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BROTHERS LIVE THE DREAM



Photo Courtesy of **NEGIL MCPHERSON**

Negil and Noah McPherson show off their trophies after the competition.

Jane Gawecki
staff writer

In early 2019, Mayor Jean Stothert approved the idea to begin a new tradition: The MLK “Living the Dream” Competition. Omaha residents were trying to get this event to happen for 10 years, but previous mayors had never nurtured the idea or given any initiative to support it. This event allows teenagers in the Omaha area to showcase their talents in poetry, vocal music, dance, instrumental music, and more.

Out of all of the performers, Central had submitted two contestants that did particularly exceptional in two categories. Negil McPherson, an IB senior at CHS, won second place in the vocal music category for an original rap piece he wrote about gun violence in schools, specifically high schools. The song entailed the disturbing and damaging effects of losing a child to a school shooting. It was written in first-person, and went through a play-by-play of a hypothetical shooting, with Negil being the scared student. He explained the extreme detriments his teachers, friends,

and family would experience after his hypothetical suffering and death.

Additionally, Negil and his brother, Noah, a rising IB sophomore at Central, made another performance for the competition. They composed a violin piece for the instrumental music category. Negil wrote the piece just weeks prior, explaining that he got the inspiration for the song from, “one of the songs in Naruto,” an anime television series on Netflix that he watches regularly. They performed this violin duo with a PowerPoint slideshow in the background, emphasizing the lynching of Will Brown in Omaha in 1919.

The slideshow explained the unjust rape conviction of Brown, along with the gory images of his burning corpse, him being dragged by a car through Harney Street, and the smiling faces of the men who committed the crime. Throughout the dramatic musical incline of their performance, the slideshow followed along, explaining the effects of this horrid event on Omaha’s history as whole, and how it stills affects the black population today in the Midwest.

Negil and Noah won first

place in the instrumental music category, receiving a check for college money, along with a trophy presented by Mayor Jean Stothert. Senator Don Bacon and his team also witnessed the celebration of the McPherson brothers.

At the end of the award ceremony, the judges called three contestants to the stage, two of them being from Central. This was for an audience-chosen winner of the Grand Prize, which was a significantly larger trophy, and a significantly larger check. The audience was instructed to stand up and cheer for the contestant they wanted to win. The other two performers got about 25% of the audience’s cheers, while the McPherson Brothers received around 75 percent of the praise.

Noah said, “I really didn’t expect to win, because I felt like some of the other acts were better,” he continued, “when they called our name I was so surprised and happy. This experience made me a better performer, will help me pay for my college, and will help me work better under pressure.”

Girl Up concert to be held this spring

Elena Correa
staff writer

The Girl Up club and its efforts are relatively new to Central. Just last year Girl Up was created as a chapter of the national Girl Up organization by two senior girls.

The two students became familiar with the organization online and through association with other schools who already had a Girl Up club of their own. The mission of the organization is to fund programs that “give girls an equal chance for education, health, social and economic opportunities, and a life free from violence.”

With this in mind, the Central club decided to gear their efforts to relevantly aid the women of Omaha. They focus on supporting, empowering and uplifting women in the local community and at Central. Hanna Leslie, the co-president of Central’s Girl Up club explains this further saying, “If we had a concert and there was a girl [performing], we would want to go there and support her or [support] the women’s basketball team which is obviously very overshadowed by the boys.”

As a co-president, Leslie hosts club meetings and plans events and activities for members to take part in. The group has previously sold Yuda Bands to fund the education of a girl

from Zimbabwe and is currently doing a drive for menstrual products for the Women’s Center for Advancement. But perhaps the most exciting event to take place is the upcoming Girl Up concert.

The Girl Up concert consists of performances and presentations of various forms of entertainment and the Arts by Central students. This may be musical acts or artwork, and the

The concert brought people from Central and people from the Omaha community together.

HANNA LESLIE
Girl Up co-president

club hopes to expand its range of performances to poetry and other artistic expressions. Despite popular belief, Girl Up is open to all people, regardless of gender, and encourages males to become allies. Leslie herself reaches out to people to ask them to perform at the concert. “We do have a couple of males that are going to perform as well,” she says.

The club has high hopes for this year’s concert after

the success of last years. Last year’s concert, named Girl Up Palooza, was held in May at OutrSpaces, an art organization in downtown Omaha.

“The concert brought people from Central’s community and people from the Omaha community together. It was very surprising; we actually had a lot of attendees...we raised over a thousand dollars for the club,” says Leslie.

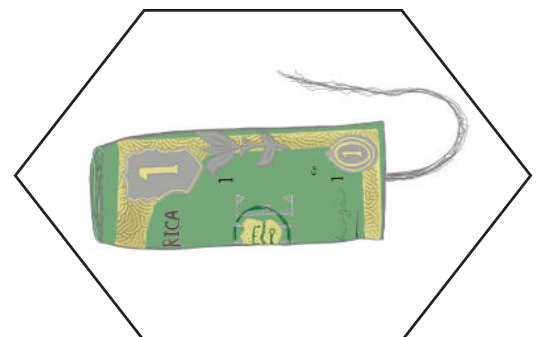
This year’s concert will be held at Outrspace come early March or early May. New Girl Up t-shirts will be sold along with stickers and buttons. Concert money is used to host the club and to aid other organizations. Girl Up’s hope for this year’s concert is to use the money raised to donate back to the Girl Up organization so they can work to further their efforts to provide girls with education in second and third world countries. Girl Up meetings are held in room 149 every Monday after school. Anyone is welcome to come if they would like to help the cause and learn more information on upcoming events.



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Holocaust author speaks to students

Dillon Galloway
staff writer

Last month, holocaust expert Rebecca Erbelding spoke to students at Central. Erbelding is the Author of the book "The Rescue Board," which talks about a covert group that aided in the liberation of Jews in Nazi Germany. The man who lead the group was Central graduate John Pehle.

Rebecca Erbelding began her journey of researching the Holocaust at the Holocaust Museum, where she has now worked for 17 years. Her inspiration to study the Holocaust came when she visited the museum at 12.

"The museum had just opened the year before and I didn't know anything about the Holocaust really before that, so I went to the museum and I was completely blown away and wanted to learn everything that I could about it," Erbelding said.

Being so captivated by the topic she would end up attending the University of Virginia, just so she could be closer to the museum. Eventually during the summer of her junior year, she got an internship at the museum and never left.

During her years at the museum she worked as a curator and archivist. Her significant other Ron Coleman also work as a curator at the museum. The museum holds over 10,000 personal collections, about 2,500 other collections from different archives around the world and from these collections they make photocopies that range over about a hundred million different pages of information according to Coleman.

"Sometimes we are able to help families figure out their own stories, which I think is such an important thing to do," Erbelding said.

What has really helped revolutionize the museum has been the uploading of all the physical archives to the internet. What makes this so significant is the fact that any historian or person can access information at any time. They also translate many of the articles into English.

What had led her to writing about the War refugee board, was when she wanted to find out more about how Americans were involved in saving Jewish people from the Nazi's. Erbelding would find a few history books mention the group.

"I wanted to learn more about this agency because when you say it was too little and too late, to do much good, but they say they saved 200,000 people, 200,000 people is a lot of people," Erbelding said.

Although as she researched further the group themselves said they only saved tens of thousands, which Erbelding seems to find more accurate.

What Erbelding found was that the American public did not really support the war until the end. A Gallup poll taken said many Americans disagreed with the treatment of Jews but did not want any Jewish Refugees.

When she started looking for a book about this group, she couldn't find one, this motivated her to make one herself.

The records she was looking for were kept in the FDR Presidential Library in Hyde Park, New York. What took her research so long, was the number of documents she had to sort through. She ended up Photographing these documents for about two years.

"It's about 120 boxes almost totally unorganized, so you have all of these boxes of all of their papers, and I thought that's why. Nobody has the time to go through and do this and I thought well I'm going to be the crazy one," Erbelding said.

She collaborated with many historians and journalists both in America and across seas.

It took her about five years to compile all the documents. During all the research she did, she also wrote her doctoral dissertation about the war refugee board, which helped her earn her doctorate degree. Her dissertation goes further than the book with over 826 pages.

In 2015, she convinced her publishing company double day to making her story into a book. She had to simplify much of the story so it could reach a broader audience, and in the spring 2017 she sent it off. Her book officially came out in 2018.

"In the world of historians to finish a book in 8 years is really fast, we like to take our time with things," Erbelding said.

Her favorite part about writing this book was finding all the different methods the board took to save the Jews.

"They laundered money, passed messages to foreign governments pretending they were from different aid agencies, but they secretly from the U.S., they were willing to take all sorts of chances to save lives," Erbelding said.

John Pehle would help coordinate most of the operations, making sure the aid would be received. Before the War Pehle earned his law degree at Yale Law School and worked as a lawyer until he became director of Treasury Department's foreign funds. He helped start the war refugee board and was the first director.



DILLON GALLOWAY | The Register

Erbelding speaks to students in the auditorium from the podium. She gained her expertise on the holocaust through studying.

The War Refugee board raised over 154 million dollars to help support the cause. This funding contributed to safe passage for the Jews within Nazi territory. They would buy boats, pay off guards and fund rebel guerrillas like the French underground.

Erbelding plans on continuing to be a historian and curator at the Holocaust museum. She hinted at writing another book about the U.S. in World War II a spin-off to her other book.

Before her speech Erbelding got a tour around the school. She enjoyed getting to see all the new and old artwork and how it showed the development of the school. Also, she was moved by how big our courtyard was.

"I went to an all-girls Catholic school, so it looks nothing like this," Erbelding said. "I wish I went to a public school like this."



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'Friends' inspired coffee cart providing students with new opportunities

Livia Ziskey
staff writer

A new business is coming to the halls of Central High School. Central Perk, a coffee cart, will begin selling coffee shortly. The cart will be organized by Lindsay Rosenthal and Alison Baum. Central Perk will employ students to deliver coffee to teachers.

Rosenthal is the mastermind behind this idea. She first received the idea while doing practicum at Millard South last year.

"I loved the responsibility it gave the kids and also how the staff treated them. They delivered coffee and tea each Friday and the students knew the route and even what the teachers preferred order was. You could tell the teachers were so excited to see them each week," Rosenthal said.

She wanted to bring something similar to Central. Not only is it beneficial to teachers, but students as well. Rosenthal feels that giving students a chance to work will have a major positive influence on their lives.

"I think this will have a huge impact on students in a positive way. Some of our students already go to work sites during the day but some do not leave school. This will be an easy way for them to get work experience while having the comfort of being in a familiar place," Rosenthal said. "The students also love when they know other staff and students in the building. By being able to get them out of their class and into other parts of the school they will practice social skills and build relationships with people they do not normally see."

As for the production process, coffee and other drinks will be prepared in Rosenthal's classroom. The coffee cart will be parked somewhere during passing period between homeroom and second period. During second period the students will deliver coffee for the staff that pre-ordered for that day.

Central Perk will start with selling coffee, including creamers and iced coffee, as well as hot tea. Rosenthal hopes to add breakfast items such as muffins or cinnamon rolls later on.

The process for fulfilling orders is quite simple. Staff members will submit their orders each week through an online form.

"They will indicate what item they want and where they will be located during second



Photo Courtesy of FLICKR

period. We will then figure out how many orders we have and what the route will be," Rosenthal said.

Students will make the coffee and get the cart loaded during first period. When they deliver the coffee, students will fill the cups with coffee or hot water for tea and take them into the teachers' designated rooms. The staff will then either prepay for the items or pay once the drink is delivered.

Rosenthal is planning on giving students most of the responsibilities, including a variety of tasks that will help them in the future.

"In the beginning Ms. Baum and I will be more hands on with making the coffee, checking orders, collecting money, etcetera. We are hoping to eventually have the students take over completely with us watching over. Students will be able to practice money and budget skills as they will be in charge of collecting money and keeping track of how much is in their bank," Rosenthal said.

Camping World donates to pay off all student lunch debt

Emily Hodges
staff writer

Generosity is being spread throughout Central as the local Camping World donates to pay off all student lunch debt at Central. The general manager of Camping World, Vito Agosta, wanted to give back to the community and what better way than to donate to "public schools near and dear to our heart."

The CEO of Camping World has always been very pro-giving back to the community. Agosta describes his philosophy saying, "My inspiration came from our CEO Marcus Lemonis giving us ideas to directly impact Public Schools near and dear to our heart."

Agosta not only believes in giving back to his community, but especially giving back to programs relevant to his own interests. "Camping World has given to multiple organizations that are near and dear to our employees hearts. For example, VA hospital food pantry, certain alternative school's food pantry... I will always say use your blessings to bless others," Agosta said regarding Camping Worlds other philanthropy.

Camping World has made many donations to the community in the past, not to boost their image, or sell more gear, but to spread kindness and hope it gets passed along. Agosta mentioned, "My philosophy on giving to charity is very careful. I always want to be intentional, be specific, and give time, money or resources without expectations of getting credit for, per-

sonal or financial gain. Giving from your heart 'quietly' feels way better than seeing my name in the news." Agosta also stated that he hopes this news story promotes eagles to be charitable in their own way, not to boost his image.

Agosta decided to donate to Central specifically because of some family ties. His daughter, Aubrey Agosta, currently attends Central as a senior. He also is very close with history teacher and wrestling coach, Jim Foster. "Coach Foster is one of the most influential men in my life, and I want to give him every ounce of energy and resources as possibly can. The amount of time and energy Coach Foster spends is immeasurable and is flat inspiring. Everyone should find their passion and put the type of effort and energy as he does," said Agosta about his friend.

Central Students have not been shy to thank Agosta and Camping World for their generosity. National Honor Society decided to write thank you letters to Camping World to show their gratitude the eagle way, the art of words. National Honor Society officer, Peyton Preston wrote a thank you because, "it is so great to see community members promote the Eagle ABC's and I am thankful that my fellow Eagles could benefit from Camping World."



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In-Depth: Teens & Violence

Fights largely linked to community

Emma Whaley
editor-in-chief

Fights can seem like a daily occurrence in the halls of Central. But, unless you've been in one, the thought process of fighting can seem foreign.

Principal Ed Bennett sees fighting in school as an extension of the community.

"When events happen in the community, whether it's the social media community or the general community, school is a place where kids who are in conflict are going to meet up," he said. "Oftentimes since this is where they meet up, this is where they fight."

For freshman Jordan Stacy*, fighting wasn't her idea.

"Her friend had gotten jumped and I was like 'well why wouldn't [she] step in and help her out?'" Stacy recalled. "Somehow, everyone had found out that I had said this, and, obviously, rumors had twisted the story, and she took offence. So, she was just like 'I'm tired of you', and she was just like 'we're going to fight.'"

Stacy described her opponent as an "acquaintance" from middle school who already didn't like her. Bennett claims that a phrase that comes up after nearly every fight is "they used to be friends."

Stacy's opponent had given her a time and place for the fight: after fourth hour on the first floor where everyone could see.

"So, I walked out, and her friend had had her hood on and stuff, so I didn't even know who I was going to fight at the time," Stacy said. "Then [the other fighter] just came down and I was so confused about what was going on, but then she throws down her backpack and she just starts speed walking towards me."

Even though she didn't really want to fight, Stacy wasn't going to say no or back down.

"I think it's either fight or flight and I'm personally not the type of person to run away from things," she said.

After that fight, the administration ruled it a mutual conflict and gave Stacy a five-day suspension.

Stacy found the punishment a bit unjust, claiming she was "just defending [her]self."

"You could tell who the victim was in the situation, but I understand that they said that OPS doesn't allow you to play who-did-it," she said.

Five days is the standard suspension time for fighting in the OPS Code of Conduct.

However, Bennett said, "There have been times where what looks like a fight is actually an assault. In situations like that, we sometimes do look at the person who fights back and fights back to defend themselves. So, they may face a different consequence. But every case is different."

Right after her suspension, Stacy found that she was being treated differently.

"There were a few people that I heard whispering about it, or they came up and asked me about it," she recalled. "I kind of prepared myself for that, knowing that a lot of people were there, and it was posted everywhere on social media."

Bennett feels that likely 95 percent of fights have some tie to social media, and that this can lead some adults to think fighting in school is a modern issue. This is just not true. Bennett had a discipline book from the 1917-1918 school year, 102 years ago. This little red book was littered with the rabble-rousers of the 20th century. One entry read "Thurston Logan: trouble in 215".

If teenagers have been fighting for as long as there have been teenagers, what's the connecting thread? Likely, it's brain chemistry.

"Adolescents, their frontal lobe is not fully developed, so reasoning skills aren't fully developed," Bennett said. "Students, kids, are much more likely to give into impulse and engage in fights."

Bennett encourages students who feel like fighting to seek help from a trusted adult.

