



# the REGISTER

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## HALL OF FAME

The Central High Foundation holds their annual Hall of Fame event to honor extraordinary alumni.

Grace Ridgley  
section editor



Ada White, Ann Axtell Morris



Ron and Irv Blumkin, Luke Neiland



Bernstein, Mia Wicken



Ray Somberg, Jackson Fischer



Emilio Parra-Garcia, Kathryn Bigsby Moore



Lewis, Grace Titus



Cynthia Hadsell, Noah McPherson



Anna Tiritilli, Dennis Circo



Richard Kelley, Elena Elder



Scott Wilson, Claire Williams

The Central High School Foundation held their annual Hall of Fame event on Oct. 14. The inductees ranged from a cheerleader to the co-founder of the First Responders Foundation. In previous years, this event was held in the auditorium, but due to construction, it was moved to the Holland Center.

The Hall of Fame is an important event used to honor Central and its rich history, as stated by former principal and active volunteer at the Foundation, Keith Bigsby.

“There was one guy who was involved in the saving of the Jewish population. I mean, that was huge. And a story that most people don’t know, and those are the ‘ahas’ that you get out of this, which is crazy. The reading you get out of this is fascinating, and their passion for Central, and their willingness to basically say that Central played a big part is what I think makes this place incredibly special,” said Bigsby.

As a part of the committee who works to decide on who gets to be inducted, Bigsby has an active part in the decision-making process. He expressed that, to him, one of the most important aspects of those who get inducted, is their continuous contributions and involvement with Central. The majority of the inductees have an active role in this community.

“You have to wait at least 20 years after graduating to at least consider being nominated. Some people are able to gather that much success, but for most people, that is not the case. Most of the time you’ll see people in their late 40s, 50s, or older. So, to me, it boils down to who are you, who were you here at Central, what have you done since you left Central, and what have you given back,” stated Bigsby when asked what his personal criteria for the inductees is.

Because there was no Hall of Fame presentation last year, the participants from this year were supposed to be inducted previously. All of them were able to attend or have someone from their family come to represent them.

Students from Central were also able to be involved with the event. Striv TV, the broadcasting network used by the school, is run by nearly all high schoolers from Central. They were able to film the entirety of the event.

Because Bigsby is also involved with the broadcasting crew, he was able to have a firsthand experience with the students involved: “We have a really great crew, and what’s better is that they are all people who you have probably seen walking in the halls. This was a pretty simple thing to film, and having Central kids be able to participate really makes a difference.”

In addition, a student introduced each of the inductees at the Hall of Fame event. These spots were filled by those in the National Honors Society, or who represent Central in the best way possible.

One of these students is Senior, Anna Tiritilli. She had the privilege of introducing Olive Odorisio Circo, class of 1937. Though she passed before 2021, Circo was able to have someone there to represent her.

“It was an honoring experience to be able to be a part of all this. I loved getting to know more about the people who came out of this school,” said Tiritilli.

The Hall of Fame was a success for everyone involved. The event is there to honor those who represent what Central students can do for the world.

Photos Courtesy of OMAHA CENTRAL FOUNDATION



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Drama students act in the annual fall play. Despite various obstacles, the Black Box production was a success.

Olivia Mangiameli | The O-Book

## Drama department hosts play despite adversities

Elena Correa  
section editor

The Drama Department hosted its fall play just last week on Friday to Saturday. The show, “Twelve Incompetent Jurors”, was the first full length show to ever be hosted in the Black Box. The program was met with several challenges during preparations.

“Because of OPS Risk policies, the Central drama department was unable to rent a lift. No one except for a contractor on separate insurance is allowed to use a scissor lift on OPS property,” student technical director, Holden Fershée, said.

OPS Risk is a risk prevention group out of the TAC building. Not only can students not use lifts, but neither can any adults on OPS property.

“This was an issue because lights were not able to be hung over the stage, they could only be hung off to the sides. That means you can only do front and side light. Typically, you’d have front, side, back and down light. That limited the execution of a traditional lighting plot in the space,” Fershée said. “Theatrical lighting is less about making light than it is about controlling shadows. When you’re trying to recreate an office building, where it would only have lighting from the ceiling, [control is more complex].”

Despite these obstacles, the department remained positive. When asked to comment before the show, Drama Department Director, Scott Mead, said, “The circumstances are not ideal, but we are working through them, and we expect to put on a great show.” Fershée confirmed that luckily the show was able to come together as desired.

“I wouldn’t say that the show didn’t turn out as I had hoped, the show turned out well,” he said.

The tech crew had to focus on problem solving. “We added more lights [where we could]. We [used] lighting and sound equipment that was brought in by our resident technical artists, instead of equipment dedicated to the space.”

This process was difficult, because there is still lighting and sound equipment missing from the space that has not been put in place, and installation took longer without lifts.

“As lighting people, you’re never going to get everything that you want, so you do what you can with the equipment you have. Though it meant that [the play] was more trying to find functionality, instead of it being a teaching and learning experience for new students.”

Luckily the show wasn’t particularly lighting heavy, and neither was it sound heavy, which made the show possible. Although with how delayed the auditorium is, there is a real possibility that both the musical and road show will be in the Black Box, which are sound and light heavy.

“That is something that would be extremely difficult. Especially with the inability to use a lift, because for musicals particularly, you need down and back light. This show was doable, but the musical and Road Show, if we have to do them in [the Black Box], would be a lot more difficult,” Fershée said.

Should the musical and Road Show be held in the auditorium instead, there are still pressing issues. Sound renovations are not finished, so what took twelve years of equipment installation in the past would have to be replaced in two months and be just as functional.

“And if it isn’t, you can’t really put on a show. Sound is necessary.”

## Activist for women’s education speaks to students

Daniel Graham  
staff writer

Razia Jan, an activist for women’s education in Afghanistan, spoke to students in the Black Box Theater earlier this school year on Sept. 16.

Jan has spent the past fourteen years running the Zabuli Education Center, a free school for girls in a little village on the outskirts of Kabul. There were almost 800 girls ages four to nineteen enrolled at the school, and another 300 on the waiting list to start next year.

However, this was all put in jeopardy when, in August, American troops pulled out of Afghanistan, leading to the Taliban regaining control over the region for the first time since 2001.

