best elements of 80s movies into an exhilarating series bound to create a massive fanbase.

"Stranger Things" revolves around the sudden disappearance of twelve-year-old Will Byers, which shakes his small Indiana hometown. Will's friends and family desperately try to find him, all while more people go missing. Not long after Will's disappearance, his friends discover an enigmatic young girl with telekinetic abilities in the woods...coincidentally near where Will vanished.

As if apparent kidnappings aren't enough, a secretive government lab has lost control of something very dangerous in the area surrounding town. With a new threat on the playing field, Will's friends and family have to sacrifice normality and form unlikely alliances to deal with the unpredictable situation at hand.

Set in 1983, "Stranger Things" perfectly captures the tone of 80s sci-fi flicks, and even pays homage to the likes of Steven Spielberg and John Carpenter. The show proves incredibly addictive right off the bat. For many viewers, it only took about a day to get through the entire first season. If anything, "Stranger Things" provokes the insatiable need to binge watch.

Visually, the show is sophisticated and cinematic as can be. Binging the show just feels like watching a really long movie, due to the elegant cinematography and blockbuster-tier visual effects. The color palettes compliment the suspenseful and twisted story. Lots of blues, grays, yellows and greens are used to accentuate the show's balanced mix of intense and lighthearted moments. The story is often presented from the children's perspective, so special color tones are used to add even more life to their eccentric personalities onscreen.

Simply put, "Stranger Things" has the best score imaginable for a sci-fi series. Synthesizers and 8-bit style beats are expertly produced to create a modern, yet accurate musical palette for the show's time period. The score can be compared to the cinematic processed techno heard in "Tron: Legacy". Because of the generally suspenseful and ominous tone of "Stranger Things", the music that accompanied the first season needed to be equally dark in nature.

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ON PAGE 20



Photo Courtesy of LIVEFORFILMS.

Review continuations: Block 16, *Stranger Things* and more



LILY GILLILAND | The Register

Local eatery Block 16 offers customers unique street-style cuisine at an affordable price. They use locally-sourced ingredients and feature a variety of menu items including vegan options.

CONTINUED FROM 'BLOCK 16' ON PAGE 19

As a result of their food and service, Block 16 has received numerous awards and accolades. To name a few: both chefs were named in Best Chefs America 2013, named Best Local Food-Serving Restaurant by "The Reader", and awarded 1st place for "Best Burger in Omaha" by the

CONTINUED FROM 'SUICIDE' ON PAGE 19

Suicide Squad falls flat because it is burdened by too many characters. The film focuses on Deadshot, Harley Quinn and Rick Flagg for almost the entire movie, often ignoring the rest of the squad. Jared Leto's Joker appears for only a handful of minutes in an almost irrelevant plot line, even Leto has complained about the number of Joker scenes cut from the movie. Suicide Squad is also plagued by poor acting from the minor members of Task Force X, along with characters such as Killer Croc and Katana who disappear into the background.

In addition, though it is a movie about villains, the film lacks true villainy. The characters,

CONTINUED FROM 'STRANGE' ON PAGE 19

Musicians Kyle Dixon and Michael Stein perfectly executed the production of the show's main theme song, as well as the rest of the score. Two volumes of the show's soundtrack/score are available for download on Apple Music, as fans have developed a deep love for the show and its music.

As far as casting goes, "Stranger Things" did an exceptional job. Winona Ryder plays Joyce Byers, Will's distraught mother. This was a revitalizing role for Ryder, and she brings a sweet, yet aggressively determined presence that the audience can deeply connect with. 12-year-old Millie Bobby Brown plays Eleven, the mysterious girl from the woods. Brown received international recognition for her role, and even caught the attention of "Breaking Bad" veteran, Aaron Paul. All in all, Ryder and Brown take the cake in terms of standout roles. The show's producers deserve major credit for how well they chose their child actors and actresses, as each character

Omaha World Herald.

After my experience at Block 16 I expect anyone who visits to have a pleasant experience and enjoy their meal. Anyone looking for a comfort food meal with a unique touch should check out Block 16, because they surely will not regret their decision.

who are some of the most notorious villains in comics, behave more like antiheroes, exhibiting a desire to save a world that many spent their lives terrorizing. Even the Enchantress, played by Cara Delevingne, seemingly lacks a motive. Murkiness in the plot and character motives cause Suicide Squad to struggle in critical moments.

Despite its flaws, Suicide Squad lays excellent foundations for an expanded DC universe. Amanda Waller, Deadshot, and Harley Quinn are all characters that one can only hope will reappear in future movies. The movie's even pacing, humor, and overall tone make it a refreshing entry in the superhero movie canon and one of the best action movies of the summer movie season.

became uniquely relatable, serving as a direct line to the audience's emotions.

Season 2 of "Stranger Things" has already been confirmed. According to the show's creators, they have a lot more story to cover. The cliffhanger at the end of season 1 leaves an open door for the writers to go any direction they'd like with the plot. One of the show's greatest strengths is character development, and hopefully this will continue into season 2. Now that audiences are familiar with the characters and have connected with them in their own way, it'll be very interesting to see how the show will play with the viewer's emotions in the future.

"Stranger Things" is one of the best written, best casted and best produced shows Netflix has ever released. It's safe to say that it has a fanbase as big as shows such as "Narcos", "Marvel's Daredevil" and "House of Cards", all of which are Netflix originals as well. A solid 9/10 is well-deserved for this brilliant new series.

Until next year, viewers can enjoy season 1 of one of the greatest takes on the sci-fi genre ever created.



GREEK ISLANDS

3821 CENTER ST.

Haunted houses provide thrills, prove enjoyable for fall evenings

Zoia Morrow
staff writer

Fall is arguably the most wonderful time of the year. It prepares for the upcoming winter and brings pumpkin spice flavored foods, sweater weather, scary movies and of course, haunted houses. Haunted house attraction parks are popular for making people so afraid of something that isn't real, afterwards it makes them laugh at themselves.

There is a great deal of activities for fall alone, but there's nothing like a good ol' haunted house to satisfy the thrill inside that comes with the Halloween season. Mystery Manor's up close and personal haunted house is exactly what one might need to please that thrill that shows up every year. By up close and personal, it is meant in a literal way. The "creatures" interact with each person throughout the house, which makes for a better experience.