"Typically, that's their counselor or, more typically, it's their administrator," he said. "Administrators spend a lot of time working on preventing these types of situations."

*Student's name has been changed to protect her privacy.



Opinion: Bystanders responsibility

Alexis Radke-Chism
staff writer

There is a lot of grey area when it comes to what a bystander should do and shouldn't do in specific situations. In my opinion, when given the chance, it's a person's responsibility to help others when they can. Violent actions can hurt multiple people which in most cases can simply be avoided if people would say or do something.

An example that is used the most when talking about bystanders is bullying. There are multiple ways to stop bullying without even getting directly involved. If a person is making fun of someone else, either in person or on the internet, it takes little to no time to report the bully.

It doesn't even have to be something serious like bullying. If someone simply just drops their things, you should help them if you can. There is little to no sacrifice in everyday good deeds.

Being a bystander doesn't just mean you're letting a person get hurt, it also means you're allowing something to happen that shouldn't be.

There are so many terrible things that happen to people every day, that could easily be solved if a bystander had stepped in. If two students are fighting in the hallway and a bystander decides to record a video instead of getting an adult, they are just as responsible for the outcomes of that fight. This is seen so often throughout high school hallways, and there is

so much that could have just been prevented. It would just take a bystander less than a minute to find an adult and stop the fight, but instead we see too often people getting hurt.

Just like mentioned before, there is some grey area, like deciding if a bystander should step into a situation or not. For example, if a parent yelling at their kid, disciplining them, a bystander does not have a responsibility to stop that parent.

It is a very situational decision, where a person must decide whether its morally right for them to act. The morally right time to act is when you see a situation where someone needs help or is causing harm to themselves or others. A parent yelling at their kid is simply disciplining, but if a parent starts to severely hurt that kid you should stand up and say something.

Some people will argue that it isn't a person's business what others are involved in. In response to that, by becoming a witness to a violent event and doing nothing, you become just as responsible for the outcomes of that event. People should look after each other, not turn the other way.



Update: Terry autism spectrum, learning disability may affect verdict

Daisy Friedman
visual editor
Stella Ehrhart
staff writer

On Jan. 29, 17-year-old Central student, Jacobi Terry trial was once again in the Douglas County Courthouse to evaluate whether, he would be charged as a minor and put through rehabilitation or sent to adult prison. In October, Terry was charged with one count of first-degree murder, first-degree assault, criminal conspiracy and use of a deadly weapon.

Dr. Colleen Connelly, a court assigned neuropsychologist specializing in school psychology was called to the stand to testify after speaking with Terry and his parents about his mental health and intellect. After synthesizing her findings, she formulated a multiple page report that was outlined in her testimony Connelly assessed Terry at the Douglas County Youth Center, where he is currently being held. After taking an IQ test, it was reported that Terry scored a 74. According to the American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities, "A test score below or around 70—or as high as 75—indicates a limitation in intellectual functioning." Terry scored very low in abstract thinking categories, like those used in classroom settings. Terry was diagnosed with Social Pragmatic Communication Disorder, a condition that falls on the autistic spectrum.

His parents split when he was 13 years old, at which time he started living in his mother, Tina Jamerson's house full time. When Connelly asked Jamerson about her favorite part about her son, she replied, "He's mama's baby boy." Terry still slept in her room with her at 17 years old, till the time of his arrest. Dr. Connelly referred to this as 'abnormal' and 'unhealthy'. Mrs. Jamerson was the parent who showed up to most of Terry's school functions. This is surprising considering Terry's poor academic achievement starting at a young age.

Terry repeated kindergarten, and at the end of his first-grade year, his teachers had a meeting to discuss the correct academic action to take to better assist Terry. It was decided that he did not qualify for special education and talk of educational accommodations, and the topic was never brought up again. By third grade, Terry was lagging in reading fluency comprehension and by 7th grade, he was failing to complete his homework and was behind in all academic categories. It was at that time too that he started struggling with his classmates. Security camera footage depicted a group of female classmates physically assaulting Terry and he never fought back. He didn't understand why he was a target of such harsh

Terry was diagnosed with Social Pragmatic Communication Disorder, a condition that falls on the autism spectrum

treatment. He also had troubles interpreting tones, sarcasm and emotional cues. That year, Terry had 20 behavioral write-ups, but they never made it to the Student Assessment Team to be evaluated.

Things only got worse for Terry academically in high school. Freshman year, he passed with only 3 credits. 3 Ds, and all the rest Fs. He was forced to take summer school that summer and regained 2 credit Cs and one D. Sophomore year, Terry failed every one of his classes during the school year and again in summer school, yet he was allowed to advance to his junior year. In addition to that, he accumulated 100 days absent. These numbers were never reported and there was never a call home. His junior year, Terry attended only 35 days of school from August to the beginning of October when he

was arrested. He was failing all his classes at the time of his arrest. His school pitfalls were very likely linked to pitfalls in mathematical and higher-level thinking.

Jacobi's disorder made him very prone to social isolation. When Connelly asked Terry who he considered his best friend, he said that it was his mother. When she redirected him to try to report someone her own age, he hesitated, then said his cousin Amir. When asked how Terry would describe himself, he parroted exactly what his mother said she thought of him. He thought of himself as polite and respectful but didn't understand that playing on his phone while his teacher was speaking was not a respectful thing to do. Connelly said that Terry was easily malleable, which is why if father does not want him in an adult prison.

Before his arrest, Terry had no previous interaction with the justice system. Terry first met Bahy Altairi, the victim of his crime when he sold Terry drugs. Terry began his drug use at age 11 with marijuana after researching its effects. At 15, he began to experiment with ecstasy, alcohol and Percocet. He would regiment his use of the drugs in an attempt to self-medicate, which is a symptom of a spectrum disorder. The night of his crime, Terry was on K-2, also known as synthetic marijuana. K-2 often causes a spike in violence and aggression, as well as a collapsed memory for 22 days.

At the Douglas County Youth Center, Terry was diagnosed with anxiety disorder, drug use disorder and a developmental disability. Connelly argued to the court that Terry needed rehabilitation, if he wanted a life outside of the justice system. She said there is no evidence that states sentencing kids as adults makes communities safer. After a three-hour trial, The Douglas County Courthouse has yet to release a verdict on whether, or not Terry will be tried as a minor or adult for his crimes.



HANNAH BROWN | The Register

Honors science classes, like this one, will stop offering double period labs. The science department is hopeful that the change will draw more students to take honors science classes, as they could fit more easily into their schedule.

Science classes to stop offering double lab periods by next year

Alexis Radke-Chism
staff writer

In the school year of 2021, Central plans on changing the current scheduling for honors science classes. This would include classes such as biology, chemistry, physics and many others, and the same amount of class time will now be allowed to AP classes, but not honors classes.

"This change increases equity on the time available for students in honors courses versus our standard science course," science department head Janis Elliott said. She explained that, currently, honors science classes are given one and a half periods, but next year, they will have one period along with standard science classes.

There are many students who find themselves without enough time in their day to participate in science classes they want. An example is advanced science research, which is currently only offered as a zero hour because there isn't enough time to fit it in during the day.

"The change will create flexibility in scheduling to offer courses to students when the students are available during the day," Elliott said. It's an opportunity for Central students to take advantage of everything the science department has to offer in a more condensed amount of time.

In contrast, science teachers tend to give labs or longer assignments for those extend periods.

"Students will miss out on extra time in an already difficult subject, and they'll have less lab time," junior Jordan Saxton said. There are certain labs done in these science classes that take both periods for instruction, demonstration and completion. Making a single period for these classes may cause difficulties, but there are some benefits.

Elliott mentioned lab time and explained that no matter how lab related sciences appear on a schedule, they are still accepted by colleges as labs.

"Central will continue to meet and exceed the lab requirements and all college admissions requirements for science," Elliott said.

There are multiple Omaha middle schools that do not offer a physical science course. This class is required in order to graduate high school. This new schedule change will allow those students to complete the class in one period and have extra room to take something else.

"Perhaps these students, in the future, could take both honors physical science and honors biology in the same year," Elliott said. Fitting those two classes in three periods has proved too difficult due to other required classes, but soon that shouldn't be a problem.

Other schools within OPS have already applied this scheduling, and Central is the last school to do so.

"The program has always been unique to Central, which I think is one of the positives," science teacher Tracy Rumbaugh said. Central has been the only school in OPS to give double periods, every other day, to honor classes for students to complete labs and learn more content.

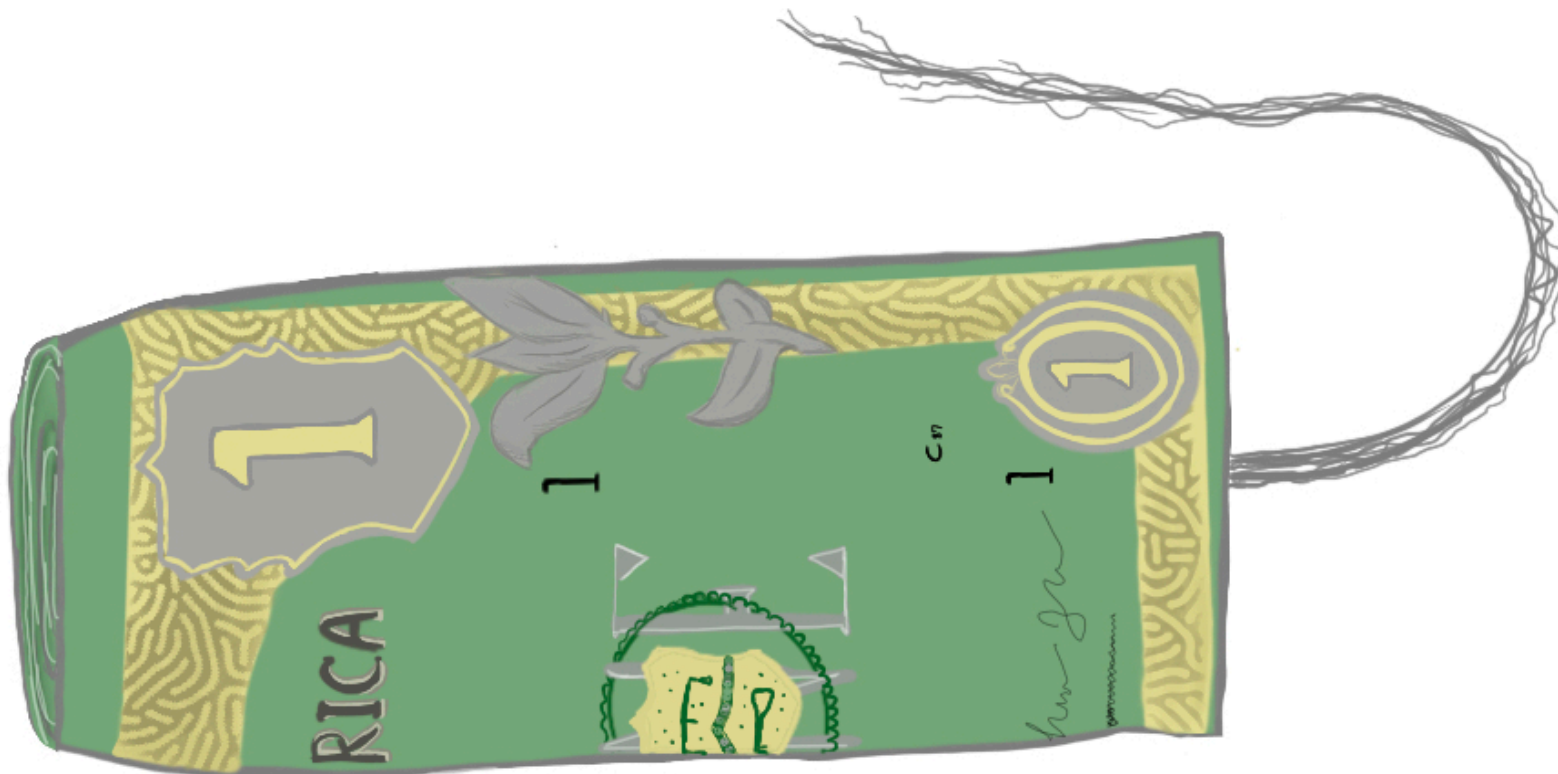
It is normal for Central high school students, throughout the past, to take four years of science, required courses and those that are not.

"It is our hope that this change can create the opportunity for even more students to be able to take advanced coursework in science," Elliott said.

A goal of the change is to shorten periods, allowing more classes. This could encourage more students to sign up for an honors class, knowing it won't be crammed, and there is a possibility of smaller class sizes, because the students are stretched across more periods.

"Room flexibility, smaller class size and staff availability should allow Central to continue to excel in sciences," Elliott said.

In the end, there are many arguments that have their pros and cons. Central has a tradition of providing high quality science instruction and, no matter what, plans on continuing to do so.



ELLA NOVAK | Contributing Cartoonist

New bill in state legislature targets taxes on female hygiene products

Noemi Gilbert
contributing writer

Across the U.S., 32 states tax menstrual products as non-essential goods. Goods that are defined as essential include food, medication and medical products like hand sanitizer or adhesive bandages. To many activists and lawmakers, it is unfair that menstrual products such as pads and tampons are not included under the “medical products” category.

Activists also say that the tax unfairly targets women and adds to the higher prices that many products targeted at women already have. Defendants of the tax argue that the state needs the income that the sales tax provides. They also point to other taxed hygiene items like soap and shampoo as evidence that hygiene does not count as non-essential.

In 2019, a bill was introduced to the Nebraska Legislature that, if passed, would remove the tax on menstrual products. Similar bills have passed in 13 other states. Individual cities such as Denver, Colo. and Washington, D.C. also are removing the tax. Organizations across the U.S. are advocating for an end to the tax on period products, which is often part of a larger mission of removing stigma and making products more accessible. According to their website, Period Equity is the nation’s first law and policy organization fighting for menstrual equality.

The organization was founded by Jennifer Weiss-Wolfe, who was said by Newsweek to be the “architect of the U.S. policy campaign to squash the tampon tax.” Through lobbying and lawsuits, they are determined to end the tampon tax state by state.

People who want the tampon tax to stay cite one reason: money. It is estimated that sales tax on menstrual products bring in \$150 million per year for states. For states that struggle financially, the sales tax gets them extra reliable income. Additionally, by not providing free products in public spaces, independent businesses can save money. The stocking and upkeep of menstrual product dispensers is a significant cost for businesses that maintain restrooms and the tax can offset some of the costs.

The tax on menstrual products is said to be part of the “Pink Tax,” the higher costs on women’s products including deodorant, clothes and hygiene products such as soap and shampoo. Good Housekeeping estimates that every year, women pay an extra \$2,135 a year due to the higher costs. For low-income women, that is a huge amount of money.

Many organizations and local activists are working to end the tampon tax. Period Equity state on their website that they “won’t stop until every state recognizes that menstrual products are necessities and exempts them from sales tax.”

High school attempts to prepare for future, ensure success

Valeria Welk
contributing writer

With second semester started and scholarship application due dates approaching, the time has come for high school seniors to wrap up their teenage years and decide what comes next in their life. The choices for after high school are vast and the best choice for every individual is different from the next.

“Any time in high school, but specifically your years as an upperclassman, is the time for figuring yourself out, exploring, and finding your strengths,” said college counselor Angela Meyer.

“We offer college curriculum classes for kids from freshman through senior year,” Meyer said, “The classes will teach them how to create their resume, interviewing skills, mental health upkeep, anything they might need after high school.” The lessons don’t only help students planning on going to college, they are provided to students no matter what future they plan to pursue.

When starting to consider life after high school graduation, a good place to start is college fairs. Usually, the students attending these are in their junior or senior year. Locally,

there is a college fair held by Education Quest that showcases all forms of post-secondary education.

After a student has chosen a couple colleges to consider, they must create a resume to send to them. “The main things to include on your resume are your awards and honors, academic profile (GPA), school activities, work experience, volunteer work, and other outside activities such as church groups,” said Meyer.

“Your grades in high school definitely count,” Meyer said, “The number of AP and honors classes you take will matter depending on the school, but no matter what classes you’re in, higher grades matter.” Colleges will view your unweighted GPA.

For students who want continue with a post-secondary education but do not know if they have the financial means for it, there are ways to approach this, such as scholarships.

“It’s pretty common for a large number of students to get scholarships for high grades, but scholarships for athletics and other extra-curriculars should also definitely be considered,” explained Meyer. Students can also apply for financial aid through FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

When trying to obtain academic scholarships, there are several things to look out for. Again, every grade matters, as

can ACT, SAT, and other standardized test scores.