At the time of her talk, Jan did not know whether the Taliban would allow the education center to continue classes, but she was willing to accept whatever time they would give her.

“If they have even one day of school, that is such a blessing,” Jan said. “What I want is to continue educating these girls.”

Jan said that if classes did resume, the Taliban was likely to put restrictions on what she could teach.

“They might say you can’t teach them English, or you can’t teach them art,” she said. “I might have to make some changes, and I want to. Whatever they give us, I will work within that system. I will hide things within lessons, so the Taliban won’t realize what we’re teaching.”

Jan also talked about how she would return to Afghanistan, and how she knew there would be restrictions in place that hadn’t been there before, which might make the trip difficult.

“I will have to wear a hijab,” she said. “I will have to wear whatever they want me to wear—I

don’t care. I need to go back to that village.”

Jan spoke about this need to return to her school at a few different points throughout the talk.

“I want to do good things for people,” she said, in tears. “Every life matters. You have to have compassion and understanding. Be kind. Be generous, if you can. Don’t be mean.”

The girls at her school are in need of aid, she said. That was why she was so intent on returning. She said if anyone wanted to help, the best way was to make a monetary donation to them through her foundation, Razia’s Ray of Hope, a nonprofit dedicated to helping educate Afghan girls.

“Right now, they are so desperate, because of the Taliban,” Jan said. “There is no way to send anything right now, other than money, so they can buy clothes and have warmth in the winter.”

Jan made it clear that she felt that what the Taliban was doing to Afghanistan and what they were threatening to do to her school and education at large in the country, was horrible.

“The members of the Taliban are illiterate themselves, so they don’t know the beauty of education,” Jan said. “They think they can maintain better control if people aren’t educated.”

She said, in a way, that they were right, pointing out to the students in the theater how precious their education was.

“Education is something no one can take away from you,” Jan said. “You guys gathered here are so lucky—so privileged—that you have the chance, the freedom, to choose what you want to do.”

I am thrilled to present the second issue of The Register for the 2021-2022 school year. I look forward to informing readers through the documentation of remarkable stories and views.

As Editor-in-Chief, I am confident in the work the staff has produced over the past month, and I am proud of the final presentation. My hope is that our love for journalism shines through this issue.

I hope you find The Register compelling, informative, and welcoming. Make sure to check out our website, omahacentralregister.com, to keep up with current stories and events. We are also active on Instagram at @chs.register and Twitter at @CHS\_press. Thank you for your continued support and reading of The Register.

Livia Ziskey

Livia Ziskey  
Editor-in-Chief

ATTN: *the* REGISTER

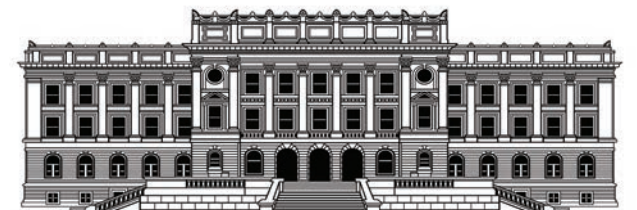
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It is the goal of the Central High Register to represent the student body in issues affecting their lives as young people and students. If you feel that we are not covering an issue that is important to you, we welcome contributing writers who bring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

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



*the* REGISTER *staff*

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## Newest English teacher reflects on transition to Central

Ella Levy  
staff writer

Matthew Kable is Central's newest addition to the English department. He teaches the sophomore class Honors English 3-4 and regular English 3-4 for multiple periods of the day. He also teaches English 5-6 to juniors.

He first thought about teaching when he was in the years of high school. Growing up in a family of doctors Kable calls that his "initial instinct," but English overtook that instinct and turned it into a teaching career. Graduating from Creighton University he was an English major. He says, "I think it stemmed from that," when speaking of his teaching desires.

Kable has been teaching for sixteen years. Ten were spent at St. Pius/ St. Leo and another few were spent in Austin, Texas where Kable taught at a middle school and then later a community college. Kable has always taught English but is still adapting to the Central's curriculum. He says he hopes to adapt and that he will for it is his duty.

Coming to Central has been a big change from his past school. He speaks of the size saying it is the biggest difference between the two. He feels this change and appreciates it; "I love the diversity... it's so amazing to walk through a place where it's a mini representation of the world." He wants students to experience that and believes it is the right way to go through high school.

When Kable's awareness rose to the reality he was coming to Central, he had what he calls a "good nervous." He had heard good things about the school from colleagues and such. "I know it's a really good place and I just didn't want to mess it up."

His nervousness has turned to comfort in the past couple months for Kable has grown to like Central, just as he thought he would. He says he wants to get to know the school better and "set up roots," for he hopes this job will be long-term.

Kable has taught recent graduates of high school but never high school itself. Previously teaching at a middle school, this did not intimidate him for he was excited to make the change



Lucy Mason | The Register

Kable gives instruction to his English class. Although new to Central, he has been teaching for sixteen years.

from middle to high school. "You guys are at such a wonderful place in your life where your old enough to be thinking about serious ideas, concepts, and you're starting to make these life decisions." He is happy to be here where he can witness the excitement.

Like every teacher he has a reason for what he does, his students. His students are his favorite part of teaching; "getting to interact with a lot of personalities and people on a daily basis, that just makes my life a whole lot more interesting."

The last couple months have complemented his teaching career bettering his experience as a teacher. Kable has found himself grow fond of Central as many who choose to be here do. His will is to teach and he likes to do it in a place that is welcoming to all students. His fondness is reciprocated as Central is happy to have him.

## Culinary, textile electives cut by OPS

Claire Shafer  
staff writer

As of the 2021 school year, Central High will no longer offer the Food Culinary Sciences (FCS) and the upper Textiles and Design classes. The decision to stop offering these classes came quite abruptly and with little warning to students. The classes offered students a way to explore their interests in sewing, cooking, health, fashion, caring for newborns and more. They were ways for students to expand their horizons beyond their core academics. These electives extended the minds of students and helped them discover what they are truly passionate about. So, why were these classes discontinued?

All elective classes have to align with the Nebraska Department of Education Standards. This means that all pathways offered at Central must have an intro/prerequisite class followed by three subsequent classes. Electives have to follow the H3-High Wage, High Demand, High Skills career clusters. Otherwise, OPS will refuse to offer them.