On top of the amount of creatures, it's what they look like. The realistic back-from-the-dead like look plays a role in increasing fear. It's genuinely as if one is strolling through Halloweentown, but it's much darker and not as cool (in the moment at least).

A downside to Mystery Manor is it is not very large so it gets hot and humid quite fast inside. Going with a big group seems like a fun idea until everyone is sweating and out of breath from running, though it is nice knowing you aren't the only one who's afraid.

This haunted house is recommended to whomever is looking for a quick scare on a late fall night. Beware the lurking clowns as you await to get inside, they come out of nowhere. Unlike other haunted houses, Mystery Manor interacts with its thrill seekers. Giving lessons on the history of the haunted house and palm readings. The house is full of loud noises and the space is very tight, so if you are claustrophobic or phonophobic (fear of loud noises,) then this is probably not the place for you. It ranks on a three out of five.

Last year, Americans spent \$300 million spread out between the 2,500 haunted houses. If you are going to contribute to the \$300 million, it shouldn't be at just any haunted house. Get your money's worth and go to Scary Acres.

It features three haunted house attractions and each one gives off immense fear, but the best is the Master's Castle. The significant less amount of "creatures" in this house is made up by rooms full of globalized fears, such as clowns. Room after room, they continue to get scarier.

Unlike Mystery Manor the creatures are willing to chase customers around the large castle. There is a lot more space to run, but it is harder when the pathway is shaped differently. Incoordination, flickering lights, humps and ramps, it's all a recipe for disaster. This house is made for big groups because it is easier to get lost. In most areas it is pitch black which heightens the other four senses as you can't see. The most interesting part is the fact it loops to the outside full of cornfields- go figure. It ranks a four out of five.

One thing Scary Acres and Mystery Manor have in common is the spinning room. Walking across a ramp as the room is spinning is proven to be more difficult than it sounds. It is something to look forward to when attending either haunted house.

Satisfy the thrill inside this fall at a haunted house and get in the Halloween spirit.



Mystery Manor is located off 18th and Burt St.



Scary Acres is located off 172nd and Giles Road.

LILY GILLILAND | The Register

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Father focuses on positivity, raises money for young son's health

CONTINUED FROM 'FATHER' ON PAGE 15

shown promise. Mickeliunas said, "Gene therapy is the most promising of sort right now, [but] it is still in the early stages."

For Elliott in the meantime, once he is older he will be surgically give a port into one of his veins to allow the infusion of the necessary blood proteins into his blood.

For Mickeliunas and his wife, the key is allowing Elliott to grow and play as young boys often do, while also ensuring that he is safe.

"Medical professionals still encourage these kids to play sports and be active. We don't want to treat it like they're made of glass," he said.

Globally, Hemophilia remains a fairly rare occurrence, with only 40,000 reported cases worldwide, however often times those individuals facing it can find their medical options more limited than those with more common conditions, however fortunately for Elliott and his family, Omaha's University of Nebraska Medical Center is also home to a dedicated Hemophilia treatment facil-

ity, which can assist with any of their pressing concerns.

To go alongside the charity walk team, Mickeliunas's daughter Amelia, age five, also hosted a lemonade stand to help raise money for her little brother, so that they could grow up together safely, playing and even fighting as siblings often do.

Fittingly so, Amelia's lemonade stand made five hundred and thirty-five dollars, to be paired with the thousands of dollars raised by the event itself.

Mickeliunas said that such efforts are most certainly worth their sweat, as the ultimate goal of this event and ones like it is to "help this kids truly live their lives with as little hindrances as possible."

The prospects of harm coming to their child can be a nightmarish thought for many parents to stomach, but Mickeliunas said he is hopeful, as his family continues to make the most of each day with young Elliott and contribute when and where they can to someday finding a cure for this condition. "We have gotten involved so we can live with the disorder, rather than having it affect us negatively," he said.



AVERIE LINNELL | The O-BOOK

Mickeliunas and his wife's team raised over \$8,000 during the Nebraska Hemophilia Foundation's annual charity walk in the Chalco Hills, with the event as a whole raising over \$40,000 for the advancement of medical technology and research into the blood disorder.



From middle school to high school, new librarian adapts to change

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LILY GILLILAND | The Register

Nieland shelves a book, completing one of her multiple daily tasks. She has been a librarian for eight years.

they're doing inquiry projects, when they need help with independent reading projects..." Nieland said.

Now that she is getting used to Central and easing into her position as a high school librarian, Nieland has become determined to get better with technology to keep up with society's technologically savvy era.

"I just want to get better at what I do, and of course I am working with Mrs. Eilers who is amazing, so I have a partner to do that with. I'd like to improve in every way and not just with learning the high school inquiry projects, but also with technology. The biggest one is probably to become more adept at technology integration," Nieland said.

On top of learning more about the technology being used at Central, Nieland is becoming more comfortable with her surroundings as she encounters everything from meeting new teachers to "learning where a new water bottle filler thing [is]."

Amidst the "thousand new things" she has been learning, she also has the chance to be experiencing all of this for the first time alongside her freshman daughter.

Nieland laughingly admits that her daughter was not so excited to have her mother at both her middle school and now her high school.

"I think at first she wasn't so excited that mom was going from middle school to high school with her, but she doesn't have to ride the bus, she has a place to quietly work after school everyday and if she wants to stay a little later there's a ride home that isn't the bus," Nieland said. She believes that overall it is going to be okay.

The transition has been everything that Nieland had dreamed it would be, and she said she is happy with her position at Central and has already began making new relationships.

"Everybody has been wonderful, the students are amazing, the staff is amazing and I have nothing negative at all to say... It's all been positive," Nieland said.

However, Nieland still has a seventh grader at Buffett. Even though her seventh grader still attends and she worked there for seven years, her allegiance is with the Eagles.

"I still have a seventh grader at Buffett," Nieland said, "but I think that my blood is going to start bleeding purple."



OLYMPIC TRIALS

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In June, the Omaha Swim Trials brought many of America's most talented swimmers to compete for a spot on the Olympic team.



OLD TO NEW

27

Physics teacher Matthew Hamill took the old gymnasium bleachers and made them into what is now his living room floor.