The best thing to do is start early and maintain as high a GPA as you can through your younger years in high school so when your classes get more difficult or you start to feel burnt out, your cumulative GPA stays higher from these years. High grades your freshman or sophomore year will give you something to fall back on if needed.

“Making lists considering your ideal size, price, location, workload, and things like that can be difficult if you wait until the last minute,” explained Meyer, “We try to start the conversation early, in information technology and other classes freshman year, so that kids can make the best decision for their future.”

CORRECTION: Issue 3

In the previous issue of The Register, the story titled, “EmPOWERMENT Network teaches confidence,” incorrectly identified the organization of focus as being called “EmPOWERment Network” and “EmPOWERment Program.” Neither of these names are correct, the accurate name of the organization is the EmPOWERment Project. Learn more about the project at empowermentusa.org.

EDITORS' NOTE:

We are humbled to present to you the 136th volume of the Register for the 2019-2020 school year. We look forward to helping educate the student body and sharing their views.

This issue has come out of the greatest weeks of labor and suffering for the two of us, with many hours of blood, sweat and tears being poured into this fourth issue. While you may feel it is unimportant or unimpressive, we are proud of the work we have done and the work our staff has helped us do on this newspaper.

We hope you enjoy this issue of the Register and look forward to delivering more high-quality content to you over the coming year. Thank you for reading our newspaper.

Malcolm Durfee O'Brien
Emma Whaley
Editors-in-Chief

Malcolm Durfee O'Brien
Emma Whaley

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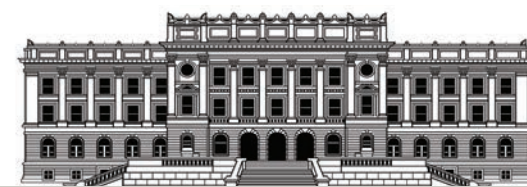
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Phone: 531-299-5611

central.register@ops.org

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

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



the REGISTER *staff*

ADVISER

Hillary Blayney

EDITORS-IN-CHIEF

Malcolm Durfee O'Brien

Emma Whaley

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

Olivia Gilbreath

VISUAL EDITOR

Daisy Friedman

COPY EDITOR

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Hannah Brown

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Dillon Galloway

Jane Gawecki

Jackson Godwin

Simret Habte

Heidi Heyden

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Grace Turner

Livia Ziskey

opinion



SEDONA CHELOHA | Contributing Cartoonist

BLOCKED BY THE BOSS

Superintendent Cheryl Logan, who has blocked students on Twitter, should be barred from such action

Oscar Biesanz
contributing writer

Federal District Court ruled that President Trump cannot legally block Twitter users, as it was determined to be a “digital town hall,” marking the account as a general forum. This means that blocking any US citizen is a violation of their rights, as they may be uninformed in matters of potential national importance as a result.

On a much smaller scale, this principle should also be applied to smaller government offices, including the office of Omaha Public Schools superintendent. Behind the tag “@OPS_LoganSupt” the superintendent frequently tweets announcements directed towards OPS students and parents.

I was blocked by Cheryl Logan as of at least September of this year, though it may have been earlier as Twitter does not inform the user on the receiving end of the blocking when it happens. There is no concrete, direct explanation for this action, although there may be a correlation between the almost constant verbal abuse regarding snow days in January earlier this year.

There was no way for me to determine the date and time for when I no longer had access to her OPS account, there is no knowing exactly when I was no longer aware of the information she released. This effect on a large scale could result in many students and parents being out of the loop without even knowing or having a chance to seek news and announcements form elsewhere.

The “at” (@OPS_LoganSupt) implies that this is a work-related account, since the abbreviation for “Omaha Public Schools” is included in the identification. This would mean that when signed into it, she takes on the role and thus the responsibilities of OPS superintendent. Keep-

ing the student body informed would fall under these responsibilities, and so blocking a student would violate these responsibilities.

However, it’s understandable that one wouldn’t want to have to deal with students begging for the day off whenever it snows, and the resulting praise or criticism that would follow.

Regardless, the harsh reality of her position is that children, no matter how irritating, fall under the responsibility of their school district, including OPS. Therefore, if one is unable to cope with their peers acting like children, then perhaps they shouldn’t have taken the job as a superintendent of children. If a student talks too much in class, do they not still deserve to know if there’s a snow day?

Social media is a two-way system. Important information may be distributed via Twitter that would now be restricted as a result of the block. Suppose one wanted to question a new OPS policy or raise concerns/criticism of OPS actions. It would still be possible to speak out, but if they’re blocked by the superintendent, they won’t be able to reply under the announcements, thus intervening between civilian and public forum, a clear violation of one’s constitutional rights.

That’s not to say Cheryl Logan must now be a target every December until every February; it goes without saying that she is perfectly able to create her own, personal social media platform that doesn’t include her professional title or inform students and parents of school related events and reminders.

However, as long as she insists on connecting her personal grudges and pet-peeves with her profession as a public school official (and thus, dealer-with-of kids under 18), it should be a violation of her work to actively prevent students under her jurisdiction from interacting and criticizing her on a professional level, if not a personal one.

“Important information may be distributed via Twitter that would now be restricted as a result of the block”

Living with two moms not special, normal



BRIANNA COLLINS
GAY. JUST GAY.

When I was born, I had a mom and a dad as most children do. They got married when I was 3, but divorced in 2010. In 2011, my mom reconnected with her best friend from high school named PJ who happens to be a woman. Shortly after, my mom, my siblings and I moved in with her. By July of that same year, their relationship became romantic.

In 2013, two of my cousins came to live with us since their mother wasn’t fit to raise them and my mom wanted to keep them within the family. There were a lot of people, my grandma included, that believed that my mom wasn’t fit to raise five children because she was dating a woman. But honestly, I think it’s one of the

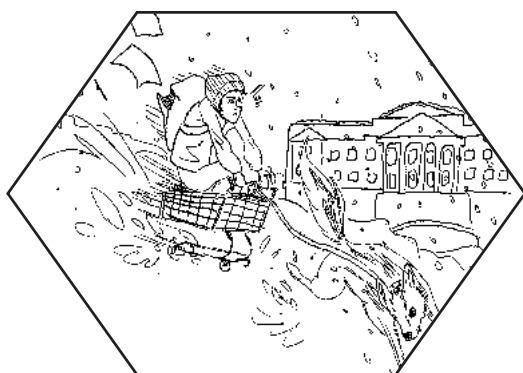
best things to ever happen. My mom and dad were not happy together. They loved each other, but they were becoming toxic. They’re both now in happy relationships and have maintained a great friendship with each other. My mom and PJ’s relationship is one of the best things to have happened to them and I’m so happy they found each other.

My moms are truly my best friends. We even have matching tattoos to prove it. I know I can trust them with anything, and we have such an open and honest level of communication. They tell me almost everything and vice versa.

So, when people ask what it’s like living with two moms, I tell them the truth. It’s like

living with any other happy and loving family. We all have designated chores, we eat dinner together, we have family game or movie nights and we take vacations. Every couple of months, I take a weekend off of work to help out with my brothers so my moms can have a few days to themselves. They do everything they can for us, so they deserve a few days off.

The one response I always get when people find out I have two moms is, “Wow, that’s awesome,” but it’s really not. This has been my family for nearly ten years now, this is normal to me.



LATE START on page 8



INSULIN COSTS on page 11



IDOLIZING THE DEAD on page 12



Photo Courtesy of LAUREN BEITEL

Central dance team (CDT) gets ready to dance in a competition in Minneapolis.

Dance relies on money, competitions

Mackenzie Coughlin
staff writer

Sports in high school are taken very seriously. The more popular sports like football and basketball especially become very competitive. This is no difference for high school dance.

Dance teams, although they compete against each other, are not traditionally ranked by skill like basketball. This does not stop the rivalries among schools because it is generally just known which teams stand out as “better.” This drama superiority definitely leads to the mindset of dancing to beat someone else rather than having fun.

The ways to become one of the top schools which sweeps the competition mainly involves money and how much that team is willing to spend for a trophy. Thousands of dollars a season are spent on choreography, music, costumes, practice spaces and travel. This does not include the extra expenses such as makeup, warm-up gear, bags, shoes and poms that add even more to the overall impact of a team.

Being able to buy an amazing choreographer will either make or break a routine. There are a select few choreographers that are very sought out in Nebraska that everyone wishes to work with. Not surprisingly, it tends to be the wealthier schools that end up with these people. This already puts certain teams at an advantage solely based on money. Even from which studio one learns a basic technique from growing up affects how they dance in high school.

The background that one has in dance greatly determines if they make the team they are trying out for. Most teams want to “recruit” dancers that will be an asset to the team without having to teach them the basics of dance. If a girl tries out only wanting to dance while having little to no experience, they most likely will not make it.

When it comes to the relationships between teams, it usually consists of the stereotypes associated with a team’s talent, money or school. Many teams gain a bad reputation just from rumors.

The company that runs all of high school dance is called UDA, the Universal Dance Association. This is the program that supplies most teams with uniforms and holds all the state, regional and national competitions.

Some judges that UDA hires have history with certain teams, coaches or choreographers, creating a favoritism within the judging panel. No one is able to see what goes on between judges, coaches and choreographers, which makes the process of judging questionable.

Compared to basketball and football, there are no actions that earn a certain amount of points. All scores are relative to the judges who each have differing opinions and factors determining what score they give.

Overall, high school dance is a very money-based sport that requires a lot of work and time to get good at. There are several unheard of aspects of the sport that play into who wins and who loses.

Loss of double period for honors science classes upsetting

Daisy Friedman
visual editor

Students are told since the time they enter into kindergarten that their primary task in the classroom is to do their personal best and always challenge themselves. Some kids start out not caring about school and continue that mentality throughout their years. Often, those kids’ attitudes cannot be changed, and that is okay. However, it is truly a shame when bright kids begin to burn out because they never feel their best is good enough.

Kids who go into Honors, AP and IB classes often start because they love to learn and want to continue their learning in subjects in which they excel. Those kids are often the ones who are future-oriented, so they start measuring their self-worth on grades, rather than their amount of knowledge acquired. After a while, this causes them to lose that love for learning and use their unhealthy fixation on success to drive their progress.

This prevents teenagers from living in the now, a skill that many people of our generation lack. No matter where an honors student is, they are more than likely thinking about the piles of homework that await them at the end of the day or during the weekend. People promote high school as a time where you begin to find yourself as a person, but many honors, AP or IB students don’t get that luxury. The need to constantly be on top of school work removes that sense of individuality. They don’t have time to hang out with friends or delve deeply into extracurricular activities because they are so fixated on schoolwork. It’s especially ironic when colleges advertise they want so badly for their students to be well-rounded and involved in a multitude of different activities, while simultaneously earning top grades in difficult classes; it’s a double-edged sword.

Not only that, but it’s a concept of socioeconomic turmoil in terms of college admissions. Those who don’t have money to pay tuition to top universities require financial aid through scholarships, but one who is unable to qualify for large enough

scholarships cannot dream of going to the schools they want to attend. This leaves very limited room for other activities, unless they want to compromise their grades or are extraordinarily gifted. That doesn’t necessarily apply to the more financially stable students. They can pass for having more flawed grades and participating in many activities if they can pay for the bulk of the tuition themselves.

All of this culminates in a case of burn out for many Honors/AP/IB students. They work so hard for so long that eventually, it becomes unbearable and they can’t do it anymore. They lose the love of learning that they once had and are consumed by the need to vertically advance in society. The school systems are attempting to breed advanced thinkers and productive members of society when in all actuality they leave high school with no sense of self, limited life skills and only the practice of learning to please others rather themselves.

College not necessary for success

Brianna Collins
staff writer

Is college necessary? As graduation approaches and everybody’s deciding on a school, that question begins to surface. Why do high schools make college seem like the only option there is after graduation? Central, for example, only ever encourages college and doesn’t really discuss other options. The Eagle Eye, given out to seniors every week, only shows scholarships for four-year colleges or community colleges. It’s ingrained into people’s minds that you can only be successful if you go to college. However, college is way too expensive for some people to even consider attending. Four years at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln is roughly 74 thousand dollars before any grants or scholarships.

Not every degree is worth the time and money they take, and sometimes trade school is the best route. Firstly, a degree doesn’t guarantee a job within that field. Music degrees, for example, are kind of pointless. You’d be more likely to end up teaching music than becoming a successful musician. Additionally, Liberal Arts degrees rarely offer jobs that utilize that degree

and, in a society that revolves around science and math, they’re essentially useless. Secondly, gaining experience in life can sometimes matter more than the ability to learn about a certain field. Experience matters more to employers than the degree and trade schools can offer that experience that most people can’t get while they’re in college.

Furthermore, jobs that require little to no schooling can make serious money. For instance, cosmetologists in Nebraska make anywhere from 29 to 49 thousand per year, straight out of school, with little to no debt.

So, what constitutes a successful, respectable career path? The answer is nothing because all careers deserve respect, regardless of what type. All jobs contribute to the functioning of society. Garbage collectors and plumbers are as necessary as doctors and firefighters, so why look down on them?

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OPS should eradicate late start policy

Jamie Reiff
contributing writer

This year OPS implemented a late start and early out policy for bad weather days. The policy would allow students to begin school at 10:40 or be let out of school at 1:05. The policy in theory makes sense, it allows students and bus drivers to avoid bad weather. However, the policy is not plausible in a city like Omaha.

Omaha has some of the worst road clearing techniques, with side streets often getting no snowplows when it is needed most. For cities like Minneapolis the policy works, they can clear roads enough to allow driving safe for parents and students. The differences between Omaha and Minneapolis is the budget and effort put in to clearing and making sure they are safe.

With OPS's large student population many students drive themselves to and from school, being a new driver is already a hard task and throwing dangerous roads in the mix is a recipe for disaster. If the inclement weather begins before the early out can be officially called students are left to face scrambling parents and slick roads.

The policy is also inconvenient for parents, making it hard to work when they must leave early to pick up their children. Parents may not be able to adjust their situations to get their child to school later in the day, causing attendance issues for their children. The policy leaves little room for parents to prepare alternative transportation or supervision for their children. For parents with student drivers they must worry about their child's drive to and from school making it hard to focus. If an accident were to happen involving their child leaving work to help would be difficult.

For many employed in OPS the policy could interfere with second jobs outside of the district. Some bus drivers have second jobs to support themselves. If the policy is called at a late time in the school day buses may be without drivers until the drivers are able to leave.

OPS should eradicate the policy and just cancel school when weather is bad. This would help ensure the safety of everyone on the roads as well as keep some organization. Getting rid of the late starts also allows road crews to get out and clear the streets at a faster speed.



SOPHIA MASON | Contributing Cartoonist

Removal of Iran's general was right move

Blayke Olson
staff writer

As 2020 progresses, controversy has already struck as President Trump ordered the killing of a high ranking general in the Iranian military. But was this decision justified? Did it temper an increasingly more aggressive regime from hurting more US assets?

Personally, despite what the news coverage of this entire debacle has been portrayed as, I believe there is a substantial amount of merit in the actions taken by the Trump administration against Iran.

Many media outlets and political nominees within the Democratic party have made a poignant effort to side with the Iranian regime and bash the president for creating a much larger conflict.

However, all of this is factually untrue. The media sees the United States as the original aggressor, but it seems that the seizing of several British and American oil tankers in the

months prior led to the death of Soleimani. It also didn't help when Iranian military forces shot down several American drones, created plans to attack the US embassy in Baghdad and shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane.

I believe that if anyone is at fault, it would have to be the Iranians themselves who haven't done much to appease the situation other than by putting an 80-million-dollar bounty on the head of President Trump. As a result, an American contractor and another 176 people (82 Iranians, 63 Canadians, 20 Ukrainians, 10 Swedes, 4 Afghans, 3 Germans and 3 Britons) were killed in a plane crash that was supposedly shot down by Iran.

Unfortunately for the airliner, the flight took off during a rather tense time in the region, which was when the blowback for the airstrike that killed Iranian General Qasem Soleimani was still fresh. Earlier that Wednesday, Iran had fired more than a dozen missiles meant for Iraqi military bases that were housing U.S. personnel, which has been confirmed by the Pentagon to have injured 50 American soldiers.

Suddenly, four hours later, the Ukraine airliner crashes with no survivors.

The truth: the Iranians have been escalating against the United States for a very long time. Starting in 1979, they've shocked global affairs when they boarded a U.S. Navy vessel, they've shot down U.S. drones, they've put limpet mines on oil tankers, they've attacked Saudi oil facilities and they have continued to launch rocket attacks towards U.S. assets.

History began long before Donald Trump decided to finally take some action and stop letting Iran go wild in the middle east. There is also this false choice between doing nothing and all-out war. The president is not taking us to all-out war. There is a lot in between, and future coverage of this topic needs to be more honest about that truth.