"An audit of OPS programming was conducted by an outside consulting company, and based on the results of that audit, programming has been adjusted to best meet the needs of OPS students to prepare them for their futures post-high school," assistant principal Danielle Brandt said.

The decision to cut these classes from Central High was made by TAC and not Central's administration. OPS believed that the upper Food Culinary Sciences and the Textiles and Design classes were not benefiting students enough, so the pathways were canceled.

"I was disappointed when I found out that some of the

programs were ending last year...I think that the class would have offered a lot of valuable experiences," explains sophomore Norah Hicks, who took Textiles and Design 1-2 her freshman year. Like so many other students, Hicks is disappointed that she isn't able to continue her chosen pathway and take electives that interest her.

"It was literally the best class ever... It was a nice break from school and it taught you lessons you will use later in life," sophomore Maddie Hartley said, who took Foods and Culinary Sciences her freshman year.

"Considering fashion is something I want to do in the future, and it is not offered at Central anymore, breaks my heart. I feel like I don't have as many opportunities. I feel like I wasted my time in a class that I cannot continue," sophomore Alsafa Alkhalil said.

Students at Central chose to use their limited number of electives to participate in these pathways. Most of the students planned to continue the same pathway throughout their four years at Central. If they had known these pathways were ending, they would not have taken the prerequisite classes, to avoid wasting time in a pathway that would be discontinued. Although the introductory Textiles and Design class is still offered at Central, it is not part of a pathway.

The elimination of these upper Textiles and Foods classes has decreased the number of electives offered at Central. With a growing number of students and a dwindling amount of electives, students have had to enroll in electives they aren't interested in because other electives were full.

"I have seen a direct effect in other content areas offering elective classes; specifically increased class numbers," depart-

ment head Deborah Corell said. This year, gym classes are so over-registered that walking classes had to be created to adapt to the growing population of students with elective periods to fill.

These classes taught extremely beneficial skills that likely weren't taught anywhere else. All students need to know basic life skills like eating healthy, making good decisions, mending and ironing clothing, basic cooking and working as a team. Therefore, students in the English Language Learning program (ELL) benefited greatly from the pathway.

"It was a loss of an elective that had helped students learn the skill of vocabulary acquisition in general," explains ELL teacher Mary Davies. These electives helped ELL students practice English vocabulary and speaking while working with other students to create something they are interested in.

Cancelling these electives has not only affected students, but also staff. Many teachers lost their jobs at Central and now work elsewhere.

"It was evident that what we gave to the students wasn't valued by the district," expressed former Central High Foods and Culinary Sciences teacher, Brooke Sutton, who lost her job due to the decision. She now works as a product specialist at LinkedIn.

Sophomore ZaKheya Johnson agrees. "When I was taking the foods class I got to do something fun. I know other students who wanted to join the foods class this year, but OPS took that opportunity away from them," she said. "If it's not medical, engineering, arts or drama, OPS doesn't want to offer the classes. It's unfair to get rid of classes that students are interested in because of how successful jobs are in that field."



### Eagle Time added to daily schedule

### The rise of Rated R Superheroes

### CAS Director full of ambition

### Tadpoles lead to life lesson

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## New class creates opportunities for students of color

Isabel Walocha  
staff writer

A class has been revived that creates new opportunities for students of color. Minority Scholars is a program featured at schools all over the United States. Though each program is different, the means of this program is to make sure students of color have equal opportunities and receive the best resources for applying for scholarships and mapping at successful future.

Studies from the American Psychology Association show that there is a 14 percent difference in graduation rates from white to black students in the United States. The APA identifies a notable difference in the way some administrations treat white students compared to students of color. Studies show that black students are less likely to be placed in gifted programs because of discriminatory stereotypes. The purpose of Minority Scholars is to ensure the students of color are receiving opportunities that allow students to reach their full potential.

Sophomore Hime Moore received an email during the summer of the new opportunity to connect with other students of color and to join the class.

"I got an email from Mr. (Jimmie) Foster, who runs Minority Scholars with Ms. (Diane) Allen" Moore said, in describing who reached out to her.

Minority Scholars is not a grade-based class. Moore describes it as a class full of opportunity. She states that Minority Scholars is helpful in preparation.

"It's not a class where you really get a grade, but it's more so to help you so that when time comes for you to apply for colleges or other things like that, you're prepared and you're not behind," Moore said.

Moore does not just prepare for college in this class. She has made friends that she says are like a study group.

"We also have like study groups, so we help each other out if someone does not understand something," she said.

Racism in school is a can be a reason as to why students of color face inequality at school. Education Next states that racism in school does not only come from students, but from staff as well.

"What magnifies the discriminatory practices of educating by zip codes are the deep-rooted biases, conscious or subconscious, of educational staff," says George Farmer of Education Next.

Though Minority Scholars is not a class that strictly talks about inequality in school, it is also about having a safe space for students to go to, with teachers that can offer support to help students succeed in the future. Moore agrees with the study that people of color do not receive as many opportunities as white students.

"A lot of the time, people of color do not have the same opportunities, whereas a school with a higher white population would have more resources in order to succeed better in academics," she said. "Minority scholars gives us the same opportunity."

Though Moore appreciates the help in writing and preparation for scholarships, she would like to see more focus on what the students are learning in school.

"I think we could focus more on our current schoolwork now, really just studying more and getting more help with the grades," Moore said.

She hopes to see this class at other schools in Nebraska.

"For the students, a lot of honors classes are made up of a majority of white people, so having a group of kids who can also relate to you really helps."

## Omaha musician brings community together through business

Livia Ziskey  
editor-in-chief

Omaha native Simon Joyner is a music enthusiast, and believes that it is meant to be appreciated and shared with the masses. As one of the founders of Grapefruit Records, Joyner is committed to supporting niche music artists.

He first discovered his love for music while attending Central in the late 1980s. Joyner recalls the difficulties young people encountered while trying to find ways to listen to live artists.

"There weren't many venues where under-aged kids could see music. The police seemed to shut down any space that catered to young people...there was a fear that young people congregating was a dangerous situation," Joyner said.