MAKING A RACKET

28

Bolivian foreign-exchange student made the varsity tennis team, building a winning record on the court in both doubles and singles play.



sports & leisure

the REGISTER • October 6, 2016 • Volume 132, Issue 6

A GOOD SPORT

History teacher Rod Mullen supports a wide range of sports at Central and encourages the players to develop into successful athletes.



LILY GILLILAND | The Register

Mullen admires his wall of fame in his classroom that he has spent much time perfecting. He has been an avid sports fan for about 45 years.

Georgia Chambers
editor-in-chief

For those who have had Rod Mullen as a history teacher, they know that his United States history class is basically a two-in-one deal: learning sports trivia and the country's history. Mullen has been a sports fanatic for nearly 45 years, and his passion for sports has led to him being a dedicated supporter at nearly all the sporting events, including lower level games, at Central.

Mullen's interest in sports began after being embarrassed in the fourth grade. Mullen and his best friend were talking in the library one day when Mullen's friend mentioned the name 'Johnny Unitas,' and Mullen did not know who it was.

"I pretended as though I knew who it was, but I didn't. I was so embar-

assed that I didn't know who it was, because it was a name that he acted as though I should have known, which of course I really should have known," Mullen said, "I decided to go grab a book on Johnny Unitas, and I read up on him, and I read up on him so much that he became my first favorite athlete."

From here Mullen continued to become more involved with sports himself. He ran track and played basketball for a short period. However, his "first love" was baseball, and he played the sport all through grade school and middle school. As he got older, he continued to keep up with sports teams.

Today, he is a huge fan of professional teams; it is typical of Mullen to sport one of his many jerseys. However, he takes Central athletics as seriously as he does upper level sports. Ever since he first began teaching, high

CONTINUE TO 'MULLEN'
ON PAGE 24

New athletic website aims to update fans, more changes to come

Alec Rome
staff writer

Most of the time, athletes in high school play for the love of the game. The Central athletic department has changed to a new format for their sports website in order to promote the athletes that play their respective sport, no matter what team they participate in.

One of the reasons why the athletic department transitioned to a new format was to stay updated with what other schools in the district and in the Metro area were doing. With the new format comes a new look and a new domain name, chsathletics.net. Ultimately, Central was one of the last schools to adopt the new website format.

"We really see the benefit in how we can help all the levels of sports," assistant athletic director Jodi Nielsen said. "We can keep our community informed of what's going on, even besides the varsity level."

The athletic department began to consider the new format after it was proposed to current athletic director Luke Dil-

lon around two years ago. "I didn't do a lot with it at the time since it was only my second year," Dillon said. "I knew initially I wanted to do it, but after I got that second year under my belt I wanted to plan the transition of [the website]."

The athletic department has found that the new format allows them to better connect with the Central community and keep students, parents and alumni informed. This website format now allows for easier social media updating of news and the latest results of games and events, which Nielsen said was a major help for the staff that is not as technologically advanced as the students who will be the targeted audience for social media alerts. Central community members can also sign up for alerts through the website itself so they can stay up-to-date on any breaking news coming from the athletic programs.

Dillon cites communication of what is happening in all sports as a major goal and drive for the athletic department. "One of the biggest challenges we face here in particular is the varsity sports like football and basketball will be in the newspaper," Dillon said. "But what about tennis, what about golf, what about swimming results and softball? We don't always see those

covered in the newspaper."

One thing Dillon is focused on in the upcoming months is to continue promoting the website inside of Central. That means making cards to hand out and making sure more people learn about the website. Keeping active on social media is another major factor as well to bring eyes to all programs. "It's more of a grassroots effort right now, coaches telling parents," Dillon said. "As we continue to get that message out there, that is what will ultimately attract people."

The new features and fancy social media integration came at a cost. The new format cost the athletic department around \$1,400 for a lifetime subscription. However, the value according to Dillon was worth the price point. "For the presentation and what we're spending on it, I think it's well worth for the advertisement of what the kids are doing."

There is also a community benefit to this website with the hope that students get involved. "I really want student involve-

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ON PAGE 24

History teacher fills schedule by attending numerous sporting events

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school athletics have always been important to him.

"My basic love for sports... I just gravitated towards going to them...," Mullen said.

His favorite sport to support at Central is basketball, but he shows no favoritism.

"Here it's hard to pick one. I'm exposed to more basketball than anything, so that's probably what I would edge towards, but I love them all," Mullen said.

Supporting the various sports takes up a lot of Mullen's time, and it requires a lot of planning to work it into his already busy schedule. He plans it out days in advance, and he has to "map out a strategy" of how he is going to get to one part of town to the next.

"I might be in Millard in one afternoon, starting at 4 p.m., [at a] lower level football game, and then by 7 p.m. I'm watching a volleyball match... soccer match or what have you on this side of the city," Mullen said.

This year Mullen predicts that the basketball team will lead

Central out of its slump and win a state title. Mullen has hope for many of this year's teams.

"The girls are really doing well in softball; in volleyball they're ranked. You can't give up on football either," Mullen said.

Another unique aspect of Mullen, aside from his persistent dedication, is his "wall of fame" displayed on an entire wall of his classroom. Various Central athletes, graduates and current students, hang on the wall for his students to look up to and admire. He first got this idea from former basketball coach Rick Behrens when Mullen taught in his classroom his first three years. Behrens had kept headlines of old historical events on his wall, and Mullen had liked the idea so much that he had adopted it and added his own twist.

"I'm a visual person, visual teacher. I liked seeing that, so I decided to take what I saw on his wall and just expand it to a Central theme," Mullen said.

Not just anyone is put onto the wall. Mullen stresses the qualifications of making it on his wall, and though he admits there are some other pictures not pertaining to sports, the

main reason one is up there is that he or she is a champion.

"The number one thing I look at is a champion, because I want it to be special. I don't want it to be where 'Oh, can I go up there just because I think I should be up there?' And I believe that inspires students to want to do their best to be up there for that reason," Mullen said.

Mullen's support of these athletes does not stop here. He still keeps in contact with various Central graduates who are playing collegiate and even professional sports. He recently talked to Shaun Prater, now a professional football player, at a Central football game, watches Lia Mancuso play softball at the University of Nebraska at Omaha and keeps up with many other successful athletes.