UnPOPular Opinions

Tik-Tok holds real comedy potential

Emma Whaley
editor-in-chief

The app TikTok has stirred up a bit of controversy within its target demographic. Some teens call it cringey, however, the app has brought along some of the most relatable humor on the Internet.

The idea that TikTok is full of cringe is based in reality. Before it was TikTok, Musical.ly had quite the cringey repertoire. In its early days, it was full of trap-thirst artists: teenage boys who flaunt their abs and jawlines for tweenage girls. These boys worked hand in hand with awful lip-syncs to sped up popular songs to create a cringe empire.

After Musical.ly rebranded itself as TikTok, there was a change in pace. Some of the bad lip-syncs and thirst-traps still remain, but it's an evolved platform. Most of the content is humor now. I've honestly never seen funnier content on the Internet.

Comedy TikTokers still back their videos with prerecorded sounds and songs like they did during the Musical.ly days. Sometimes, these songs are just background music to the actions of the video. When TikTokers do lip-sync to the sounds, they often use them comedically by only lip-syncing to one part of the song as a punchline.

The algorithm of TikTok is genius. I've never seen a more accurate recommendation system.

I laugh at every video on my 'For You' page. They really do take your likes and find more videos using the same style of humor. I don't know how they do it, but it makes for great results.

This is likely why people think TikTok is full of the same cringe; if all you watch is awful thirst-traps, all you're going to see on your feed is awful thirst-traps.

TikTok is an amazing creative outlet. I've personally only made three TikToks, and the most viewed one is of my cat. This doesn't mean that the real creators make as low-grade content as I do. These creators come up with jokes, bits and sketches that I would have never thought of.

Creators aren't just bored teenagers in their rooms, either. Many celebrities and influencers use TikTok as either another social media or another content platform. Even the Nebraska Humane Society and the Washington Post have TikTok accounts, and their content is hilarious. Teenagers do however make up a large portion of these TikTokers, of course, including many Central students who wind up being "TikTok famous."

There is no real backing for the hate TikTok gets. Yes, in a past life, Musical.ly was full of cringe. But that's not how TikTok is now. In this moment, TikTok is one of the most hilarious content platforms on the Internet.

New Star Wars movie embodies white supremacist tripe

Malcolm Durfee O'Brien
editor-in-chief

It seemed like Disney had gotten its act together. Where once the whitest human beings imaginable filled their films' screens, brown and black faces have begun to claim their rightful place. Where once Disney undermined stories that promoted female empowerment, they subverted the old tropes and empowered the previously two-dimensional characters. "Black Panther" and "Lion King" seemed like Disney was finally breaking out of the white boys' club of Hollywood and promoting diversity. How foolish a thing to think.

Then, "The Rise of Skywalker" came out and eviscerated any hopes that Disney would be pushing for the representation Hollywood so desperately needs. The new trilogy started out wholly focused on addressing the lack of diversity and the frequent misogynistic overtones in Star Wars. Characters portrayed by actors of color, such as John Boyega, took center stage where the aggressively white characters of the past stood, and female actors, like Daisy Ridley, took the role of the Luke Skywalker figure. This looked like Star Wars would finally reflect the people who watch it.

"The Rise of Skywalker" is a film written for white suprem-

acist misogynists. After the release of the trilogy's previous film, "The Last Jedi," a section of Star Wars 'fans' launched racist attacks on several of the stars with Kelly Marie Tran, who played the character Rose Tico, being forced off social media due to the hateful attacks being spewed at her online. These fans also attacked the film for portraying the female lead, Rey, as "too powerful" and that her powers "don't make sense." Because logic is so important in a movie about space wizards. Of course, their real problem is that a girl was using the space wizard powers, and not anything genuinely logical.

Did Disney stand up for their abused actors? Did they shut these fans down? You already know the answer: it's no. Instead, they bent to the whims of the racists and made a movie for them: a repulsive pornographic orgy of lasers and people doing stupid flips. Daisy Ridley's character, Rey, the independent, powerful and likable female lead set up as the most powerful character in the franchise since Darth Vader, is turned from a great Jedi knight into a damsel in distress. This is all because of the racists who attacked the franchise, calling her "overpowered" in a movie about people who can shoot lightning out of their hand.

Kelly Marie Tran is entirely cut out of the movie because of racist attacks on her. Racist attacks that forced her off

social media out of fear of physical violence against her, racist attacks that made her feel threatened. John Boyega's Finn is turned into an incompetent fool who spends the whole time screaming nonsense.

The only character from the new trilogy to not be turned into a weak shadow of their former self? The only white male character (who is also the villain), Kylo Ren. This character, who spent the previous two movies trying to stab Rey with a laser sword, is turned into her white knight who saves her from all harm.

This is just to say white supremacy still dominates Hollywood and the fact Disney, a company that was the beacon of hope for equality in the movie industry, is bowing to racists is extremely disappointing. Do not see the new Star Wars movie (judging by its poor box office performance, few of you have, so that is a positive), do not enable Disney's support for racism. The only way to make Disney and Hollywood recognize the need to expand representation is to make the movies that fail to address representation bomb, and the films that do address it succeed.

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Insulin price reduction needed in state

Grace Turner
staff writer

Within the last ten years, pharmaceutical prices have skyrocketed in the United States. This is difficult for any person living in the United States that needs medication in order to survive. One of the medication prices that has skyrocketed the most in the last ten years is the cost of insulin. Insulin costs more than \$200 a vial, and many people need more than five vials a month in order to survive.

Recently, many states have passed state legislation that limits the amount of money a person can pay for their prescription of insulin. The most common legislation makes it so people living with type one diabetes can only pay \$100 for insulin no matter how much insulin they need per month. Nebraska currently has a similar bill in the Nebraska Legislature that would reduce the price of insulin.

This bill needs to be passed in order to ensure that people living with diabetes can afford their medication. There are thousands of people living in Nebraska who need access to insulin in order to survive. Now is the time for Nebraska to also put a limit on the amount of money a diabetic can spend on this life saving drug.

The first state to pass a bill that would limit the cost of insulin was Minnesota. One of the main reasons this bill was passed was because Alec Smith, a Minnesota resident, died after not being able to afford his

insulin. Smith died just seven days after running out of insulin to diabetic ketoacidosis, a complication that is avoidable with insulin.

Nebraska should not wait for a similar situation to pass legislation revolving around the high cost of insulin. Nebraska has the opportunity with LB 949 (the bill currently in committee in the Nebraska legislature) to prevent anyone from dying from an inability to afford insulin.

The National government should be stepping up to find a way to lower drug prices for insulin and many other necessary pharmaceutical companies. However, with the old CEO of Eli Lilly who raised the price of insulin by more than 300% during his time with the company as head of the campaign to lower drug prices, the national government has and will continue to achieve very little.

Nebraska needs to step up to make it so people with diabetes only need to pay \$100 for a prescription of insulin. Just because the national government is either unable or unwilling to change the prices of medicine does not mean that Nebraska needs to be following their example. Instead, Nebraska should follow the example of Minnesota before a tragedy in this state occurs.



CHLOE JOHNSON | Contributing Cartoonist

Medicaid expansion would improve lives of many Nebraskans

Daniel Graham
contributing writer

Nebraskans voted to expand Medicaid in Nov. 2018 with Initiative 427, yet, as of today, this plan still has not been implemented.

According to the Omaha World-Herald, this expansion would allow more Nebraskans to receive coverage from Medicaid, including working-age adults with disabilities or adults with children with an income below \$16,753, or \$34,638 for a family of four.

Nebraska state officials said that they won't be implementing the plan until Oct. 1, 2020, two years after Nebraska voters approved it. This will leave about 90,000 Nebraskans who currently cannot access healthcare in danger for two additional years even though voters have already approved it.

Some Nebraska officials have tried to defend this move, including Gov. Pete Ricketts, who claims that this process will take two years because he wants to make sure the healthcare system works correctly before making it public.

This might make sense considering the infamous failure of the Obamacare website in 2013; maybe Ricketts doesn't want that to happen in Nebraska.

That being said, this seems unlikely because, according to nonprofit law center Nebraska Appleseed, 34 other states have quickly and successfully implemented Medicaid expansion including Louisiana and Virginia who did it in just six months.

In addition to the delay, the proposed program will place limits on who receives full coverage.

They plan has two levels: "basic" coverage, which will be available to all new recipients, and "premium" coverage that will only be offered to those who are employed, volunteer or are students.

This is not what was on the ballot in 2018, and it is very limited compared to standard Medicaid expansion. Nebraska state officials can do this using something called a Section 1115 Medicaid Demonstration Waiver.

Under the Obama administration, these waivers could only be used to increase Medicaid coverage, but in 2017, the Trump Administration changed that, so now states can limit coverage and make it worse than before.

Other states with Republican governors have tried similar things and it seems to be a game plan among the Republican party across the nation to limit healthcare as much as possible, even if it means ignoring the voters.

Utah also approved Medicaid expansion in 2018 and now

has their state legislature pursuing a Section 1115 Waiver, which they have used to gut Medicaid, according to Kaiser Family Foundation.

When Maine passed a Medicaid expansion in 2017, Republican Gov. Paul LePage didn't enact the legislation for years. It wasn't until Democrat Janet Mills ousted him and took important steps in expanding Medicaid on her first day in office that it got done, according to Maine Equal Justice Partners.

By contrast, Republican Gov. John Kasich enacted Medicaid expansion in Ohio, even going through a bipartisan panel to avoid allowing the Republican legislature to block it, according to Advisory Board.

In the end, it comes down to whether Nebraska officials will enact the will of the voters on this matter.

Right now, it seems likely that they won't. Nebraska Appleseed has been suing the state to get them to provide the full coverage that people voted for in 2018, but so far, they have been blocked by the state courts.

If the state succeeds in getting the Section 1115 Waiver, then 90,000 Nebraskans will not get the health insurance they voted for. Hopefully they'll remember this when Ricketts is up for re-election in three years.

Comic books not just for boys

Callan Maher
staff writer

Sexism is still present in the 20th century and sadly it is not going away any time soon, but that does not mean we can't draw attention to it. Sexism is especially prominent still amongst comic book fans, when scrolling through the twitter feeds of such comic book "fans," it is easy to find angering, sexist posts that advance the notion that comic books are a boys-only affair.

One specific tweet I came across was made by Matthew Kadish talked about how the movie "Birds of Prey" will not be good because "They removed any sex appeal the characters had" meaning the movie will not be good because the actresses are not almost completely naked. Kadish then went on and wrote that "They literally don't know who they're making this movie for".

Although it is true that the majority of comic book readers are male, a very significant 40% are female. When comic books came out the female characters were made to be a sex appeal but in the recent years, especially in movies, women are now being shown as strong role models for young girls. Comic books are

not just made for men and movies should not be shamed because the female character have brains and are more than a pretty face and body. It is 2020 and women are still being treated as sexual objects and it must stop.

One gender cannot claim a type of book. The idea that comic books are not for women is keeping us in a box, no person should feel like they must stay in a box. A comic book should be loved and shared because of the story not because of the sexist characters.

I am not the only one who feels this way, as evidenced by the way many have replied to his tweet, along with the repulsive collection of similar posts. Lara replied with, "I'm not sure what's more embarrassing: that you think women have to be sexy in movies, that you believe males are the core audience of superhero movies (the split is almost 50/50), or that you don't think any of these incredibly sexy actresses are sexy." Chris Sylvis replied saying, "Lucky for us he doesn't know what he is talking about."

Comic books and superhero movies are not made for one certain gender.



SAM ROBLES | Contributing Cartoonist

Coronavirus to be taken seriously

Livia Ziskey
staff writer

As 2020 ensues, so does the spread of a deadly and infectious disease: the coronavirus. What started as an outbreak in China has led to thousands of deaths worldwide, including multiple cases of the virus found in the United States. With the viral discussion concerning this disease, it is critical to be well informed on the true facts regarding the coronavirus.

Coronaviruses have been around for years, and they typically aren't dangerous. In simple terms, a coronavirus is a kind of

common virus that causes an infection in the nose, sinuses and upper throat. There have been two coronavirus outbreaks in the past. In 2012, there was a MERS (Middle East Respiratory syndrome) outbreak in Saudi Arabia, which caused hundreds of deaths. Severe acute respiratory syndrome spread in the early 2000s and killed 774 people. So, the world has faced coronaviruses before.

In early 2020, the World Health Organization (WHO) identified a new type, the 2019 novel coronavirus, or 2019-nCoV. It is believed to be transmitted from animals to humans. Symptoms include coughing, difficulty breathing, fever, pneumonia and kidney failure. There is currently no vaccine available for 2019-nCoV.

The first case of the virus was discovered at a seafood market with live animals in Wuhan, China. Soon after this initial case, the virus spread rapidly. Nearly 15,000 people liv-

ing in mainland China have been infected, and over 100 people have died.

The three cities of Wuhan, Huanggang and Ezhou are now on lockdown to quarantine the virus. However, 5 million people were able to leave Wuhan before the quarantine took effect. Cases are now being reported all over the world, including in France, South Korea, Japan, Nepal, Thailand, Cambodia, Singapore, Vietnam, Canada, Sri Lanka and the United States.

The United States has spoken on the issue of infection. Foreign nationals who have been in China will be barred from entering the US.

While the coronavirus may not be as widespread as the flu, it is certainly still a concern to the safety of the world. The WHO declared a global health emergency in January. "I am declaring a public health emergency of international concern over the global outbreak of 2019-nCoV," the WHO's director-general, Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, said. The WHO is mostly concerned with the effect this virus will have on countries with "weaker health systems, and which are ill-prepared to deal with it."

Another concerning piece of information is the fact that a vaccine for 2019-nCoV could be more than a year away, and the virus could continue to spread and grow over those months. In comparison, there is already an effective vaccine for the flu, which makes it easier to keep under control. While the flu has killed more people overall, the coronavirus outbreak has only been taking place for about a month and could potentially become more

Whether people want to admit it or not, anyone is susceptible to contracting this virus, and any other disease for that matter.

widespread as the flu, it is certainly still a concern to the safety of the world. The WHO declared a global health emergency in January. "I am declaring a public health emergency of international concern

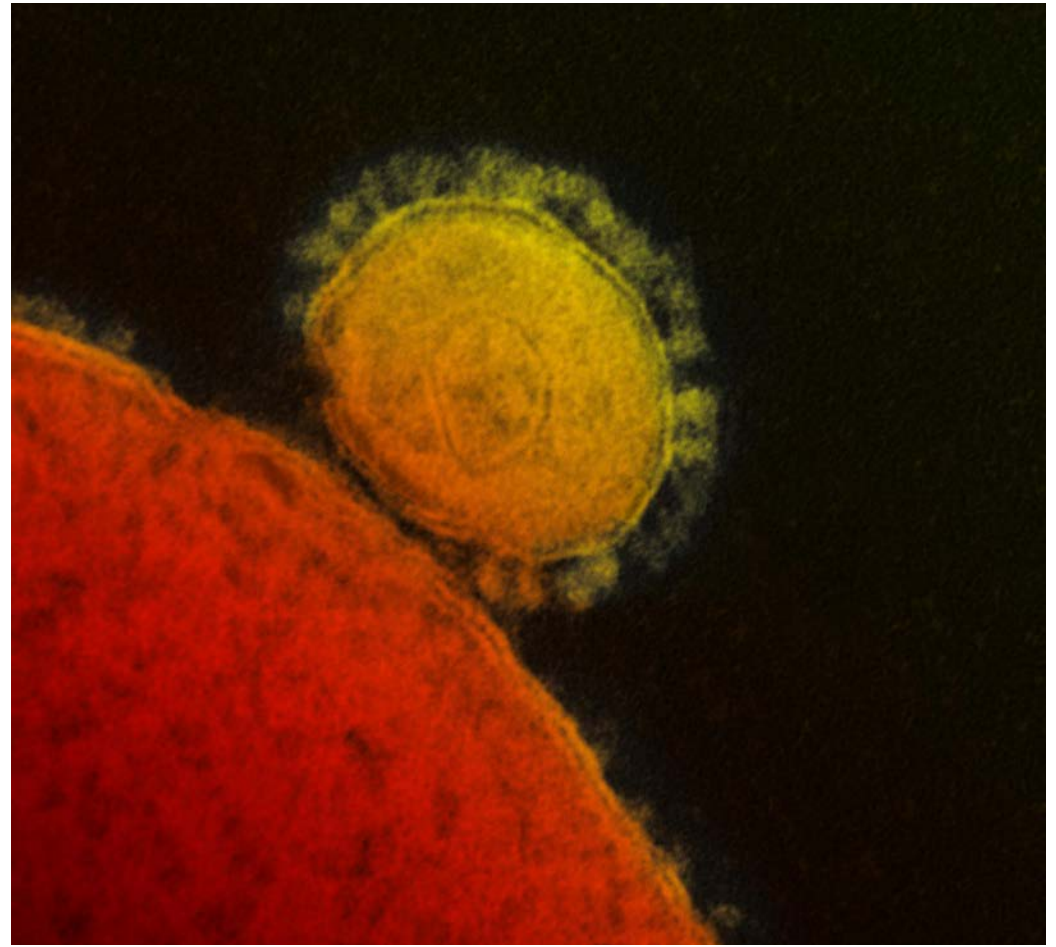


Photo Courtesy of NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF HEALTH

Coronavirus, like all other viruses, needs to be seen under an electron microscope. Here, the virus attaches itself to a cell in order to infect. Coronavirus was given its name because the tentacles coming off of the body of the virus resemble the spires of a crown.

dangerous than the flu.