Despite these adversities, he found ways to dive deeper into the music world. As a fan of punk rock and indie rock, Joyner relied on all-age shows and listening to records to satisfy his need for music. He later began to write his own songs.

"I started writing songs while I was still a student, but it wasn't until the early nineties that I began performing, recording, and touring," Joyner said.

His appreciation for creative writing, however, did begin while in high school. Joyner recalls the honors English program at Central being exceptional, as well as his time on newspaper staff.

"My time on the Register staff offered additional skills and discipline that I still use today," Joyner said.

Joyner has released a plethora of his own albums and songs, but one of his more current projects is Grapefruit Records, which is his way of supporting other artists' music. He started Grapefruit in 2010 after running into a longtime friend.

"I had been on tour and ran into an old friend, Ben Goldberg, in New York. He was running an indie-rock label called Ba Da Bing Records and had worked at other labels throughout the nineties," Joyner said.

After some discussion, Goldberg and Joyner started Grapefruit, a label that focuses on supporting underground and experimental music.

"There seemed to be a need for a label that focused on niche music that Ben and I both appreciated, whether it was music from New Zealand or Sweden or artists from the United States who had small but dedicated followings and just needed some label support," Joyner said.

The label has released around fifty titles over its eleven years of operation. Joyner sees his project as "bigger than a hobby but not quite a job either."

Rather than signing artists like major labels do, the Grapefruit owners simply approach artists whose music they appreciate

and ask if the artists want to release something on vinyl.

With larger labels, artists sign over the rights to their music. The label reaps the benefits and can negotiate publishing rights. Grapefruit does not follow suit.

"We believe that the artists alone should decide those things about their music. So, when we have sold all the copies of a record for someone, they are free to do anything they want with the music. We basically lease the music for a short timeframe in order to help promote the band's album," Joyner said.

After operating the label out of a South Omaha warehouse for a decade, Joyner decided a brick-and-mortar location would be the most sustainable method of running his business. He also noticed a lack of record shops in Omaha, and wanted to restore one to the community.

"I had the idea to combine the record label with a retail shop that could be open to the public as well, since it seemed like we were losing too many record stores in Omaha," Joyner said.

He worked at a record store during the mid-nineties and has spent much of his adult life shopping in them, so Joyner had a solid idea of what he wanted his own record store to be like. He partnered with his friend, Mychal Marasco, and they opened their shop in May of 2020. Opening Grapefruit Records in the Old Market was a "natural fit" for the two.

"We knew we wanted the foot traffic that this area brings. There's a lot of tourist traffic which is great for retail. I'd say about half of our business is online sales and half relies on people walking through the door and flipping through records in person," Joyner said.

So far, the shop is performing better than Joyner expected. He is amazed by the community response to Grapefruit Records, and is grateful to see others appreciate his idea that was able to come to life. Joyner has future plans for his store to further connect it to the community.

"We're planning to host small all-ages shows once it's safer to have indoor events again. I'm also a rabid ping-pong fanatic, so our ping-pong table is open to anyone who wants to come in and play. We'll probably host ping-pong tournaments at some point too," Joyner said.

With both his older record label and newer record store, Joyner went about completing these projects in the same way: coming up with an idea, and later figuring out how to pursue the idea.

"I've always just decided I wanted to do something, and then I figured out how to do it after. I didn't know how to run a record label until I decided to do it. I had worked in retail but had never owned a shop until I decided to do it," Joyner said. "You can figure out just about anything that you want to do badly enough, so there's something to be said for letting desire lead the way."



LUCY MASON | The Register

Simon Joyner, the owner of Grapefruit Records, is a Central graduate and found his love for music at school. The record shop is located in the Old Market.

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## Kellogg's plant workers strike

Cecilia Zahm  
staff writer

It's a chilly October night in Omaha's industrial district, and the sun is already going down at the Kellogg's plant. But employees aren't going home any time soon – they're here to strike. Workers are positioned at each entrance gate to the factory, with signs that read “Shame on Kellogg's”, “Unfair Labor Practice” and “Fighting Corporate Greed”.

The strike, which is being organized by the Bakery, Confectionery, Tobacco Workers and Grain Millers Union (BCTGM), began on October 5th over disagreements with the company about a new labor contract. In addition to Omaha, employees at other Kellogg's cereal producing plants in Michigan, Pennsylvania and Tennessee are also on strike.

The strike has come as a result of building tension between Kellogg's and BCTGM over contract negotiation. One main complaint by the union is that Kellogg's proposed contract expands the company's two-tiered pay system, which divides employees into two categories: legacy and transitional. Legacy workers are those who have been with the company for a long period of time, while transitionals are newer hires.

With the old labor contract, Kellogg's has been limited to having no more than 30 percent of all employees be transitional workers, who are paid less than legacy workers. But now, the company wants to use the new contract to remove this limit, effectively allowing themselves to bring in as many transitional employees as they would like.

According to BCTGM, this move will eventually remove legacy workers altogether and allow Kellogg's to pay employees less. Union member Jason Davis believes that this change will prevent new hires from having a path the success within the company. “Transitional employees work for lesser pay, a lesser benefit package and no pension,” said Allan Grzebielski, a union member who's been working in production at Kellogg's for 17 years. “Now's the time to draw the line in the sand.”

Another reason workers are striking is to protect their cost of living (COL) from being cut. COL is what adjusts employee's pensions for inflation over time. “We're not out here asking for anything new, and that's what's most troubling about this whole thing,” said union member Jason Davis. “We're just asking to keep what we had.”

Other striking employees bring up how Omaha's Kellogg's factory kept its doors open throughout the entire COVID-19 pandemic. This meant employees kept working, even when it meant risking contracting the virus. According to production worker Victor Francia, at the height of COVID workers would consistently have to come in early and stay late to make up for other employees who were out sick.

“Some other manufactures gave their employees wage increases. We didn't get any raise. A lot of us thought, you know we're doing all this, maybe when it's contract time we'll get some



CECILIA ZAHM | The Register

Protesters at the Kellogg factory show signs in order to speak out against corporate greed.

benefits, but obviously that hasn't happened,” said Francia.