For those athletes wanting to earn their space up on Mullen's wall, or merely wanting the support of Central's number one fan, Mullen gives this advice: "I always try to do the John Madden philosophy, the famous hall of fame coach with the Oakland Raiders. He said he only had three rules for his players: Be on time, be ready to play and play like heck; in other words give your best."

Website used as communication tool between parents, coaches, public

CONTINUED FROM 'WEBSITE' ON PAGE 23

ment as much as possible," Nielsen said. "I think it would be cool to get pictures that kids take during the games or even pictures that the yearbook takes and put those in the photo gallery." Nielsen teaches Web Design at Central, so she wants her students to get involved in the website and manage it themselves. Helping with the website also could be something that students could put on a resume, according to Dillon.

Making the website is not the end of the journey. The athletic department has various plans for improvements as well as making the website a focal point for communication between parents, coaches and the public. It could also become a place for activities other than those on a field of play. "It's something that I think that the more eyes we can get to it, the bigger it gets," Dillon said. "I think the message becomes [more] circulated of whatever we are doing at Central High School, not just athletically but maybe this extends to activities and clubs. We have the capacity to do that, but it's trying to show why it's important and getting the community involved."



The new athletic website includes links to schedules, scores, team photographs and pictures of the events from all sports.

Some PED using athletes should be allowed into Hall of Fame

On April 3, 2005 the first player in Major League Baseball history was suspended ten games for testing positive for Performance Enhancing Drugs (PED).

In competitive sports there has always been that mindset for most athletes of wanting to be on top and being better than everyone else. Some people take the hard way by lifting weights, eating healthy, being a healthy person overall. But others would rather get stronger the wrong and risky way. Some athletes would take the route of either consuming or injecting a performance enhancing substance.

If you know that you're consuming a performance enhancing substance you should not be allowed into the hall of fame. It's unfair, you're taking the easy way out, other than grinding out your workouts and actually living a healthy life.

But then there have been situations of MLB players unknowingly consuming a PED related substance. Earlier in the 2016 season Kansas City royals Raul Adalberto Mondesi was tested positive for clenbuterol. Mondesi ended up serving a reduced suspension. He saw his suspension go from eighty games

to fifty games.

He was the first player under the new steroid policy to serve a reduced suspension. It was a possibility that was added to the latest drug agreement. Clenbuterol wasn't as much of a strong substance and there was a lack of intent while taking the drug.

"I took an over-the-counter medication which I bought in the Dominican Republic to treat cold and flu symptoms. I failed to read the labeling on the medication or consult with my trainer or team about taking it and did not know it contained a banned substance," said Mondesi.

I totally agree with Major League Baseball's steroid policy. The steroid policy gives a baseball player three chances. First offense of using a P.E.D is an eighty game suspension, second offense would be a one hundred sixty two game suspension which adds up to an entire MLB season.

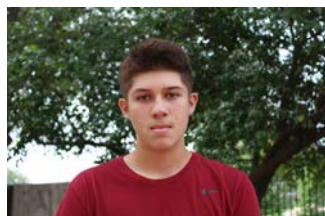
A third offense is a life time ban from Major League Baseball. I agree with the policy because an athlete should not make more than 2 mistakes in his professional career. Yes, there have

been instances of a player not knowing that he had taken a P.E.D substance but that's what comes with being a professional athlete. An athlete should always be cautious on what goes in his or her body.

While MLB players who have tested positive before for P.E.D's are still allowed in the Hall Of Fame there have been the idea of putting an Asterisk by the players name if they have been linked to P.E.D's in their career. I agree with this concept because it shows that they had a great career but have been linked to a P.E.D substance in their career. Also by the asterisk it should state why the asterisk is there by the player's name.

If a player states he took PED's unknowingly, it should state that along with his name and should be the same if they admit to taking the substance along with them knowingly having consumed the substance. Players who have taken an illegal substance should be allowed in the MLB Hall Of Fame but following the asterisk idea because it shows that they've been linked to an illegal substance in their career, but still had a great career.

You only have one life and a MLB player spends most of it playing the sport he loves. Players will make mistakes in their career, but they just want to be the best there was.



JAVIER LEPES
COLUMN HEADER

Stress of an active lifestyle burdensome, forces changes in daily schedule

Most professional ballerinas, or dancers in general, typically grow up homeschooled because their devotion to their career takes up their whole life. Ballet is a career that can make or break a person. It's almost a business, gambling on their own self to ace the audition and get the job.

For me, dance is more like a hobby now. I have been dancing ballet since I was 3 years old and have picked up other styles of dance as well. Although dance is such a big part of who I am, I don't think I could ever let it consume my whole life.

I am a very active person and love participating in many different things. I also play volleyball. On the JV team, on a high school level, the expectations are set much higher. That means working twice as hard, 3 hour practices after school every day for 2 to 3 months.

Dance classes begin in the fall after Labor Day. Being in the highest level at the academy I attend, there is more responsibility. I'm expected to be on time, warmed up for class, wearing the



CECILIA HUBER
4 - REALIA

appropriate tights and leotards with my hair up in a bun. I take 6 different classes; 3 days of dance during the week, 2 ½ hours straight after volleyball. I don't get home until around 9 at night, still having to eat, shower and finish homework.

Although volleyball and dance are very important in my life, school always comes first. Juggling the exhaustion from dance and volleyball after school can be hard to stay focused through a few hours of homework. I have no lunch period or study hall in my schedule, so usually early in the morning is a better time to cram in extra studying time.

I never get enough sleep. Trying to catch up on sleep during the weekend is even a struggle. Friday and Saturday nights are open for social events, and Sunday nights are for doing homework. I don't know how ballerinas are able to spend all day at dance class, working their bodies to the extreme, performing in front of millions of people, and still managing to make what they do look so easy. Any active high school student under the pressure of struggling with too many things at once could take great advice from the average professional ballerina.

Sports injuries often overlooked, require effort to overcome

Simone Davis
staff writer

Often times, sports can be so all consuming and physically taxing that usually anything other than the task at hand will be put to the back of an athlete's mind. Though being injured while on the field or court is a large possibility, athletes tend to push it to the back burner until they are the ones that are injured.