Some ways to reduce the risk of contracting 2019-nCoV are to keep good hand and respiratory hygiene, thoroughly cook meat and eggs and avoid contact with wild or farm animals.

This coronavirus outbreak shows the

flaws that still exist in the world's medical system. Whether people want to admit it or not, anyone is susceptible to contracting this virus, and any other disease for that matter. The human race is far from invincible, and something must be done to fix this worldwide issue.

Celebrity flaws not erased by death

Makenna Anderson
staff writer

It's always sad when someone dies. As humans, we can empathize with one another over the grief that comes with death. This is why when a celebrity dies, regular people who might not have even known that famous person can feel the pain that comes with the unfortunate tragedy. However, when someone famous dies, people often forget the mistakes that person made and turn them into a Christ-like figure. This is a dangerous thing.

Back in 2018, rapper XXX Tentacion was shot and killed. Immediately condolences started pouring in, and people seemed to forget that he was accused of several felonies. He was charged with aggravated assault of a pregnant woman, domestic battery by strangulation, false imprisonment, and witness tampering, among other accusations.

Yet, after news of his death, his music sales skyrocketed. Tentacion's albums "?" and "17" both hit top 10 on the Billboard 200 album chart; his song "Sad!" also jumped to number one Billboard Hot 100 chart.

Social media posts everywhere were also expressing sympathy during this time. Multiple celebrities spoke out about it. Rapper Tyga posted on twitter, "Really sad Rip xxx.. so sad to lose good artist," followed by prayer-hands emojis.

Soon he became idolized; the death of a great rapper was tragic.

Is it really okay to support someone who committed violent crimes? Yes, he did die, and that's unfortunate. However, what kind of example is being set when his mistakes were erased by the media after his death? Suddenly, Tentacion became a saint.

By ignoring his past, society is normalizing these crimes. Sure, he might've beaten up his pregnant girlfriend, but he died, so we can forgive and forget, right?

What is that saying to those who haven't died? Death is sad, but it isn't an excuse for anyone's wrongdoings.

Mistakes need to be spoken about after death to represent a person in the most truthful way, so as not to present a heavenly figure

to the public when actually, a celebrity has a troubled past. Talking leaves room for mourning and learning alike.

Another example is the late Kobe Bryant. He was revered by all until his untimely death this year, along with his daughter, Gianna.

Many, however, may not realize the basketball player was accused of rape in 2003. The victim dropped the case after Bryant's lawyers intimidated her into silence. Bryant admitted to the sexual encounter and said after the trial was dismissed, "... I now understand how she feels that she did not consent to this encounter."

New York Times writer Evette Dionne says it best. "It is irresponsible to excuse or gloss over Bryant's treatment of this woman," she wrote, "But it is also reductive to focus on this behavior when reflecting on his life and death."

While he made a terrible mistake, it shouldn't be the main dialogue about Kobe Bryant.

However, it should be spoken about and not excused. Washington Post writer Felicia Sonmez tweeted about the rape case after Bryant's death, and was suspended from the staff (the decision was later reversed).

This is just one example of society trying to cover up something terrible in wake of a celebrity's death. This should be a conversation, something to show that not everything is in black and white. Bryant, an inspiration to many, a father and a supporter of multiple charities, was also credibly accused of raping a young woman.

While some of these feats are commendable, it doesn't erase the trauma the 19 year-old had to go through. The good deeds don't cancel out the bad; some mistakes are inexcusable.

It is alright to grieve over a death. It is not alright to ignore the worst of the past. In doing so, the news is normalizing injustices like rape culture and violence.

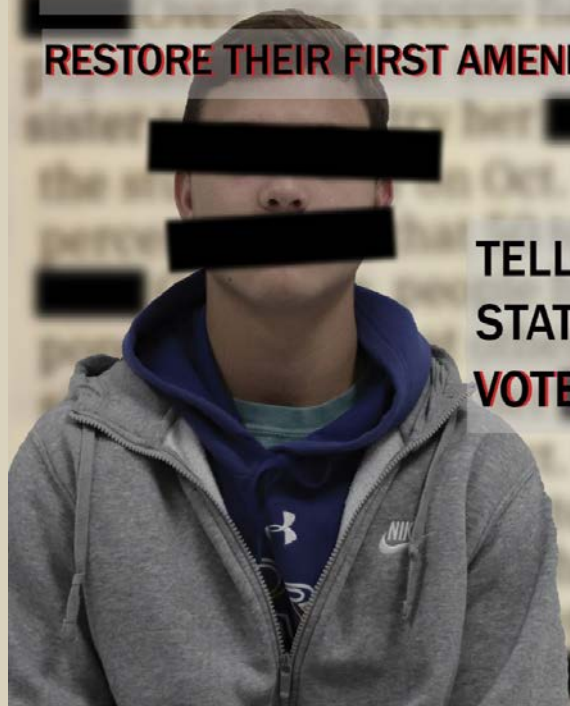
A person's legacy must be presented in the clearest and most truthful way in order to have these conversations.

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arts & style



Left to right: Sarah Overbeck performs for color guard, Lillian McMahon sings *Rose's Turn*, Ada White sings *Either Way* with Jon Gilmore.

LUCY MASON | The Register

ROADSHOW

Acts begin to line up for the 106th annual Roadshow

Stella Ehrhart
staff writer

This year will be the 106th Roadshow to be put on by Central High School. Roadshow takes place on Friday, February 28th at 7pm and two shows on Saturday, February 29th at 2pm and 7pm. Tickets cost 10 dollars for adults and 8 dollars for children with a student I.D. and can be purchased at the door or by calling (402) 557-3332.

The Central High choir department will present many acts showcasing the many choirs of Central High. A Cappella, CHS Singers, and Bel Canto will all be featured in Roadshow. A Cappella is performing "Imagine" by John Lenon, CHS Singers is singing an a cappella choral piece called "Nyon Nyon" by Jake Runestad, and Bel Canto is performing "A Million Dreams" from the musical "The Greatest Showman."

"The Road Show is a fun experience for our choirs, because we get to try something a little bit different—often a pop song or a show tune," Sara Cowan, choir director and performing arts department head, said "It's also fun to showcase our students' talents for a broader audience."

The honors 5-6 Drama Class will be performing two skits

in this year's Roadshow, 'The C-Factor' and 'Western Hemisphere'. The acts are created, written, and performed completely by the students in the class. The students brainstorm ideas for acts, once they chose an idea the students are split into groups to begin writing the scripts. Once the first drafts are written the students read through them as a group. They all give feedback and come up with things to add or change. In the end, both acts are performed that were crafted entirely by the students.

Claire Bouma (junior) will be doing a dance that she choreographed based on the themes in the movie *Joker* (2019) set to one of the songs played in the film. Bouma said that the combo represents that sadness that he lived in. "As the song progresses more and more bass is added, my dance also becomes a lot heavier with more jumps and turns," Bouma explained.

Ada White (sophomore) and Jon Gilmore (sophomore) are performing the song 'Either Way' by Chris Stapleton. White said the song is originally a country song, but they will be performing it as a ballet. White said the song highlights the best range of her voice and Gilmore's skill on the guitar.

Central students Tariq Douglas (senior) on bass, Lieu Hi-

dalgo (senior) on guitar, Gunnar Duke (senior) on guitar, Negil McPherson (senior) singing lead and Tate Grabher (freshman) on drums form the known as 'Louie Luther and the Ragerzz'. The band will be performing an original song called 'Kickin' Up the Gravel' written by McPherson. McPherson described the song as similar to Lil Nas X's song "Old Town Road."

Negil McPherson is in a second act with his brother, Noah McPherson (sophomore), a violin duet that Negil wrote. The song, which helped them win the Living the Dream competition, is about the race riot and lynching of Will Brown that took place in Omaha in 1919.

Willa Rauch (junior) and Mila Herszbaum-Harding (junior) will be singing an original multilingual duet, with Rauch singing exclusively in English and Herszbaum-Harding exclusively in Spanish. "Overall, it's two girls enjoying music and the moon together," Herszbaum-Harding said.

Liliana McMahon (junior) will be singing the song 'Rose's Turn' from the Steven Sondheim musical *Gypsy*. "I have a really rad drummer and pianist" McMahon said. McMahon described the song as watching someone completely lose their mind on stage.

Sophomore cellist balances school, performances

Makenna Anderson
staff writer

Amongst the many musicians at Central is sophomore Eli Kopp, a cellist from Texas.

Kopp has been playing cello since he was four years old, but his musical career started long before that. His parents, finding that they were pregnant, immediately signed him up for lessons at the Butler School of Music in Austin, Texas.

"I was signed up, in utero, to play cello," the sophomore said. His parents were proven wise, according to Kopp. "That [Butler School of Music] had a very long waiting list to get into," he said. "I was all of four, and my parents get a call that a spot opens up."

Kopp admits he was hesitant to play at first, but he learned to appreciate his parents' decision. "It wasn't really my choice. That was my parents' call," he said, "but I'm very glad they made it."

Years later, Kopp now plays for a multitude of orchestras. He plays for the Pit Orchestra at Central, seated in first chair in Chamber Strings. Outside of school, Kopp plays in first chair for All-City Orchestra, as well as ninth chair for All-State. Kopp also tried out for the Wesleyan Honors Orchestra, but the chair placements have not been decided yet. There's also the Omaha Area Youth Orchestra that he participates in.

In addition to high school orchestras, Kopp plays for the Heart-

land Philharmonic Orchestra at UNO. "It's almost all undergraduate students," he said. There's a couple of graduate students, a couple of professionals, and I believe three or four high school students."

Even though his life is busy, Kopp manages to balance all of his orchestra performances with his school and personal life. "There are certainly times when it can be difficult to balance one with the other," Kopp said, "If I've got a bunch of stuff due for a class, I'll let that take precedence. It really just depends on where my attention's needed most."

Besides orchestra, Kopp also plays cello solo. However, he doesn't like one way of playing over the other. "There are so many great aspects to both," he said. "If you're playing in an orchestra, you have this sense of camaraderie with everyone else. But also, you don't get as much freedom of expression or individuality."

The sophomore is planning on continuing music after high school and into college. "At the moment, I'm still debating between music performance versus music education," he said.

Before coming to Nebraska, Kopp lived in New York. "There's the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, and I was in that for four years," he said. While in the Metropolitan Youth Orchestra, Kopp played at universities, Lincoln Center, and Carnegie Hall.

Overall, Kopp is enjoying his move to Central. "It's been really great... the people are lovely," he said.

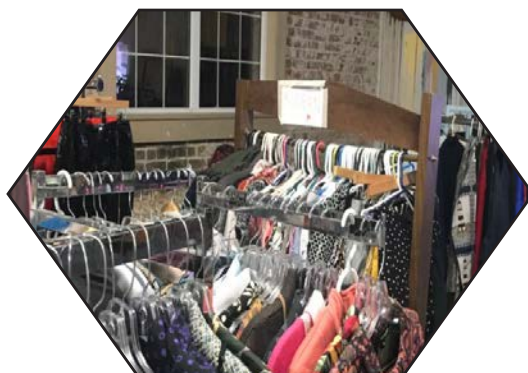


SOPHIA SIDZYIK | The Register

Kopp plays cello in a practice with one of his groups.



MILKSHAKES on page 14



FASHION SHOW on page 15



REVIEWS on pages 16-17

MILKSHAKE IT UP

After my Chicken Tender Bender last semester, I decided I wanted to continue with a little food series, this time with milkshakes. I went to Nutrition 402, Zesto, Ted and Wally's, Louie M's Burger Lust, and The Hunger Block to see who truly has the superior shakes.

1 Zesto is close to my heart and I love their ice cream. They have a huge flavor variety when it comes to shakes, so I chose two options: peanut butter banana and strawberry. They were both phenomenal and the strawberry shake had actual strawberry chunks in it. Two medium shakes were around ten dollars, which I think is a pretty good price point. My only complaint is that the shake was too thick. I love a thick shake, but it would barely come up through the straw.



Zesto

- Large variety
- Five dollars per shake
- Too thick



2 I didn't even know Ted and Wally's made shakes until we went; I always thought it was just ice cream in a cup or cone. They can make any of their ice cream flavors into a shake and they have a unique variety that you can't find anywhere else. The shake we had that day was white chocolate raspberry and it was delicious. It was a little expensive but a small size is bigger than one would expect. The shake was very dense but it wasn't too thick to drink through the straw.



Ted & Wally's

- Can turn any ice cream flavor into a shake
- Unique flavors
- More expensive, but larger sizes
- Dense, not too thick

3 I don't know what I was expecting from Nutrition 402. I knew they specialized in protein shakes, rather than unhealthy, sweet shakes other places make, but I thought they'd be better than they were. For a protein shake shop, they have a lot of flavor variety. I'm talking everything from brownie batter to fruity pebbles to piña colada. We got the cookie dough and fruity pebbles shakes, and we were not impressed. The fruity pebbles shake was downright atrocious, and the cookie dough wasn't that bad, but it could have been better. As far as protein shakes go, I guess they were okay, but they're not the best protein shake I've had. They were also really expensive; it was nearly 20 dollars for two 16 ounce cups.

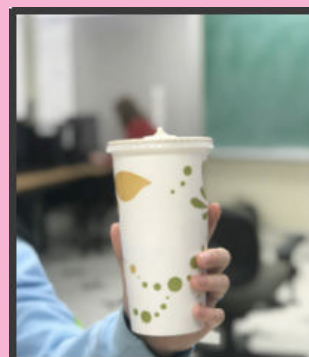


Nutrition 402

- Protein shakes
- Large flavor variety
- Some flavors unappetizing
- Expensive



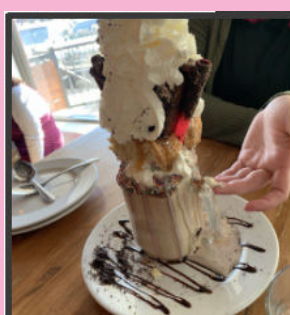
4 Louie M's Burger Lust specialized in alcoholic shakes, and, obviously, I can't buy or try alcoholic shakes, so I settled with their other options. They just have the basic chocolate, vanilla, strawberry and root beer floats. The chocolate shake was good, but there wasn't anything special or unique about it. It tasted like Hershey's chocolate syrup, but it wasn't too overbearing. It was also a little too liquidy for my taste; I wish it would've been thicker.



Louie M's Burger Lust

- Mostly alcoholic
- Four non-alcoholic flavors
- Not unique
- Too liquidy

5 The Hunger Block was an experience. They only have two flavors, chocolate and vanilla, but the shakes come with a lot of extra toppings. This particular shake was in a mason jar, and the rim of the jar was coated in Nutella and covered in sprinkles. There was a piece of cake placed on top of the shake, vanilla ice cream on top of the cake and two ice cream sandwiches propped against the straws with Nutella so they wouldn't fall. The straws themselves were coated in Nutella and cookie crumbs, and there was a lot of cool whip on top. It was beautiful. The shake itself was a very nice consistency; it wasn't too thick, but it wasn't that liquidy either. With how much Nutella was on the outside of the shake, I was worried that it would be overbearingly chocolatey, but it wasn't. It was a nice balance. The only downside is that the shakes are 14 dollars apiece, but you do get a lot of bang for your buck.



Hunger Block

- Intense toppings
- Two flavors
- Good consistency
- 14 dollars per shake



For the most part, the shakes were all very good. However, Louie M's and Zesto has shakes you could find anywhere else or make at home. Nutrition 402 just wasn't that great of an experience. I want to go back someday and try something new, but I just don't like that it's almost 10 dollars for that small of a drink. I think it's a tie between Ted and Wally's and The Hunger Block. I didn't really have any complaints about either place, and I like that Ted and

Wally's has such a large flavor variety, as opposed to two options at Hunger Block. The Hunger Block was really good, but two people couldn't even finish it. It was kind of wasteful, and you have to take the time to go in and sit down, you can't take it to go like you can with any other place.