One of the general feelings shared by strikers camped out Kellogg's is disdain for corporate greed. They cite the fact that the CEO of Kellogg's earns more than 11 million dollars a year, while simultaneously trying to make cuts from employee's salaries. They also feel it's important to note that the company actually increased profits during the pandemic, but despite this is still trying to pay production workers less.

This pushback towards corporate greed is being seen on a wide scale level around the country.

Just this month, about 10,000 John Deere employees walked out in solidarity with their union. Additionally, an increasingly number of lawmakers are advocating for a higher minimum wage.

At Kellogg's, Davis says, “What I'm hearing from people out here is that we're ready to go one day longer than the company will. We just want what's fair.”

“There's several generations of workers here. People's moms work out here, their dads work out here, they're out here, their kids are out here,” said Jason Davis. “There are three and four generations that have lived and worked at this plant and brought it to where it's at today. So we're out here protecting our future.”



OLIVIA MANGIAMELI | The O-Book

Euan (left) is involved in various activities at school, including the fall play as well as being part of the yearbook staff. He is eager to socialize with all the new faces in Omaha.

## Exchange student enjoying Midwestern life

Charlie Palmer  
staff writer

Senior Euan Milne is a foreign exchange student from Dundee, Scotland, a beautiful coastal city in the eastern portion of Scotland.

“It's kind of like a time capsule,” he said. “There's tons of buildings from the 1800's and 1700's. Dundee is right on the water, there's the smell of sea and you have fish constantly. It's just a massive difference.”

In addition to the United States, he has traveled to other places around the globe like South Africa, Dubai, and different countries in Europe.

Euan is very passionate about acting. “[I worked in] the local professional theater and tons of amateur theaters constantly [in Scotland],” he said.

He has been doing theater for twelve years and acted in Central's most recent play, “12 Incompetent Jurors.”

“I really enjoyed it. We don't have theaters in school so it's quite nice to have that as an option.”

Euan's expectations of the United States have been satisfied for the most part. “I expected everything to be a lot bigger, just in every sense of the word and that has definitely been the case down to the buildings, the roads, the food, the drinks, even the people, everything is much bigger,” he said. “I also expected the school to be a big community hub where all the big events happen and where everyone comes together and that has also been fulfilled.”

He also had the opportunity to experience a Nebraska football game in Memorial Stadium. “I went to the Huskers game which was phenomenal, I loved every second of it. We don't have stadiums quite like that [in Scotland].”

Euan has noticed a big difference in interaction between students' socialization at Central in comparison to Dundee. “[My favorite thing about Omaha is] the people. Genuinely, the people, how people socialize, how people are just a lot more approachable here and want to get to know you more. Back home, I took four buses a day going to school and didn't speak to a single person for two years. I come here and everyone is speaking to me and it's just a completely different attitude towards socialization.”

Euan's favorite classes at Central are sociology with Casey Denton and AP US History with Scott Wilson. He is planning to go to college in Scotland. “I will be hopefully attending university in Scotland, I'm not sure which yet. I am hoping to either do a sociology and political science [degree] or a history degree at Glasgow University, Edinburgh University, or University of St. Andrews.”

This foreign exchange opportunity has allowed Euan to be confident and optimistic about where his future will take him. “I could be anywhere. I could be in Scotland, I could be in the U.S., I could be in like New Zealand, I have no idea where I will be. Hopefully what I will be doing is something productive. Having this exchange has opened up the prospect of living abroad to me. It would probably feel more intimidating and less of a thing I could achieve, but in coming here and living here [from now] until June, that just shows that I can do it.”



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# opinion

## LATE WORK SHOULD BE ACCEPTED

Flexible late work policies should be adopted to promote healthier lifestyles.

Chloe Johnson | Contributing Cartoonist



Noemi Gilbert  
staff writer

At Central, the late work policy varies between classes. For IB students, however, the policy is strict: no late work, at all, will be accepted. This policy is outdated, needlessly strict, and actually encourages students to do less work.

For high school students, life is rarely as simple as go to school, go home, do today's homework, go to sleep and repeat. Students have a myriad of outside experiences affecting their lives. Caring for family members, working long hours, maintaining mental and physical health— all of these factors contribute to struggling to turn in assignments on time. When a conflict arises the night before an assignment is due, there may not be time to email a teacher and ask for an extension.

But, having a hard time completing an assignment doesn't mean that the assignment should be entirely disregarded. By not accepting any late work, teachers show that they don't offer understanding or opportunities for growth. A no-exceptions late work policy promotes a perfectionist, all-or-nothing mindset among students: if an assignment is not done perfectly on time, it is not

worth doing at all.

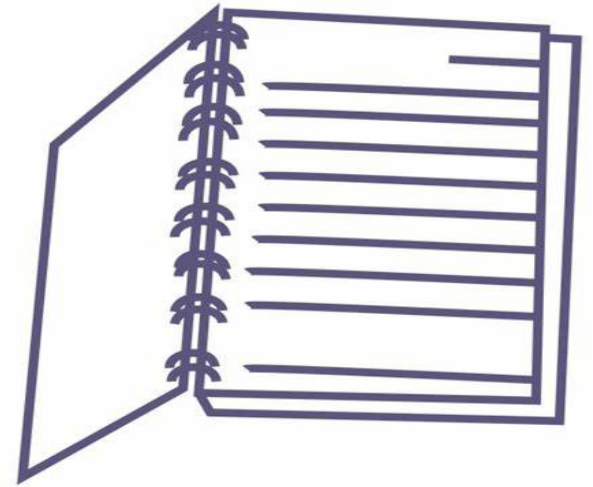
When a student falls behind in a class, they should be offered the opportunity for support and flexibility as they catch up. By only accepting on-time assignments, teachers make it even harder for students to catch up and succeed in a class after a period of struggling. Work, even if it is done late, still matters, especially if the student is showing the effort and initiative to catch up in a class that they are struggling in.

An argument for a strict late work policy is that it encourages students to get assignments done on time. Students rarely just decide to turn in work late. Often, there are extenuating circumstances. If anything, a late work policy with no extensions encourages students to ignore their mental health and family obligations in favor of getting a paper in on time.

In entering the third school year affected by COVID-19, teachers need to be more understanding of struggling students, not less. An absurdly strict, no-exceptions late work policy shows that teachers are not offering that understanding and promotes a perfectionist mindset among students. It is better to have work turned in late than no work at all.