Quarterback Jordan Flowers has recently experienced his own share of injury as he received a concussion during the season's first game.

"I took a helmet to helmet hit, and a screw that was a little loose came off my helmet, and my head bounced off the turf and I got a concussion," said Flowers. He had never been injured in football before, let alone receive a concussion.

"You don't really think about that when you're out there, it just sort of happens," said Flowers.

In the world of sports however, concussions are not the only detrimental injuries an athlete can experience.

Ava Schicke, a sophomore on pom squad injured herself in November 2015, and it still gives her trouble.

"I was jumping over a puddle of water and I slipped" said Schicke. "Now every time I roll it wrong or put too much pressure on it, my ankle pain reoccurs."

When an injury keeps coming back, it can prevent an athlete from improving and even cause them to continuously miss out on key games or performances. When this happens, it's easy to fall into a depression or to lose hope. But athletes have to be strong not only on the court but also emotionally so as to deal with disappointment.

"I just go with the flow, try to get better and hope for the best," says Olivia Martello, a sophomore who received her second concussion this fall while playing volleyball. Martello was told by her doctor that after her more recent concussion, she might have to be done with volleyball for good, depending on how quickly her symptoms go away.

When concussed, both Flowers and Martello experienced symptoms of dizziness, memory loss and light and noise sensitivity. When this happens more than once, as in Martello's case, it can be not only hurtful to an athlete's sports career, but to their health in general.

Most athletes know that they have to trust their body and when it is telling them to slow down or stop all together, yet sometimes they are still pushed past their limits.

"I had a coach who wasn't super supportive and who encouraged me to keep dancing even though I was hurting. That injured me even more," says Schicke. Pushing oneself to become better is one thing, but being pushed when hurt can make a bad situation worse.

Even through injuries, athletes can have a good attitude and learn to stay positive. "I just told myself I have to come back better and that I just have to keep a positive attitude," Flowers said. He did just that once he returned to the field, a little over a week later.

Martello remained hopeful too, and she gives advice for athletes that have also experienced injury, "Don't lose hope, just set your mind to it and you can do anything."

HERE TO SERVE

Angela Thorn is the new head volleyball coach. Previous to becoming the head coach, she was the assistant coach for ten years under Jodi Brown.



LILY GILLILAND | The Register

Thorn jokes with her players during a drink break. Volleyball has been a part of Thorn's life since childhood.

Carlson Koch
staff writer

Angela Thorn, the new head coach for the volleyball team is no newbie, her experience and involvement in volleyball has led the team to a strong beginning and set the tone for the rest of the season.

Thorn had hoped she would get the position once previous head coach Jodi Brown stepped down, and she was overjoyed when she did. "It's something I've wanted for a long time, so it means a lot to me," she said.

Also new to the program is assistant coach Jennifer Lee, junior varsity coach Amy Wagner, reserve coach Eduardo Suarez and freshman coach Megan Weyant. Thorn has had to recruit these coaches, and they now make up the entirely new volleyball staff at Central.

Volleyball was introduced to Thorn at a very young age. Thorn grew up in Nebraska, and went to middle school at a Catholic elementary school, All Saints. She was first exposed to volleyball growing up because her parents were referees.

Even though Thorn initially had no real idea of the game, she eventually became intrigued and began learning the sport. "My older cousins played, so I decided I would try it out," she said. It did not take long for Thorn to develop a passion for the sport. Thorn matured as a player, and she continued playing into high school.

Thorn attended Central and played for all four years of her secondary schooling. The only teams that have ever made it to state for volleyball were during Thorn's junior and senior year in 2000 and 2001.

After graduating high school, Thorn moved on to competing at the collegiate level at Hutchinson Community College for two years and then at Bellevue University for two final years.

It was when she became a physical educator that she decided that she wanted to coach. "It's stressful, but I like it. It's nice to be able to call my own choices rather than just suggest things," Thorn said.

Thorn just had her first child last year, so she has had to learn how to balance being a mom, a wife and a full-time coach. Her husband is also a basketball coach at Millard South, so taking care of their little girl has proved stressful at times.

Thankfully, Thorn's parents have helped out immensely. "My parents are great because they watch my daughter during the day, and are much more flexible than any daycare would ever be," she said.

Thorn has the support of her family, but she also has ample support from her team. Captains must lead the team in order for the team to be successful. Captains this year are seniors Georgia Chambers and Jada Perkins and junior Emma Hoiberg. "These captains have really pushed us in the right direction because they have taken on my philosophy and really pulling in all the girls to listen into what I have to say," Thorn said.

Typically, teams take a couple of years, or more, to build a truly successful team under a new coach. However, since Thorn has been a part of the program for quite some time, the girls feel comfortable with her and have the capability to compete as a more cohesive team under a new head coach.

As for the volleyball team's performance, they have not been slacking. The team conditioned over the summer to hone in their skills, and they expect to achieve nothing less than an even record. Regarding the season, Thorn said, "I think we can be as successful as those girls [Chambers, Perkins and Hoiberg] want us to be, and as much as it is on my shoulders, it's on theirs too."

Coaches understand students' right to protest, still have expectations

Zoia Morrow
staff writer

Protesting has always been a form of expressing a distaste against or for a cause. For example, the 'I Have a Dream' speech Martin Luther King Jr gave for President Kennedy to draw up firm on the civil rights legislation. There are several ways to get one's point across during a protest. Whether it be peaceful turned violent, it still gets people talking.

There are no enforced policies at Central that requires athletes to stand for the national anthem. In today's society it is up to the individual whether they stand or sit. "If they have certain reasons for doing that, it's certainly their constitutional right. It's a form of social protest of some regard," varsity football coach Jay Ball said.

At the 1968 Olympics, Tommie Smith and John Carlos raised their fists in a black power salute while the Star Spangled Banner played. As of more recently, Colin Kaepernick's actions on not standing for the National Anthem hit a nerve on the American people. It also gave other players the courage not to stand as well. Some players on the Minnesota Twins, more so seven out of a twenty five person roster did not come out of the locker room to stand for the national anthem.