WINNER: IT'S A TIE!

Chloe Johnson
staff photographer

Brianna Collins
contributing writer

Underground fashion show exclusive, limited to promising, young designers

Jane Gawecki
staff writer

Obscure fashion figures are hard to find in a city like Omaha. The biggest fashion controversies are small liberal businesses selling feminist stickers occasionally. However, one business deep in Little Bohemia has changed the game for Omaha. This shop is called Roland Fitz. Roland Fitz identifies as a vintage shop even though they deserve a designer title. They carry countless designer antiques, all for reasonable prices. They carry men's clothes, women's clothes, kids' clothes and everything in between. Since they are just starting up in a developing neighborhood, they do not get very much traffic daily. So, in order to up their popularity, they began running underground fashion shows.

These exclusive shows are invite only, limited to the most promising young fashion figures in Omaha. These shows happen every few months, gaining popularity and jealousy with each show. However, the dynamic of these events are not what one may expect. Upon entering Roland Fitz, the building looked as it usually did— not necessarily empty, but not really busy. Slowly, the calm, neutral vibe morphed into a wonderfully chaotic scene that was wildly unexpected. The models were not the kind that are typically seen hired for exclusive shows.

There were two very basic-looking, general models that were expected. One model did not have eyebrows. One model was under five feet tall. Someone was 6'4. One had purple hair and a cigarette in hand. Although these models were clearly very different, once the show began, they acted as if they

had known each other forever. The music was startling when it suddenly turned on. It was so beyond loud that the building itself was shaking to the rhythm of the bass. There were ladders filled with flowers and blinding lights in the corners of the room. There were fruity, unlabeled drinks, and people were smoking like it was the 1980's.

An hour into the show, everyone, including most of the models, was tipsy off the unnamed drinks. For some reason, this was never viewed as unprofessional. Frankly, that night, nothing was necessarily viewed as unprofessional.

When it was time to walk, every attendee lined the runway with film cameras (and cigarettes) in hand. Every model, no matter how short or tall, eyebrows or not, strutted so confidently that people were in awe. Some people were wearing heels and shorts. Some people were wearing dresses and beaten up tennis shoes. One model who identified as male was wearing a similar dress to a 15-year-old who identifies as a girl. There were no standards and no gender roles present. Gender was never even really acknowledged. This attitude provided a new unseen sense of fashion: something that can only really be described as fashion fluidity.

After the show came to an end, the party did not. Everyone suddenly picked up and went to the MAX for the remainder of the night, or probably until the morning (if they were of age).

This underground fashion show is an event so exclusive, so interesting and so dynamic that it is worth fighting over an invite. The lessons taught by solely watching others were ones that will last forever, or at least until the next show.



JANE GAWECKI | The Register



Omaha Ice Skating Rinks

Omaha's many ice skating rinks provide fun winter activities

Ella Novak
contributing writer

Omaha has many ice rinks available to the public for open skate. Some of these rinks include Motto McLean Ice Arena, Grover Ice Skating Rink, UNMC's outdoor ice skating rink, and Baxter Arena's Holland Ice..

The cost of admission is something to consider when deciding where to go skating. Motto McLean has a price of \$4 admission for ages 6 and up. Grover has an admission price of \$6 for ages thirteen and above while children twelve and under are \$4. Holland Ice admission has a \$5 admission and UNMC's skating rink admission price is \$5.

An additional cost of ice skating is skate rental for anyone who doesn't own skates. At Motto McLean Ice Arena, it is \$1 for skate rental. At Grover Ice Skating rink it is \$2 and Hollands open ice is a \$3 skate rental. The admission price of UNMC includes the price of skate rental.

Out of all four ice skating rinks I've been to, the worst ice quality was at the outdoor UNMC ice skating rink. This is most likely because it was a fifty degree day but I noticed that the ice was not easy to glide on. The ice under the blade almost seemed to have a sticky feeling. Spins and strides took way too much time compared to the ice at Motto, Grover and Holland which have ice that makes it easy and almost effortless to stride and spin.

Saturdays and Sundays are the busiest of days to go skating. A very common thing to see at these rinks is groups of friends skating together and having fun, but these ice skating rinks can get overpopulated relatively quick. Grover Ice Skating gets crowded around the noon free skating time (especially on Sundays). The UNMC ice skating rink however is calm and doesn't have as much traffic as Grover.

All of these ice rinks had some sort of concession stand available to buy treats and drinks. The best concession selection is Grover's with a wide array of sweet pastries and a large amount of different drinks. UNMC seemed to only have chips and hot chocolate while Grover, Motto, and Holland have a wide array of snacks like nachos, sweets, pop and other various food.

All of the skating rinks have great customer service with incredibly kind employees willing to help you with skates as well as willing to replace skates that don't fit.

Overall, out of these four ice skating rinks, the only one I was disappointed with was the UNMC ice skating rink and that was mostly likely because of reasons outside of the rink's control. But, if I were to pick a favorite, I would choose Grover Ice because of the good food, ice quality, and the kind employees.

<p>Grover</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday Open Skate: 12:45pm- 2:15pm • Sunday Open Skate: 2:00pm- 3:30pm • \$2 skate rental • \$6 admission fee 	<p>UNMC (Seasonal)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Saturday Open Skate: • Sunday Open Skate: • \$5 Admission with skate rental
<p>Holland Ice (Baxter Arena)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates and Times of open skate very • \$5 Admission • \$3 Skate Rental 	<p>Motto McLean</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dates and times of open skate very • \$1 Skate Rental • \$4 Admission

ELLA NOVAK | The Register

THE REGISTER

Les Miserables musical comes to theaters in Omaha

Daisy Friedman
visual editor

Omaha got its own taste of the “barricade of freedom” this week when the hit Broadway musical, *Les Misérables*, came into town. This show is considered an opera because, even though it is in the genre of musical theatre, every word is sung. Operatic musicals are typically very difficult to pull off, but the touring cast of *Les Mis* executed it beautifully.

As a whole, the ensemble was so talented. Generally, I can usually pick out a few weak links in the chorus or those who have had fewer amounts of training. In this show, I could not find that person. The female chorus came in all shapes and sizes, which is a nice change from the typical thin and traditionally gorgeous professional performers. As a whole, the ensemble’s harmonies were outstanding. It is not every day that a cast can blend their voices while still having the audience hear every voice part distinctively; that is special.

The set and stage pictures were both sparse and elaborate. In certain scenes such as those involving a barricade during the war scenes, the sets were complicated and massive. The war fight scenes were choreographed so well. They had actors falling off a massive barricade acting as if they were dead on a scantily lit stage.

In contrast to that, there were some scenes where I personally would have liked to see a set present. Like during the song “Empty Chairs at Empty Tables,” performed by the character of Marius (Joshua Grosso) there was a completely blank stage. I would have liked to see a few actual chairs and tables to drive the meaning of the song home a bit more. No matter what, the set design was one to be commended.

Another technical element that I found shocking was the use of gunshot noises. There was no warning at the beginning of the show that there would be those noises.

People around me winced and I wondered if anyone in the audience wondered if there was an active shooter in the theater. In the social climate of 21st century America, that felt wrong.

There was a lot of faulty sound tech work. The orchestra was overpowering the singers in a lot of numbers and I could not make out the lyrics in quite a few songs. The microphones were not picking up any of the actors’ low tones. I am unsure whether that was an issue of the performers or the technical team, but either way, I wish it could have been remedied.

The actors blew me away. Jean Valjean, played by Patrick Dunn, had the most phenomenal voice I had ever heard on a male musical theatre actor, including Broadway itself. He grasped the idea of “acting the song” so nicely and married the idea of strong vocals and emotion. The same goes for both Cosette (Jillian Butler) and Éponine (Phoenix Best). Best had such a powerful, even-toned voice. My one critique of her performance was that during her death song, “A Little Fall of Rain,” she was belting her little heart out, even as she was supposed to be dying. Maybe that was an artistic choice, but it didn’t read well.

The only pitfall in performance I saw was in Fantine played by Mary Kate Moore. Moore is a Lincoln native who graduated from Oklahoma City University. She just missed the mark on the role. I felt like her singing voice was not light enough for the helpless role and her acting did not feel motivated by anything. It seemed as though she was acting the way she did because her director told her to, not because the character was motivated to do so.

Overall, the show was one of my favorites that Omaha Performing Arts has brought to Omaha. The actors and technical aspects drove home the theme that we are all stronger when we fight together.



Photo Courtesy of DAISY FRIEDMAN

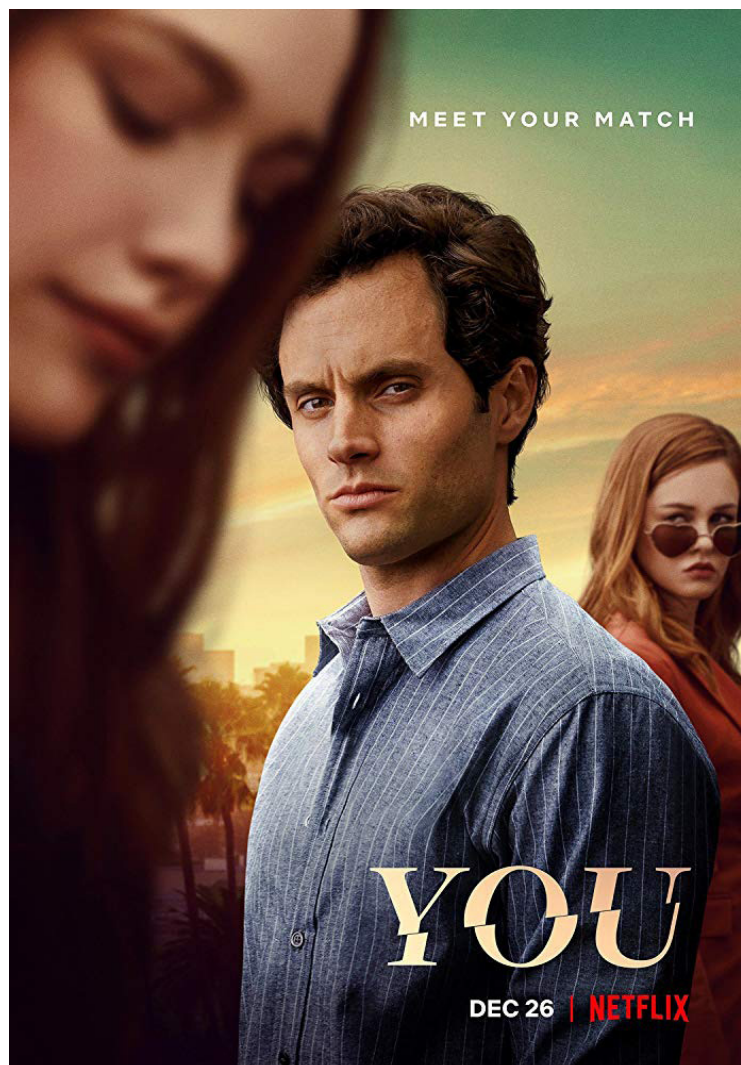


Photo Courtesy of A + E Studios

Netflix releases second season of ‘You’

Sophia Sgourakis
staff writer

The first season of ‘You’ was released on Netflix in December of 2018. Once the second season came out on December 26, I could not stop seeing memes and tweets about this show. So, I gave it a shot and became one of the reported 40 million viewers of one of Netflix’s most-viewed series to date. Here’s a little breakdown (with as little spoilers as possible) of this murder mystery series, with Millennial sitcoms and revenge fantasies.

The series all starts in Joe Goldberg’s (Penn Badgley) bookstore where he meets an inspiring author, Guinevere Beck (Elizabeth Lail). Immediately, his obsession with her begins. He uses his web savvy to make his way into every aspect of her life: finding her address, her ex-boyfriend and even learning about the death of her dad. With all of Joe’s weird ways, he makes his way into Guinevere’s life when she coincidentally needs him the most.

All the sudden, Guinevere sees Joe as a perfect guy. However, behind all that she sees, Joe is plotting something malicious in his head. Joe finally gets ahold of Guinevere’s ex, Benji. Benji is kept in Joe’s plexiglass box in the bookstore basement. And just like that, Joe’s plan has worked: Beck’s heart is subsequently open to Joe now that Benji has disappeared.

Beck’s best friend, Peach (Shay Mitchell) is a controlling and manipulative friend, but only Joe sees this. Along with that, Peach has good judgment and because of that, she is onto Joe. The only way for Joe to keep getting closer to Guinevere is if Peach is out of his way. And Joe works hard to make this happen.

Joe continues to burn bridges, as he gets into his neighbor’s drama. After Ron, the mom’s boyfriend, has put her into the hospital after a fight, Joe takes it into his hands to save the family. The son, Paco, has gotten to be close with Joe. In order to protect Paco, Joe gets rid of Ron as well.

Towards the end of the season, Beck finds out how Joe has become obsessed with her over time. She finds a box of ‘trophy’ in his apartment and finds out all he’s done in her name. As this unfolds, she is taken down to the basement of the bookstore. What happens next, is for you to find out on your own. Whatever happens, has prompted Joe to move to LA once he knows he has a way to not be held accountable for any of his actions.

Now that season one is broke down, season two tends to play out in a similar way. Joe meets a new girl, Love (Victoria Pedretti), launching him down the same path of obsession that occurred with Guinevere. Along with incidents that happened in season one, this season focuses heavily on Joe’s past and understanding why he is the way he is. But season two becomes more intriguing as Joe is not the only ‘bad guy’ around now...

Behind this suave killer is a lesson about society. From the internet, Joe can find anything he desires, and I mean ANYTHING. I see this show as a warning concerning social interactions in modern day. People can become so manipulated due to the vast amount of information on the internet. We cannot forget how dangerous the world is that we live in.

However, this show also teaches a lesson about being a woman in society. Women live in fear of crazy things happening to them like what happened to Guinevere and Love. All Guinevere did was walk into Joe’s bookstore and immediately her life was at stake without her even knowing. There needs to be more awareness to the fact that something from this show can happen in real life.

Along with the strong focus on women characters in ‘You,’ they were all the characters that didn’t have a happy ending. It goes to show that women are never the ones that win in the end. I find something wrong with that, as it portrays women as being weak compared to men.

I hope a brief summary of the two seasons have maybe convinced you to start watching the mystery series, for what I have said is nothing compared to everything that happens.

REVIEWS

Harry Styles new studio album evokes variety of emotions for fan

Heidi Heyden
staff writer

On Dec. 13, Harry Styles released his second studio album, "Fine Line." As someone who is no stranger to breaking barriers and marching to the beat of his own drum, this album is a pure reflection of who he is as a person. Although many of the songs are fun and upbeat, they also are rich in deep lyrics and raw feelings that are not too terribly common in pop songs anymore. Overall, "Fine Line" goes slightly out of the pop music box and has a unique vibe that takes it a giant step above the average song heard on Top 40 radio.

What I first noticed after listening to the album was that it was quite versatile. There are songs like "She" and "Sunflower, Vol.6" that have a mellow-funk sound, and songs like "Falling" that make you want to cry about pretty much any minor inconvenience you happen to have. Then there are songs like "Watermelon Sugar" and "Treat People With Kindness" that make you want to get out of your car during rush hour traffic, get on top of your car, and dance with lots of confetti and have a grand old time. No one song has the same atmosphere as the ones before or after it, but the album manages to simply flow from one song to another, as if it had a storyline.

What I also loved about this album was the emotional weight each song carried, and how the lyrics matched the song's rhythm and mood. For example, I found "Cherry" to be about Styles struggling to see his ex move on and be with someone new, as he misses her, although it is clear that his ex is happier now. This is reflected in the music with light beat and soft, low notes in the verses, seeming like he is writing an intimate, heartfelt love note telling his ex how he truly feels. With each song, it makes the lyrics come alive, as if the listener is having a first-hand experience as to what the song is about.

Unlike many of the albums I have listened to, there are no "filler" songs; it's clear that each song put of the album has a purpose. In addition, when the song "Fine Line" ended, it felt as if I was closing an adventurous chapter book, even though the album only had twelve songs in it. When I first decided to listen to "Fine Line", I was skeptical that it wasn't going to live up to the hype that it was receiving, but it did by a long shot.



Photo Courtesy of WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

Justin Bieber documentary worth watching

Alexis Radke-Chism
staff writer

Justin Bieber recently released a 4-part documentary called "Series" on YouTube. It walks through Justin's life, struggles, and accomplishments, and how it has changed him as a person.

The series starts in Justin's hometown. With his wife, he first travels to where he used to play in public, and then to his old apartment. Throughout these different places interviews from his manager, management, and his wife are shown. He starts developing the idea of his love for music, and why for a short amount of time he stopped doing what he loves.