## Open-note tests promote deeper understanding of content

Callan Maher  
staff writer



Having to take a test is bound to happen during a student's time in high school. Teachers use tests to check their students' understanding of the content they teach. Though, in reality, tests force students to memorize the content instead of learning it. Having open note tests can be more beneficial for high school students.

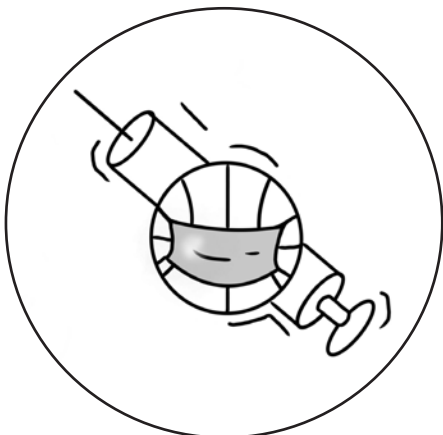
In elementary school people learn the basic concepts that they build on in their education journey. If students get a higher education after high school, the information they learn there will be focused on their career. They would need quick access to it. Those are instances where memorizing is more necessary in the beginning. The issue with high school content is that students rush to memorize the information for the test and then soon forget about it because it is often not mentioned again. This is where open note tests become beneficial.

Writing notes is often not seen as an enjoyable task, so when students are told that they can't be used on tests some people just don't take them. If tests were open note it would push more people to write them down, because they become more useful. Being able to find a specific piece of information surrounded by more information is a skill and notes help strengthen that. Most things that are taught in high school can be looked up on the internet with ease. Schools are not accepting that the internet is a tool that the present and future generations will be able to use. So, if someone forgets the quadratic equation or the year the Scarlet Letter was written, they can look it up quickly.

Tests now are more about how quickly someone can memorize information than how well the information is known. There may be some hesitation for tests to be open note because people may believe that students will not learn anything, but that is wrong. The act of taking notes or filling out a reading guide makes at least some of the information seep into the brain. While taking an open note test, students will still need some knowledge of the content because the time provided for tests is often not long enough to search for the answer to every question. Having open notes allows students to feel less anxious about tests and be able to focus their energy on understanding rather than memorizing.

Of course, tests are not the only way to judge students' understanding. A great way for teachers to see how well students understand the content is doing projects. Projects and open note tests are similar in the way that they allow students to use the information they have been provided to prove their understanding. So, if projects are an acceptable way to judge students' knowledge why not open note tests?

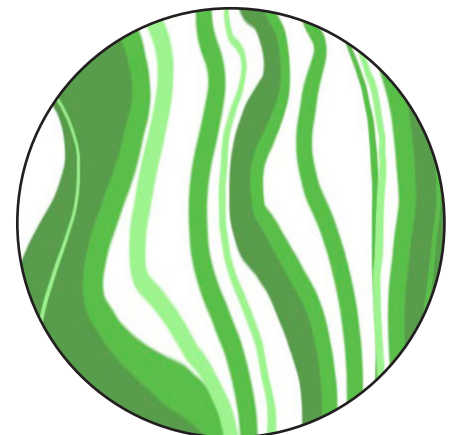
Students will learn the content and have a great resource to look back on. If teachers expect students to sit in a forty-five minute or longer class taking notes, then they should be able to use them on tests.



ATHLETES on page 7



TIKTOK on page 8



TRENDS on page 9



# Professional athletes need to speak up about COVID-19 vaccine

Charlie Yale  
web editor

From a numbers standpoint, U.S. professional sports leagues are doing a great job of getting their players to take the COVID-19 vaccine, yet at the same time, many of those players are spreading all of the wrong messages about it.

Every major sports league in the U.S., with the exception of the MLB, now has a vaccination rate of 90 percent or higher, an incredible feat considering the 56.6 percent vaccination rate for the general population of the U.S.

However, while the vast majority of players have been getting the shot, many—both vaccinated and unvaccinated—continue to talk about the vaccine as a personal choice.

Among this number is NBA superstar LeBron James, who, during the Los Angeles Lakers' media day, said that he had been skeptical about getting the vaccine at first, and although he eventually got it, he made it clear that he didn't think other players should be forced to do the same.

"We're talking about individual bodies," James said. "We're not talking about something political or racism or police brutality. I don't think I personally should get involved in what other people do for their bodies and livelihoods."

This is a problem, because getting the vaccine is not, in fact, a personal choice for anyone—let alone a professional athlete.

Take Brooklyn Nets guard Kyrie Irving for example. Irving has decided not to get vaccinated and appears to have no plans to do so any time soon, as of this writing.

By making this decision, Irving is not just putting himself at greater risk of contracting the virus, but he could also be placing that risk on those around him. Professional athletes, especially those who play a lot of games each season, like NBA or MLB players, are around a lot of different people all the time.

Although all his teammates and all the Nets' staff have been vaccinated, Irving could be putting any number of other people at risk of getting sick, from flight attendants to fans.

However, this issue has been dealt with, as the NBA has strict policies in place for unvaccinated players' interactions with others, and the Nets have decided to restrict Irving from playing until he gets the shot.

This, of course, means that Irving is hurting his team. If he stays firm in his refusal, the Nets will be without their third best player all year, putting his teammates and the organization

in a difficult spot.

The more important factor in all of this, though, is that, whether he likes it or not, Irving is a public figure with influence. While it would be hard to imagine that anyone has based their decision on whether or not to get the vaccine upon Irving's opinions alone, it is possible that many have found encouragement from him for their vaccine hesitancy and continued to refuse to get the shot, putting themselves and others at risk.

This is the impact of a professional athlete's decision to not get the vaccine; it is not a personal one, but one that could have a tremendous negative impact on the health of others. The athletes who continue to say that it is a personal decision are only furthering the anti-vax message of players like Irving.

It is then worth wondering what these professional sports leagues should do. For the MLB, the answer is clear: they need to put in greater restrictions on unvaccinated players and create other incentives to get the vaccine, such as the threat of losing a paycheck for an unvaccinated player who gets the virus.