People rarely tend to get upset over the fact one is sitting for the national anthem. The reasons why is what gets people more riled up. The media exploded when Kaepernick explained in an interview why he chose to stay seated for the praising of the national anthem.

"If you as an athlete, especially a high profile athlete want to make a stand on something that you believe in and you think that's a way to get people talking then you certainly have the right," said coach Ball. More opinion articles were written expressing their dislike for his actions than applauding him for figuratively taking a stand on what is important to him.

The choices one makes as a player reflects back on them as a person and the teams they play for. "You're representing your school, it could come back that we're not being respectful," varsity volleyball coach Angela Thorn said. She does not like when her girls talk during the National Anthem, because "they are there to respect our country since it [the National Anthem] is staple of our country," Thorn said.

After over a century of playing the National Anthem at sports events, the significance continues to grow in honoring America. "They play it [the national anthem] before the game because it signifies the symbolic of respect for the country that you live in, that you're playing in," said Ball.

The national anthem is not the only symbol of honoring America, but the Pledge of Allegiance is as well. "Walk around during homeroom during the pledge of allegiance and see how many people are standing, I bet there's only about 25 percent of the kids of the building stand for that," Ball said. It is still a part of the school system to say it at the beginning of each day.

Some sports are more popular than others and for that reason is why the spotlight is much larger on football and basketball players. At the 2016 basketball championships between the Golden State Warriors and Cleveland Cavaliers, 25.2 million people watched. The Super Bowl averaged 111.9 million viewers this year. These sports give the people something to talk about. Arguing over their favorite teams and player, who's going to win, and who's going to lose.

One argument is, "that people in Afghanistan that are fighting in the wars for us they are giving us our right to our freedom so why would we disrespect what they are fighting for?" Thorn said. The importance of athletes standing for the National Anthem for game related purposes goes back to representation of the team, school, and country you play for.

"When you stand...you are showing respect for all the others that have given their lives for the freedoms that we enjoy," Ball said. "The freedom not to stand is also a freedom we enjoy."

Hosting swim trials proves eventful, draws people to Omaha

Grace Turner
staff writer

“Ladies and Gentlemen, they’re going to Rio!” could be heard echoing around the CenturyLink Center in July of 2016.

Faces of the swimmers lit up, hearing that they were going to be one of many Olympians representing the United States in a couple of weeks at an event that many dream to go to. These swimmers all had to swim at one event to hopefully reach their goal of the Olympics, The Omaha Swim Trials.

The Olympic Swim Trials have been held in Omaha in 2008, 2012, and 2016. In order to hold the trials in Omaha, the Century Link Center has to be transformed into the perfect place to hold the trials. Two pools have to be built for the event, the warm up and cool down pool, and also the main pool which is often seen on television. Not only do the pools have to be built, but there also has to be a creation of a relaxing area for swimming before and after their races. This includes massages, ping pong and other games, and a new addition of therapy dogs this year. Mike Unger, the Assistant Executive Director and one of the many people who helps with the trials, said, “I remember one of the people I work with coming up to me and saying that she had done research and thought it would be a good idea to have a therapy dogs for the swimmers. Honestly, my first thought was oh boy, but after a lot of research and problem solving we figured it out, and all of the swimmers loved it.”

Not only does the Century Link Center need to be set up for the trials, but the Omaha area also has to be set up for the many people who will be coming from out of town to watch the event. One of the reasons Omaha was chosen to host the trials was because of the atmosphere of the area around the Century Link Center for the swimmers and spectators to enjoy. There are many hotels surrounding the area for people to stay at, and also many restaurants, all of which are not far from where the swimmers and spectators are staying. Mike Unger said, “In 2008 [the trials] was great. It was an amazing venue with the Old Market, hotels, restaurants, and other activities. We were able to do it again in 2012 and 2016. It was a great experience in Omaha and Omaha is a great location for the trials.”

Once the Omaha area was set up for the trials, many volunteers were needed to help get the trials running smoothly. One group of these volunteers was called the Omaha Ambassadors, a group of people who talk to the guests about the trials and the different places to visit in Omaha. Another group of volunteers was sixty children chosen to be basket carriers. These basket carriers had to take swimmers’ stuff off of the pools deck, keep the blocks (platforms swimmers jump off of) dry, and dry off the steps up to the pools and the steps up to the warm up pool.



Photo Courtesy of EMMA NIELAND

In order to host the Olympic Swim Trials, the CenturyLink had to be transformed from a concert venue into a full size pool.

These volunteers are needed in order to keep the trials running in a smooth and orderly fashion. Kaitlyn Engle, one of the basket carriers, said, “My favorite part of being a basket carrier was the action. We were constantly on the move, whether it was sprinting the 50s or just moving the baskets.”

Many people come to Omaha to watch the trials. About 85% of the people who come to the trials are from out of town. People who go to the trials get to watch the races, see award ceremonies, and go to the aqua zone. At the Aqua Zone spectators can buy swim trials merchandise, and have the possibility to see different swimmers. Julienne Kemper, one of the many people who went the trials, said, “I went to the trials because I wanted to watch all of the swimmers swim, and I would go again because it was fun cheering for the swimmers.”

The Omaha area benefits from hosting the trials. Many businesses in the Old Market and down town area have a boost in sales during this week. With a large number of the specta-

tors and all of the swimmers needing a place to stay in order to watch and compete in the trials, the hotels are also getting many more customers than usual. The restaurants and shops also have a much larger amount of people coming during this week. Mike Unger said, “I think [the trials] are great for Omaha. It helps support local shops, businesses, restaurants, and it is a great boost for the community.”

The trials are a great event to go to. Many of the best athletes in the country come to swim in the trials. It is much less expensive to watch the swimmers in the Omaha Trials then to watch them at other places. There are many great opportunities for people who attend the trials, including the aqua zone and being so close to possible Olympic athletes. This event also helps the Omaha area by bringing more business to the places around the Century Link Center. Hopefully Omaha will be hosting the 2020 Olympics, and all of the great opportunities we were presented with this year will be presented again.