Justin describes his break as finding himself again. He struggled with addiction to hard drugs, anxiety, and depres-

sion. His break gave him the time to find himself and to remember why he loves to be on stage performing.

The series consist of ten parts, and after part one you need YouTube premium for access to the others. Now if you already have YouTube premium it is worth watching, but if you don't, I wouldn't recommend spend the money for the short series.

The overall editing of clips together flowed and told the story well. It switched from present time, interviews, and past clips. This aided in spreading his message of overcoming struggles and adversaries in his life in a way that is easy for the audience to understand. It also allowed the viewer to relate with Justin and his story.

The interviews throughout the series added an emotional aspect, allowing the viewer to believe the story being told.

Justin's managers expressed their emotions and emotions they witnessed from Justin himself. It gave another insight that strengthened the story. I was able to connect with the story emotionally and give sympathy to Justin.

"People are drawn to him because he has a story to tell." Hailey Bieber said, and she is very right. People love to hear interesting stories and he has an interesting one to tell. It's just something most Justin Bieber fans already know. Most fans are aware of Justin's mental state and his use of drugs, this series just gave him a chance to explain his story and admit and deny things being said about him in the media. The only new information given is Justin's struggle with Lyme disease, which he had been keeping from the public all together. The documentary itself was put together wonderfully and was worth watching.

'Birds of Prey' wardrobe choices do not lower movie's quality

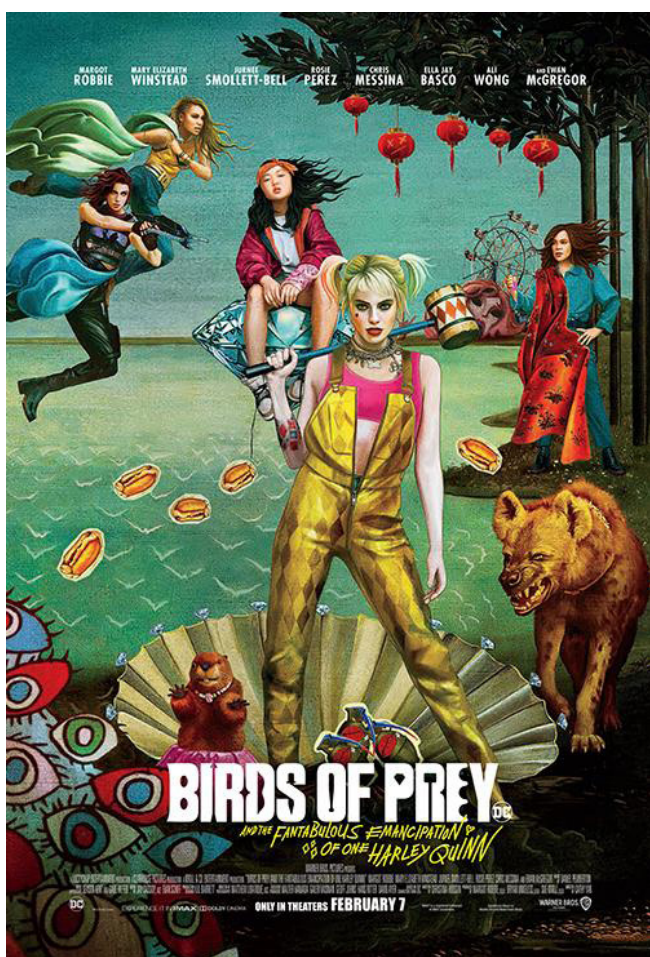


Photo Courtesy of IMDB.com

Emma Whaley
editor-in-chief

DC Entertainment has once again created a female-filled masterpiece with Harley Quinn: Birds of Prey. Birds of Prey combines action, heartfelt warmth and hilarious comedy, and wraps it all into a pink and blue bow.

Birds of Prey follows the newly single Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) through her first independent mercenary act. After realizing that, without the Joker's protection, half of Gotham City is after her, Harley agrees to find a code-embedded diamond for Black Mask (Ewan McGregor), a villain who takes his pleasure by peeling off his victims' faces. The diamond is said to contain the details to the Bettinelli family trust, the money left behind after Gotham's biggest mob family was assassinated. Little does Harley know, all of Gotham City's mercenaries are after the same diamond and the little girl who has it.

This story ties together four amazing DC women: Harley Quinn, Black Canary (Jurnee Smollett-Bell), Huntress (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) and Detective Renee Montoya (Rosie Perez). The way these women interacted was amazing, simultaneously joking and genuine. One of the more important plot points of the movie was Harley dealing with her break up, and, through this, the audience is able to see the duality of female friends. After the split, Harley's roller derby friends talk about her breakup behind her back. Later in the film, this scene is redone; this time, it's the three other women complementing each other on their fighting styles.

Birds of Prey also made strides in the LGBT community. Detective Montoya's ex-girlfriend is in many scenes, and their relationship is talked about openly. In Harley Quinn's series of comic books, Harley is canonically bisexual, marrying villainess Poison Ivy after her breakup with the Joker. In the animated intro to Birds of Prey, Harley reminisces on her past breakups, one of which is with a woman.

A large part of this is thanks to Margot Robbie. She has repeatedly pushed the idea that, in a future Gotham City Sirens movie, she wants Harley Quinn and Poison Ivy to have a romantic relationship accurate to that in the comics.

Robbie's interpretation of Harley Quinn is incredibly accurate to the comic character. From the cheesy New York accent akin to Harley's accent in The Batman Animated Series, to the "crazy" behavior, to the subtle moments of vulnerability, Robbie nailed it. Her performance in Birds of Prey was much better than her performance in Suicide Squad, likely due to the focus being more on her character and less on her body. Yes, her outfits are still revealing, but, honestly, that's right in line with Harley's character, and watchers shouldn't worry about the sexualization; nearly since her creation, Harley Quinn has worn skimpy outfits.

Birds of Prey has exceptional cinematography. Lighting is wonderful throughout, from the climactic shot on a foggy pier to Harley walking through a cloud of pink and blue smoke fired from her "Fun Gun". There was some use of slow-motion, but not too much. Often the slow-motion was to emphasize a comedic scene, like Harley's prized breakfast sandwich flying through the air in the middle of a fight. Also, Harley's doodles appeared all over the theater screen; diamonds, smiley faces and squiggled lines dotted the film at freeze frames.

Despite these wonderful aspects of the film, it wasn't good enough for the critics. Originally titled Birds of Prey and the Fantabulous Emancipation of one Harley Quinn, the movie was renamed with hopes to draw in more theater tickets after an opening weekend that was less successful than DC had hoped for.

I, personally, disagree. Birds of Prey is amazing. If I had the money, I would watch it ten more times. The dynamics between the characters is mind-blowing. The villain is likable, but obviously evil. The cinematography was beautiful, and the score was powerful. This is one of DC's best movies, and that's a hill I will die on.


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Photo Courtesy of **DESHAWN WOODS**

RECRUITED AS A SOPHOMORE

Sophomore offensive lineman Deshawn Woods has seen scholarship offers come at him for a while, but only recently have his abilities lead to a recruitment.

Ari Saltzman
staff writer

This past month, Central offensive lineman Deshawn Woods has seen his recruitment take off. The current sophomore has fielded scholarship offers from Nebraska, Iowa, Iowa State and Missouri. He says, "It's actually really nice because I like to play sports." Woods is the first Power Five football recruit to play for the Eagles since Daishon Neal signed with Nebraska in 2015.

Nebraska offered Woods when assistant coach Barrett Ruud visited Central on Jan. 21. He became only the second in-state offer for the Huskers in the 2022 class, joining Omaha Burke OLB Devon Jackson. Woods said about his offer, "It's close to home for me." Besides Ruud, Woods is also being recruited by Nebraska offensive line coach Greg Austin. Austin played offensive line at Nebraska from 2003-2006 and would be Wood's position coach at Nebraska. Woods explains, "It's nice that my position coach actually played there and a lot of people that are like my mentors actually played there, so it's a big deal."

A few hours after Ruud offered Woods, Iowa State head coach Matt Campbell visited Central. During his visit, he let Woods know that the Cyclones were also offering him a scholarship. A week later Iowa head coach Kirk Ferentz visited Central and also offered Woods. Missouri did the same thing two days later. Barring anything unforeseen, Woods will definitely be playing Power Five football, and he said he looks forward to playing football at a higher level.

Central head coach Jay Landstrom can see why Woods is receiving Power Five interest. He

said, "He does a lot of things you can't coach right now. He's just big and powerful for his size and is highly coachable." Landstrom said what makes him so highly coachable is that he is a "tireless worker in the weight room. He loves to lift, he loves to get stronger and he's not afraid to put in the extra work." He also mentioned that Woods' work in the classroom as another reason for his recruitment picking up. He says, "He's a smart kid both on the field and his grades are good and that's the first thing they (college coaches) ask for, is how are their grades, and he's doing well."

Even though the 2022 recruiting class is currently not rated by 247 Sports Composite, it is not hard to see him be a highly rated recruit nationally. One reason is that he can fit in multiple different offensive systems, proved by the fact that he has been offered by Nebraska and Iowa. Scott Frost runs a high-tempo, spread offense at Nebraska, the complete opposite of the grind-it-out, power football style of offense that Ferentz uses in Iowa City. Landstrom can see why two schools with different offensive philosophies want Woods to be on their offensive line: "He fits in both because he is a really good run blocker. He's dominant. He gets after people." Woods led an offensive line this season that allowed the Eagles to run for 158.1 yards a game, including 5.7 yards per rush. About Woods' pass protection, he said, "He has long arms, he has good feet. He can move his feet, be able to take on a defensive end and keep him off the quarterback."

The fact that Woods is only a sophomore means his recruitment could continue to garner national interest. In terms of development over the next few years, Landstrom says, "It starts in the classroom and getting that stuff squared away." He mentioned Woods needs to "keep working hard and don't settle, don't be satisfied. Continue to get bigger, faster and stronger."

DESHAWN on page 23

New training grants swim team best season yet, attracts freshmen

Valaria Welk
contributing writer

With seven wins under their belt so far this year, Central's swim team is looking stronger than years prior. The team's growth is due to both the team's new focus during training and its ever-growing family atmosphere.

"Every year I've coached, I've watched the team grow stronger, and this is the strongest I've even seen it," said biology teacher and varsity swim coach Kristoff Berzins. Berzins has coached and taught at Central for seven years.

"In the past, the team has had several different focuses in practice, but this year we're focusing on a type of swimming called high intensity training," Berzins said. "Basically, you

train the way you swim. Everything from the 50 free to the 500 free is a sprint, so we sprint at practice too."

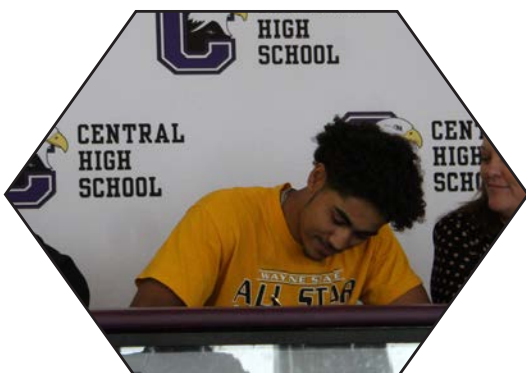
This new training started out rocky among the swimmers but has ultimately led to goals being achieved earlier in the season than expected. Swimmers are achieving feats the team struggled with in the past and recruiting large numbers of incoming freshmen.

"I talked to at least six incoming freshmen who showed a lot of promise at open house this year," Berzins said. "They'll bring a lot of experience to the team. It's really exciting." This year's freshmen brought a lot of talent as well, with eight freshmen on varsity.

Another development over the past couple years has been the friendship among the team. "Everyone believes in each

other and the team and it's caused a lot of buy-in from the freshmen," Berzins explains, "the upperclassmen have really stepped up this year to show the underclassmen the way, and it's clear how much closer the team is now compared to the past." Berzins said he plans to continue to develop the team in every way he can.

"Even something like a better pool situation would help," says Berzins regarding the challenges Central has had in the past getting practice time at the team's home pool at Norris Middle School. "Every year we're always on the lookout for new opportunities and ideas to improve practices and the team overall."



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SPORTY

Brock Lakin-Baseball



DILLON GALLOWAY | The Register

Brock Lakin signs with St. Ambrose University and their baseball program.

Malcolm Durfee O'Brien
editor-in-chief

Senior Brock Lakin signed on Wednesday, February fifth with St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. Lakin, a third baseman and pitcher for Central's varsity baseball team, signed with their baseball program.

"I chose St. Ambrose because it's a smaller school and I think that the community will fit better with my ideals," Lakin said.

Another factor in his choice was the caliber of experience on the team, narrowing out the head coach primarily.

"The head coach has had, I think, 25 years of experience, 25 years as the head coach. He knows his way around the sport. I look forward to growing in the program both as a person and as a player," Lakin said.

Lakin expressed interest in choosing either biology or engineering as his field of study, primarily because he intends to go to graduate school for either medical or dental after finishing his undergraduate study at St. Ambrose.

Brock has been a real leader for our baseball program, and he's been a real leader in the school.

GERALD KREBER
baseball head coach

"I don't know if I want to go into medical or dental for graduate school, but I do know that I want to go to graduate school and those are two very good routes," Lakin said.

Lakin is looking forward to the opportunities presented by the team at St. Ambrose, which plays in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference, expressing interest in going to the city of Chicago for games and events.

"It's in the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Conference, so we go to Chicago a lot, which is like a two hour drive. I love Chicago, I went there when I was four for a Cubs game, and I kind of fell in love with the city and team," Lakin said.

Central baseball head coach Gerald Kreber emphasized Lakin's academic and athletic balance in the speech honoring him at the signing ceremony, noting his position as a leader of the team and his academic accomplishments, such as his high grades and his membership in the National Honor Society.

"Brock has been a real leader for our baseball program, and he's been a real leader in the school," Kreber said.

Keann Allen-Baseball

Emily Hodges
staff writer

Central senior, Kean Allen, signed with Wayne State University for Baseball on February 5th, 2020 along with 5 others. The signing event was held in the gym lobby and included cake and pictures. At the event, Allen's proud friends, teammates, and family members were in attendance to support his achievements.

The varsity starter has been playing baseball since he was 4, "This has always been a goal of mine," Allen said when reflecting on his achievement.

Out of all of his offers, Allen chose to attend Wayne State for a multitude of reasons including the close location to home and strong academics.

Allen described his professional goals saying, "I plan on majoring in psychology and getting my coaching certificate to coach baseball in the future... They have a really good program for [psychology]."

For Allen, baseball is not just a sport, but a family.

He described his favorite part of Central baseball saying, "we have a lot of good guys on the team; we all push each other to be better."

On the topic of teammates, Allen also hopes for a similar bond in college saying, "The transition to new teammates will be tough."

Brock has been a real leader for our baseball program, and he's been a real leader in the school.

GERALD KREBER
baseball head coach

Another change that Allen is nervous yet excited for is the increased competition within the team. At Central, Allen has been a starter on varsity since freshman year; as he transitions to college he acknowledges,

"I know I'm not gonna be that guy, so I'm kind of excited - i like the feeling of having something to prove."

Allen is willing to do whatever it takes to pave his way through Wayne State baseball. He describes his versatility saying, "I start at shortstop and pitcher, but I can play anything."

As Allen's last season of Central baseball begins, so does the start of his college baseball career.



DILLON GALLOWAY | The Register

Keann Allen signs with Wayne State College's baseball team

Dylan Baker-Football

Simret Habte
staff writer

Senior Dylan Baker has been playing as a tight end for Central's football team. On Feb. 5, he made a commitment to continue his football career as well as his academic career at Wayne State College this coming fall.

He has been playing football since he was in the third grade, inspired by his dad who coached the football team. Since then football has been a big part of his life. He says that football is the reason he got to know some of his best friends.

Baker has managed to balance playing football and his academics to be able to grow in both of those areas. While playing, one of the challenges that he's faced was being smaller than other players.

However, that didn't stop him from working hard in the weight room to overcome that difficulty. Baker says that after leaving Central he will miss his teammates and the stadium the most.

Next year at Wayne State, Baker will be pursuing a degree in education while playing for their football team.

He is looking forward to being able to play "a better game of football." As he starts this new chapter in his life, Baker is thankful to all of his coaches for shaping him into the player he has become now.