For the other leagues, the answer is less clear. Putting in a vaccine mandate for players would be next to impossible, as no players' union would allow such a rule to be put in place.

Outside of that and perhaps better promotion of the vaccine, there isn't much a league can do, but teams and players could take action on an individual level.

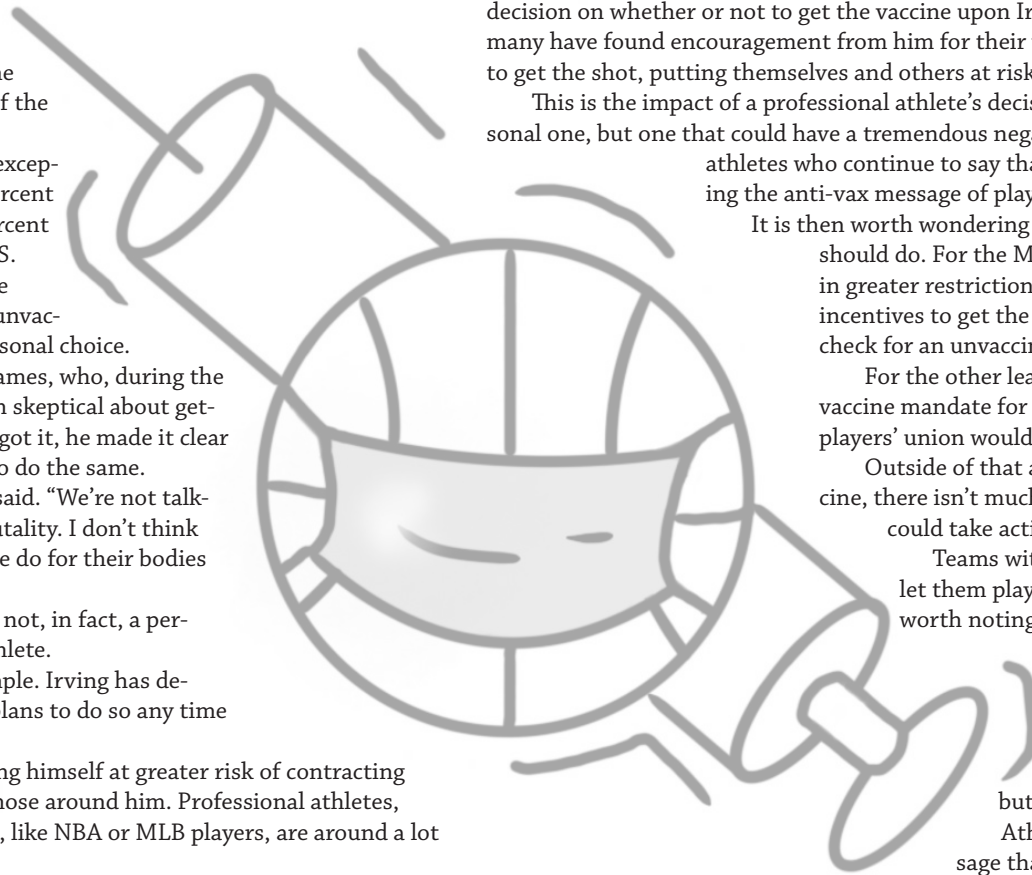
Teams with unvaccinated players could refuse to let them play, like the Nets have done with Irving. It is worth noting that this decision was made largely as a result of New York's vaccine mandate which would have prevented Irving from playing in all of his team's home games anyway, so other organizations may not have the same incentives the Nets did, but they would still have the option.

Athletes could also start pushing the message that the vaccine is not a personal choice, that vaccine are not just posing a risk to themselves but to others, and that getting the vaccine would be in everyone's best interest.

Right now, most athletes have not come out and said that out of fear of creating an uncomfortable situation between themselves and any of their unvaccinated teammates.

However, there comes a point when public health is more important than team chemistry—this is that point. Players need to start speaking up.

Isabella Drobny | Contributing Cartoonist



# Soviet Union was not communist, rather state capitalist country

Jane McGill  
staff writer

"War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength."

This is the slogan of Ingsoc, the fictional totalitarian government that rules Great Britain in George Orwell's dystopian novel 1984. This slogan is what Orwell referred to as "double-think", where people are indoctrinated into believing that two contradictory things are simultaneously correct. Orwell warned that governments may try to quash political dissent by destroying people's ability to talk about dissenting. Perhaps no other prediction Orwell made came so drastically true.

In American political discourse nearly every political term has been completely drained of its original meaning. No word better embodies this grim reality than communism. The first definition I was given for communism was in my seventh-grade geography class where I was taught that communism is when "all aspects of life are controlled by the government." I was introduced to a slightly more complex definition in my U.S. history class, which claimed communism is when "everything is owned by the government and then divided up equally among the people who then all work for it." No country is more closely associated with communism in the minds of Americans than the Soviet Union. Even today, 30 years after its collapse, the belief that the USSR was a communist state seems an unquestioned fact. Here at Central, this belief is taught as fact in our classes.

There's just one problem with this. It's totally false.

The Soviet Union wasn't communist for the simple reason that communism has absolutely nothing to do with government. The definition of communism we are given is a lie so completely absurd that you'd have to have no understanding of communist theory to believe it. This is why this lie is

so sinister, because it takes advantage of young American's lack of understanding of economic theory in order to teach them these falsehoods. In the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels never so much as mention, much less promote, state ownership of the economy. On the contrary, not only do they never support government control of the means of production, but they actually argue that governments should be abolished entirely. Karl Marx defined communism as a stateless classless, classless, moneyless society based on common control of the means of production.

In order for a society to be communist it must be 1) stateless 2) classless 3) moneyless and 4) have common control of the means of production. If a society does not meet all four of these criteria than it cannot be accurately described as communist. So, let's apply this methodology to the Soviet Union. Was it stateless? No. On the contrary it was itself a highly authoritarian nation state. Was it classless? No. Despite what Americans are taught about all Soviet citizens

"getting the same," this was not the case at all. While the degree of wealth inequality was much lower than in the United States, pay in the Soviet Union differed both between and within professions. A doctor in the Soviet Union was not paid the same as a construction worker. Additionally, the country had a rigid class system centered around a ruling bureaucratic class that controlled Soviet society via the party apparatus. Was it moneyless? No. The Soviet Union had a currency, the Soviet ruble. Did it have common control of the means of production? No. The Soviet economic model was based almost entirely on state control of the means of production, not common. The Soviet Union was not communist because not only did it not check all four of the boxes Marx established for com-

munist, it checked none of them.