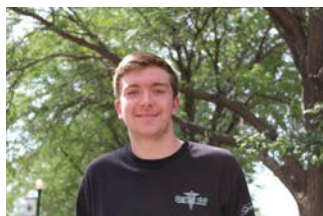
Ultimate Fighting Championship gains notoriety through big name bouts

Say goodbye to boxing. The UFC just found their place in American sports. Those of you who watched the Conor McGregor vs Nate Diaz fight on August 20 understand why the Ultimate Fighting Championship took its place upon the pinnacle of combat sports and athlete versus athlete drama.

The whole UFC 202 card became a topic of conversation, not just the main event. That is just one of the reasons why boxing has never quite taken as much of my attention as the UFC. Watching a normal card in boxing on television or on pay-per-view simply cannot match the magic and drama in this day and age like boxing does. The first three fights all ended in TKO due to absolute highlight reel combinations.

For instance, the third bout in the main card featuring Donald Cerrone and Rick “The Horror” Story featured one of the best combinations I have seen in any fight. Side note: Rick “The Horror” Story is probably the best fighter nickname ever. What a great last name.

Despite Story’s cool nickname, he took a vicious combination from Cerrone that quickly led to a second round TKO. Cerrone started with a quick left jab, right to the body, left hook, and finishes with a right high kick to bring Story to the canvas. The fight was over just seconds later. Both fighters had a great bout, but that combination is exactly the type of moment that has people buzzing on social media, on sports talk and next to every watercooler in America.



ALEC ROME
WHEN IN ROME

Can you remember the last time a boxing match had people buzzing like that? UFC has people talking almost every other week. The trash talk, storylines and star power reminds me of the boxing of old, when we had Ali, Foreman, Frazier, Lewis, Tyson, Holyfield and more. Unfortunately, there are only a few PPV big names in boxing today compared to the entire well of talent and big stars the UFC has to offer.

Not only are there superstars who fight on a regular basis, those who are once-a-year main eventers can make an impact. Look at Brock Lesnar’s return to the octagon. Lesnar had not stepped into an octagon in years, but his reputation as a former UFC Heavyweight Champion sells. Lesnar ended up being the main event of the biggest PPV in the company’s history, UFC 200, and earned a \$2.5 million payday. He is just a sliver of the depth of the talent the company has right now.

But for the UFC to become cemented in mainstream sports, it needed a defining match. Conor McGregor vs Nate Diaz brought that defining match.

If you had asked me what to think of this fight beforehand, I would have said in three simple words, “overrated clown show.” These two were cussing and insulting each other for months, and during their press conference they engaged in an incredibly silly water bottle war. How could you take these two seriously? Now, after watching McGregor and Diaz settle things

in the octagon once again, I used three words to say, “best fight ever.” It was a war that would have rivaled the Ali vs Frazier fights of old. McGregor just owned the first two rounds, turning Diaz’s face into a mangled human smoothie of sweat and blood. McGregor knew that Diaz was good on the ground, so when he knocked Diaz down three straight times, he told him to get up. He wanted to knock him down again and again.

But, in an amazing show of courage and grit, Diaz came back and delivered heavy shots to McGregor as he was tiring. Visibly, McGregor seemed out of it. He was looking up at the clock, holding on for the next round. This was a test for McGregor as well, because until this matchup, he had not made it to the championship rounds (rounds four and five). Even though McGregor was beat tired, he refused to go down. They both lasted all five rounds. McGregor won the fight by the slimmest of margins in a majority decision.

Two men, who had become icons of the sport, embraced after the decision was announced. So many words had been said, insults and water bottles thrown, yet the sight of those two bloodied warriors said much more. They had just written themselves into the history books and put the last nail in the coffin of boxing. More importantly, McGregor had recemented why he was among the UFC’s best fighters, in a situation where a loss would have completely exploded his popularity. His trash talk had caused him to play russian roulette with his career, but it just so happened to pay off.

Now tell me, when is the last time boxing gave you a story like that?

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CREATIVE RECONSTRUCTION

Science teacher Matthew Hamill bought Central's old gym bleachers and installed them in his own home.

THE PROCESS



Step 1: Hamill's wife and son pose with Central's old gym bleachers.



Step 2: Hamill cleans the wood and preps for placement.



Step 3: The wood is stacked in Hamill's dining room while the initial flooring is removed.



Step 5: Hamill fills holes in the newly installed floorboards.

Choteau Kammel
editor-in-chief

As one of the oldest senior high school institutions in the United States, Central High School must undergo periodic overhauls and new additions in order to continue to provide the same level of quality education to each successive generation of students. This past summer, the gymnasium had its floor redone, as well as the old wooden bleachers being replaced with larger and more contemporary ones. Although usually after a project such as this the old parts and pieces would be disposed of, the wooden planks that had made up Central's gym bleachers for years now rest as the home floor of environmental science and calculus based physics teacher Matthew Hamill.

As an avid conservationist and the owner of a 1968 "fixer-upper" house as he said, both Hamill and his wife have been working on various renovations in the past years, and most recently they had begun looking to install hardwood floors in their home. "We researched options that were certified by the Forest Stewardship Council, which verifies lumber products that come from responsibly managed forests and that provide environmental, social and economic benefits. However, many of those products come with a big price-tag," he said. After coming to this conclusion, he then said that he and his wife then decided to save up for the hardwood, while working on other parts of their home. At the time not yet knowing that Central's old bleachers could soon become their home's new floors.

"I was leaving school late one Friday evening at the end of the term last May, and I happened to be walking by the gym on the way out of Central and noticed a crew removing the old bleachers," Hamill said, "I asked what they would be doing with the wood and I was told that I could acquire it for a significant discount (\$5 per board) if I was willing to load it myself." As he made his way home that night, Hamill thought over the offer, finding it quite interesting, but also requiring quite a lot of imagination, as many of the planks were covered with scuff marks, graffiti and lots of fermented chewing gum.

With these things in mind, as well as their own green-focused conscience, Hamill and his wife both laughed at the idea, "but instantly we felt that it would be one heck of a cool story if we could pull it

off. And most importantly, reclaimed wood would be very environmentally friendly," he said. After making their choice, Hamill and his wife then spent several hours searching the web to see if a bleacher-to-house floor conversion had ever been done before, but he said, "We ended up with more questions than answers through our efforts." At this crossroads, he knew the wood was going to be hauled off soon, so his family ultimately had to make their final decision "without fully knowing whether or not the project would work."