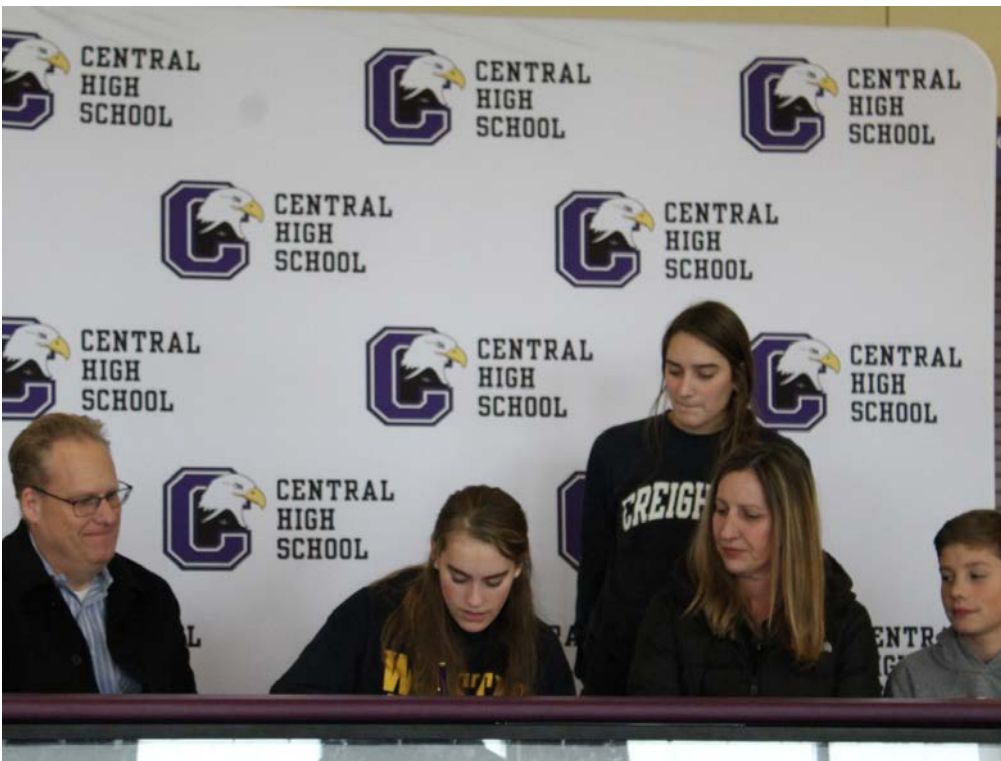
DILLON GALLOWAY | The Register

Dylan Baker signs with Wayne State College to play football.

SIGNEES



Delaney Demman - Volleyball



DILLON GALLOWAY | The Register

Delaney Demman signs with Webster University for volleyball.

Heidi Heyden
staff writer

On Feb. 5, Delaney Demman signed to Webster University to continue playing volleyball. She has been playing for seven years and has helped lead Central's Varsity volleyball team to success during her senior year.

"Volleyball has impacted my life so positively over the last seven or so years and has always been a consistent factor I can count on to make me smile or feel better," Demman said.

She explains how the people she played with also had a positive impact on her career.

"I am most grateful for the friends, relationships, and memories I've made at Central," Demman said. "My most memorable experience with high school volleyball is all the friends I've made and beating a top ranked team for the first time in eight years."

In addition, she goes into detail about

how she continues to work on and improve her skills and credits her coaches in helping her do so. "My assistant coach, Coach Koz, made a really big impact on my senior season by helping me to better my technique and improve my leadership skills throughout the season," Demman explained.

Looking forward to the future, she sees some similarities that helped making her decision easier. "The size of the school, the location, and the environment and the familiar feeling of the team made me fall in love with the school even more," Demman explained.

As her senior year starts to end, she reflects on her time as a volleyball player at Central.

"I am so grateful I have the opportunity to continue playing the sport I love at a higher level and continue to build relationships as I transition into a college lifestyle," Demman said.

Volleyball has impacted my life so positively over the last seven or so years

DELANEY DEMMAN
volleyball signee

Olivia Gilbreath
executive editor

Jake Roberts, catcher of 10 years, will be continuing his baseball career at Northeast Community College, located in Norfolk, NE. Beginning his fourth varsity season at Central, Roberts describes his outlook on the season stating, "I'm expecting to shock a lot of people with how good we are- most people write Central off as a second thought, but this year we're going to prove that we're a solid squad to be feared."

While loving the sport, Roberts recognizes the discipline and drive players must have on and off the field when playing baseball. Student athletes need to find equilibrium in the balance of school and sports. If a high school athlete is falling behind in school, it directly affects their athletics.

"It can be hard to balance school and sports but I feel like a lot of teachers are understanding and the coaches are, too," Roberts comments, "If you need help in one area [baseball or school] you'll be okay if you ask for it."

Evaluating the qualities a baseball player needs, Roberts emphasizes the need to be physically strong and to have a good mentality. "Your mental capacity and love for the game is constantly

tested. Something I've learned is the ability to recognize that there's always more than one play or one out in a game," Roberts discloses, "You need to learn to move past one mistake for a better end result."

In every sport, bonds are created between teammates, some being more memorable than others, but Roberts believes that every teammate a person encounters teaches that person a lesson.

The first bond Roberts identifies from Central was with Brendan Anderson, former Central graduate now playing as a sophomore at Southeast Community College. "Brendan was sort of a mentor and a teacher to me," Roberts gushes, "The first thing he taught me

was the skills I needed to move onto college baseball- he also taught me to have a work ethic in baseball and out of baseball."

According to Roberts, the three things a player must have to move onto college ball are: work ethic, the ability to hit college pitches and focus that allows a person to think quicker at a higher level. "Hitting is important," says Roberts, "Every player knows if you can't hit, you don't play."

Because of the growth he has seen with his teammates through the past four years, Roberts is confident that the team will do well in the upcoming season. Roberts has taken note of the

You need to learn to move past one mistake for a better end result

JACOB ROBERTS
baseball signee



DILLON GALLOWAY | The Register

Jake Roberts signs with Northeast Community College for baseball.

increased competition between teammates this year- from the weight room to the field. Addressing the team's friendly competition Roberts states, "Every day is another competition, it's a good thing because everyone is motivating each other to get better and we are happy to see our teammates doing well."

With a team of many seniors, most of the boys have been together for the past three or four years

of high school. "It's sort of like we've grown up together," Roberts reminisces, "I know we're going to be good this year because we're on another level of competition- but, on top of that, we're going to stick together to get better because we're a family now"

Cheer eliminates JV squad

Sophia Sgourakis
staff writer

For most high school sports, there are at least three teams offered: varsity, junior varsity (JV) and some kind of team for freshmen, usually referred to as the reserve team. However, Central's cheer team went against this standard for the current season. Now, only two teams are affiliated with the Eagle cheerleaders.

Every year, tryouts for dance and cheer team are held in March. This allows for teams to be ready with new freshmen by the summer for the upcoming school year. It was in March of 2019 that the Central cheer coach made the decision to only make a roster for a varsity and freshman team. The cheerleader interviewed asked to be kept anonymous, but said, "Our coach said there weren't enough girls to be put on a JV team so she could either put them on varsity or cut them."

Team rosters show that the number of girls that tried out was an issue. Last year, teams were as followed: 12 on varsity, eight on JV and eight on the freshman team. On the other hand, numbers this year dropped causing the varsity team to have a total of 12 girls and freshmen with eight.

Typically, JV cheer teams would cheer at home games for JV basketball and volleyball teams.

With the changes in teams, there are no cheerleaders at JV sporting games. A cheerleader explained, "A couple of girls asked if a couple of us could cheer at those games, but she [cheer coach] said no, which I believe is very unfair."

The varsity cheer team has had the same number of girls every year: 12. This consistency is helpful because there are very few changes that need to be made such as formations. The same cheerleader expressed, "There were very few changes, it just seems easier for the coach since we are one team now."

Cheer tryouts for the 2020-2021 school year are soon approaching in two months. Therefore, anyone interested in cheering for the Eagles, now is their chance.

"I see a lot of changes in the teams for the new year because there are going to be a lot of seniors leaving," one cheerleader said.



JAMIE REIFF | The O-Book

Central cheerleaders support their fellow athletes at a varsity football game in the fall. The number of girls trying out for the cheer team dropped, causing Central to lose their JV squad, leaving varsity and freshman.



Photo Courtesy of JORDAN DIAZ

Aiden Burke, Sam Levy and Jordan Diaz show their Central pride at Kohl's kicking camp in Wisconsin. The camp is the most prestigious camp in the nation for kicking specialists.

3 football players attend kicking camp

Ari Saltzman
staff writer

During the summer, Central football players juniors Jordan Diaz and Sam Levy and senior Aidan Burke attended the Kohl's kicking camp in Wisconsin. The Kohl's kicking camp is the most prestigious camp in the nation for specialists. Specialists include the kicker, long snapper, and punter. Most FBS schools have coaches at the camp so it's a great opportunity for camp attendees to get a look from college coaches.

Diaz, is a junior at Central and a long snapper. He received a four-star rating from the camp, a rating that is tied for 43rd in the 2021 class among long snappers. Diaz said his rating "will give me a possibility to get a scholarship for college." The scouts at the camp said Diaz, "snapped well throughout the weekend and will only get better with refinement to his mechanics. During the charting portion of camp, Diaz was able to score on seven of his 12 long snaps."

"The camp helped me improve my stuff," Diaz said. He is looking to improve even more as he enters his senior year, and is hopeful that he will be able to play college football. He says his goals for the next year are to, "make sure I have everything right, including grades and stuff like ACT, and then make sure my snaps are good and to just be ready for college and to (be) great. And then have a good senior year here at central." He says his goal for next season is

to "win a championship."

Diaz was not the only Eagle to participate in this camp. Junior kicker Sam Levy received a four-star rating from Kohl's. It was tied for 101st nationally among kickers in the class of 2021. During the 2019 football season, Levy was 27/29 on extra points as well as converting 7 of the 10 field goal attempts he had. His longest made kick of the season was 35 yards. The scouts at the camp said of Levy, "He has long levers, powerful hips and good explosive power within his frame. As he continues to create clean command of his ball flight, his talent will really begin to take off. He charted 14 points in the field goal portion of the camp and was able to demonstrate solid refinement in his kickoffs by charting a big ball of 61 yards with 3.29 seconds of hang time."

Burke also participated in the camp as a punter. He was also rated a four star by the scouts at Kohl's. It was also tied for 101st nationally among 2020 punters. During the 2020 football season, Burke averaged 46 yards per punt. He also did 45 kickoffs, 25 of which ended in touchbacks. The scouts at Kohl's said, "He showed that he has the leg talent to play at the next level with a 71 yard 3.9 second hang time kick off. If Burke can continue to gain the confidence needed on field goals he will continue to grow in the Kohl's rankings. We expect some big things this fall because he has the talent required to be a dominant specialist."

Senator supports compensation for college athletes

Noemi Gilbert
contributing writer

College athletics have been a significant part of campus life for decades. Playing a sport is similar to a full-time job for athletes because of the long hours and time commitment. But student athletes don't get the pay that comes with a normal job. Right now, paying a college athlete is not allowed in Nebraska because of NCAA rules. The Nebraska Fair Play to Pay Act seeks to change that, allowing college athletes to earn compensation from the use of their name, image or likeness use. For example, if the law passes, a UNO hockey player featured in a commercial would be able to be paid by the commercial company.

The Nebraska Fair Play to Pay Act was introduced on Jan. 13 by Senator Megan Hunt. On her Instagram, Senator Hunt wrote, "No other student is prohibited from earning income

from their skill or talent except student athletes." The bill would not require Nebraska colleges and universities to take any action. It would allow the university to make the choice to allow student athlete compensation instead.

Student athletes have long been frustrated by the NCAA's ban on athlete compensation. For example, in 2017, University of Central Florida kicker Donald De La Haye was running a successful monetized YouTube channel when he was told by the NCAA that he would have to demonetize or delete his channel in order to stay on the football team. De La Haye refused to delete his channel and subsequently lost his spot on the football team and his scholarship. He sued the NCAA in 2018 and returned to the university with a scholarship.

In October 2019, California became the first state to allow student athletes to be compensated for their image in advertisements. Governor Gavin Newsom said that not paying student athletes "puts institutions ahead of the students they're

supposed to serve." States such as South Carolina and Florida have introduced similar bills.

The NCAA is currently in the process of allowing name, image and likeness rights. They expect to hold a vote in 2021 on if they should allow it or not. The NCAA is opposed to states introducing bills such as the Nebraska Fair Play to Pay Act, calling the California law "likely unconstitutional." The organization wants to establish rules across all schools at once, not state by state.

Bills similar to the Nebraska Fair Play to Pay act have received strong bipartisan support. If the bill makes it to the legislature floor, it will be voted on before the end of April.

"Athletes give free labor for no compensation and at great risk to their health," Senator Hunt said. "It's time for Nebraska to pass the Fair Play for Pay Act."

Some Girl Scouts stay throughout high school

Cecilia Zahm
contributing writer

Many girls in the United States have participated in Girl Scouts at one time or another. Most of them drop out of the organization sometime around middle school, but a small number of girls continue to participate in their troops throughout high school. For them, it's definitely not all about selling cookies anymore.

According to Senior level scouts, those who continue in the organization don't spend their meetings doing the same things that elementary school girls do. As members get older, the activities they do become more serious and service focused. "When they're little kids we have them do a craft, listen to a story, learn a moral, eat a snack and then they're done," Senior/Ambassador Troop 46401 leader Chantel Dempsey said. "Now that they are older, they do more community service, more outreach."

Fifteen-year-old Duchesne High School student Sophia Harding has been a member of Troop 46401 for nine years. The troop, which is made up of all high school girls now, has existed since Harding and the other members were in kindergarten. Troop 46401 used to have over 30 girls at its peak, but now it is made up of fewer than ten scouts.

So, why are people quitting Girl Scouts way before the program officially stops at the end high school? "People get busy as they get older and they also don't want to get laughed at because being a Girl Scout is kind of considered a little kid thing," Harding said.

The reasons girls stay in the organization are just as varied as the reasons of those who leave. Senior level Girl Scout and Central freshman Audra Dempsey said that the reason she kept going when she entered high school was so she could keep in touch with old friends from middle school.

Another big reason for many of the girls is that they simply enjoy working towards the goal of getting a patch. "I saw it as a good way to do service with a group of people that I've known for a long time," Harding said.

The few who do continue put a lot more effort into Girl Scouts than younger members do. One big difference between them and Daisies and Brownies (the lowest Girl Scout levels) is that the high school girls take the lead when it comes to planning and working on projects. "The girls get to decide what they want to do now. We are more in an advisory role now that they can handle the planning aspect," Senior/Ambassador Troop 46401 leader Carrey Hernandez said.

Something most people don't know is that being a high school Girl Scout opens up a lot of opportunities for a girl's future. Girl Scouts who earn awards and do enough community service can receive a variety of scholarships for their work. A scout who earns her Gold Award can even automatically move up an entire rank when enlisting in the military. "Girls can really make an impression on college applications by being a Girl Scout who has finished their Gold Award," Hernandez said.

Community service is a big part of Girl Scouts for those at the Senior and Ambassador levels. This past year, Troop 46401 completed their Silver Award, the second highest achievement in Girl Scouts right after the Gold Award. "Our troop cleaned up our school's butterfly garden and made a peace pole too. It took fifty hours of work and research," Dempsey said. The Gold Award may be the next hurdle for Troop 46401; to achieve that, they would have to work a minimum of eighty hours.

Being a high school Girl Scout isn't anywhere near the same experience as being a Brownie or Daisy. It takes much more dedication, planning and work.



Photo Courtesy of MIA DEMPSEY

Troop 46401, a Girl Scout troop made up of all high school girls, after a trash-collecting activity.



Photo Courtesy of DESHAWN WOODS

Woods prepares for the next play during a game. Many Power-Five coaches are watching the sophomore.

Woods open to all offers

DESHAWN from page 19

Continue to be a leader on the field and off the field."

The coach also mentioned that the increased attention on Woods would help the football program as a whole.

"I think it's great," Landstrom said. "I think it's great for us. It's great for the school. It brings a lot of excitement. I tell our other players that their time is coming too."

With all sorts of Power Five coaches watching Woods' film, it gives other players the opportunity to show themselves on tape. It is a motivational tool that Landstrom can use with his team.

He said college coaches are "also going to be able to see you (other players on Central's football team) playing. And

so, you have an opportunity to stand out and you have an opportunity to get in the eyes of these college coaches."

Landstrom also mentioned that this proves to his younger players and potential players that it is possible to get noticed at Central.

As far as Woods himself, he said his future goals in football are to "just keep dominating the old ones."



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ROADSHOW 106

LUCY MASON | The Register

The 106th Roadshow is in the rehearsal stage. The Roadshow premieres on February 28 at 7 and also has performances on February 29 at 2 and 7. Read a preview of the Roadshow on page 13.