Alas, with their minds made up, and "In part to preserve a little Central High history," Hamill and his family woke up early that Sunday morning, and loaded 80 bleacher boards into a U-Haul truck and transported them to their garage. "Our first few days of summer vacation were spent on cleaning gum from the floors and cutting out splits and imperfections in the wood. My wife and son would say that it was very disgusting, since they were the official gum scrapers," he said.

Finally, after all the preparations, the boards were ready to be installed. Hamill said, "Fortunately, I had the help of family with the installation. Given the boards unusual length and width, the installation took less than 24 hours to install nearly 700 square feet of floor." After the floor was laid down, the holes remaining in the floor were filled with dark walnut rods, in order to provide a gentle contrast to the rest of the wood. Finally, "We then selected a stain for the wood and had Mark David Floors, a family owned business with strong ties to Central High to complete all the finish work."

Looking back, Hamill said of the project, "My wife and I love the look and texture of the natural wood. We wanted to add that charm to our home, but would not compromise and use a source that wasn't sustainable." He also added that the key is finding a lumber mill and other local professional to work with, as they were integral to the success of his own venture.

Summarily, Hamill also cites his love for Central and the institution it represents to making his home's new floors even more significant as he said, "We love the wood floors, and we equally love the fact that we have a part of Central High in our home. My family bleeds purple. As a basketball coach, my family and I have spent many hours sitting on those bleachers cheering Central athletes. We literally have sweat and tears in the wood."



The finished product: The floors were professionally stained and finished. Hamill and his family are very happy with the outcome of the project.



CLAIRE LAVENDER | The O-Book

Avila is spending a year in America in order to learn English and understand another culture. He has played tennis since the age of five, and has joined Central's varsity tennis team.

Bolivian exchange student brings talent to varsity tennis team

Miles Kay
staff writer

Central's tennis team has a secret weapon. So far, the varsity team is having its best season in several years, taking second at the Papillion-South Invitational and first at the Lincoln Northeast and Lincoln High Invitational. The team also has a 4-1 record at duals. A major factor in the team's success this season is foreign exchange student Alejandro Avila, Central's new number one singles player, who has won two tournaments and had an extremely successful season thus far.

Avila hails from the town of Tarija, Bolivia, a city in the southern region of the country. He decided to participate in the Rotary Exchange Program, and spend a year in America in order to learn English and understand another culture. The program brought him to Omaha, where he chose to attend Central.

He has played tennis since the age of five, and was eager to continue his tennis career by playing on Central's team. He was first introduced to tennis by his older sister. "[She] played tennis so I played with her before attending a tennis academy," Avila said.

From there, Avila continued to improve. In Bolivia, he follows a rigorous training regimen. During the school year, he practices "every day for three hours: two hours of tennis, one of conditioning." A typical daily schedule for Avila consists of school from 7:30-12:30 followed by a break for lunch and rest, then tennis practice at the Tarija Tennis Academy. In the summer, Avila trains for six hours a day, a substantial time commitment.

Avila's commitment to the game has paid off though. Avila said his favorite memories associated with tennis are "all the tournaments that I've won." Indeed, it is an impressive list, including Bolivia's National Junior Tournament. Last year, Avila was ranked 7th in his age group in Bolivia, a testament to his dedication to the sport.

Playing tennis in America is different than in Bolivia, for Avila it was not a seamless switch. In Bolivia, Avila is used to playing on clay courts which are slower and softer than American hard courts. The heightened speed of play led to a difficult first week, but after the first days of practice Avila's game had adjusted.

Adapting to a new surface was not Avila's only challenge. The structure of Central's classes

differs immensely from those at his school in Tarija. He has more classes per day at Central; in Bolivia he has different teachers and subjects but stays in the same classroom. The biggest challenges have been "the classes and getting from class to class," said Avila.

The varsity tennis coach, Stanley Shaw, praised Avila's game and attitude on and off the court. "He is just an all-around nice young man who likes to have fun, play tennis, and compete," Shaw said. Other words he used to describe Alejandro's attitude are "easygoing, light-hearted, good-natured, kind and competitive."

Coach Shaw also stated that Alejandro has added depth to the team's lineup. "Since Alejandro plays number one singles, the team is stronger at number two singles and one and two doubles; practice is a lot more competitive with another strong hitter." This depth is seen in the team's impressive early achievements.

Avila's success this season can be attributed to a variety of factors in his game. He believes that the strongest parts of his game are his powerful serve and forehand, and his favorite strategy is the serve and volley, in which a player serves and follows his shot into the net to close out the point. Coach Shaw agreed with Alejandro. "Alejandro seems to be able to do it all, but I think he is strongest when he comes to the net and volleys...He has an extremely quick reaction time and a great touch on the ball," Shaw said. His well-roundedness has been essential to his success this season.

In the rest of the season, Avila hopes to improve his backhand and medal in more tournaments. Shaw believes Avila can improve the beginnings of his matches. "He has done a great job this season, but sometimes he will give up a game or two to start the match, and he will have to fight his way back into it," Shaw said. This is a minor critique though, as Shaw also praised Avila for "wearing down his opponents and finding their weaknesses."

Avila has also contributed to the formation of a stronger team dynamic. Avila's enthusiasm has complemented the love the other varsity players have for the game. The other members of the team have made playing at Central a memorable experience for Avila, who said that his favorite parts about playing at Central are the matches and the people.

"This team is loaded with seniors who also love the sport of tennis; they work hard, take lessons, and truly strive to become better," Shaw said. "It's a testament to how a sport can bring a group of people together who otherwise never would have met."

Rock climbing club to begin in October

Maddie Grabow
staff writer

Central will be bringing back a club for this school year. The rock-climbing club will be led by math teacher Hannah Monson, and will meet once a week at Approach Climbing Gym (south of 72nd and L Street) beginning in October.

Monson did not come up with the idea for a rock-climbing club on her own. "The rock climbing club got started when one of my students last year found out that I was a member at a local rock climbing gym and was interested in the sport, so he actually approached me wanting to start it and needing a sponsor," Monson said.

Although there is a slight safety risk, Monson said there is no need to worry. "Before we will even start climbing, staff from the climbing gym will train all of the students in safety precautions." All students are welcome to join the club.

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