But what was the Soviet Union then? In his 1880 book Socialism: Utopian and Scientific, Communist Manifesto co-author Fredrick Engels predicted that, in circumstances where private ownership of the economy was no longer viable, a new kind of capitalism would take its place, which he called state capitalism. State Capitalism is defined as an economy where the basic operations of capitalism (centralized management, profit-oriented enterprises, wage labor, capital accumulation) were undertaken by the government instead of private owners. The Soviet Union is the most prominent example of a state capitalist country. China, North Korea, Cuba, Vietnam, and many other countries that Americans falsely label as communist are actually examples of state capitalism in action.

The Soviet Union was founded in 1922 following the Bolshevik takeover of the former Russian Empire after an event that western historians called the October Revolution, which was actually a coup that happened in November. Crucially, the first Soviet leader, Bolshevik revolutionary Vladimir Lenin never referred to the new nation as communist, but instead openly acknowledged that it was state capitalist country. Lenin believed that state capitalism would be the final form of capitalism, and only after state capitalism was adopted could a society become socialist and eventually communist. It wasn't until after Lenin's death and Stalin's ascent to power that this changed and the Soviet leadership began to openly claim their country was communist. Soon thereafter, the United States Government began to promote the Stalinist view that the Soviet Union was communist. Both governments told the same lie for different reasons.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, anti-capitalist beliefs were very popular among the working classes in Europe and North America.

USSR on page 8

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# TikTok algorithm addicting, problematic for young users

Charlie Palmer  
staff writer

TikTok is a popular social media app owned by the Chinese company ByteDance. It serves as a platform that allows content creators to make short videos ranging from fifteen seconds to three minutes. TikTok recommends content to users by ranking videos for them to watch based on a combination of factors, and continues to adapt to the user's interests depending on how they interact with what is shown to them. The app is entertaining and relieving for many people to use when they are bored. However, some simply cannot close the app once they have begun their prolonged cycle of scrolling.

Many users of the app are young. Forty-one percent of self-reported Tik Tok users are between the ages of sixteen and twenty-four. When realizing how many young users there are, the idea of an algorithm that personalizes content to a user can become a bit problematic.

Many young people are still searching for their identity, which makes them very impressionable. TikTok videos can become so personalized to an individual that they begin to offer a manipulative and distorted perception of what is considered socially acceptable. A young user may not realize that what they are seeing is only catered to them from what an algorithm thinks they

would enjoy, regardless of if it is socially or morally correct. Recently, it was reported that high school students from all over the country were engaging in vandalism by stealing and destroying school property, something that spiked from a popular TikTok trend. A young user can be sucked into a cycle of watching these short and hooking videos for hours. A lot of people start off with watching a few videos and then completely lose track of time.

Eventually, some users can become so wired to the app that they open it as an escape. Some students lose focus while doing homework so they decide to take a short break by going on TikTok. However, it becomes difficult to return back to the homework because they would rather procrastinate for a bit longer on the addicting app. Before they know it, an hour has passed by and they have made no progress on the homework they originally set to complete. The same applies to when it is time for teens to fall asleep. They spend large amounts of time on the app before bed causing them to lose sleep over it, something many teens do not get enough of. The more impressionable the user, the harder it is for them to close the app. The continuous relatability and prioritization that TikTok can deliver a user in repetitive short bits of time can serve as a platform to create an addiction.



JACK JENOWE | Contributing Cartoonist

# Communism taught incorrectly in schools, USSR not an example

USSR from page 7

The view that capitalism was unjust was common among workers and most major labor unions explicitly stated the abolition of capitalism as a goal. By portraying the Soviet Union as communist, Stalin sought to gain support for his dictatorship from the Russian people by associating the Stalinist regime with the communist tradition that was so popular among workers at the time. By going along with Stalin's lie, the United States government sought to discredit the American labor movement and the American Socialist and Communist parties by associating them with the brutal tyranny of the Soviet State. Both strategies were eventually successful. Under the guise of communism, Stalin's purges slaughtered millions of Soviet citizens, including Jews, Anarchists, Marxists, Socialists, Communists and members of the Bolshevik party that

actually held anti-capitalist beliefs. Under the guise of fighting communism, the United States government terrorized intellectuals, artists, activists, women, racial and sexual minorities, and politicians during the Red Scares, destroyed public support for the labor movement and anti-capitalist parties, and justified countless invasions, interventions, and coups in other countries. If you tell a lie often enough, people start to believe it's true. And when the two most powerful countries in the world are telling the same lie for decades, that lie becomes indistinguishable from fact.

Although the Soviet Union is gone, this lie still performs a powerful ideological function. In 2021, the failures of capitalism are more apparent to Americans, particularly young Americans, than at any other time in the past century. More and more people are realizing how immoral and inefficient capitalism is and starting to realize that it is necessary to move

beyond capitalism in order to build a better future. Yet every time someone argues for the abolition of capitalism or even mild economic reforms that would make capitalism more livable for ordinary people, capitalists claim that the only alternative to capitalism is absolute tyranny. If we end capitalism, they say, our country will become exactly like Stalinist Russia. This is a direct result of the propaganda that has portrayed the USSR as communist and has falsely portrayed state capitalism as the only alternative to American neo-liberal capitalism.

The existence of Communism, Socialism, Syndicalism, Communalism, Mutualism, and countless other economic systems have been completely erased from the mind of the average American. The only way to establish a truly just and moral economy is if Americans can learn to see through the lies and fear mongering that surrounds the both communism and the Soviet Union.



Shyla Youngs | THE REGISTER

The Youngs family began fostering kittens last year. Shyla Youngs "would highly consider fostering over adopting because it's more beneficial to everyone involved."

# Fostering as beneficial as adopting

Shyla Youngs  
staff writer

It seems counterintuitive to promote fostering pets rather than adopting. I mean, adoption is the end goal for animals, right? Obviously, yes. But it doesn't have to be your role in the process.

There are a variety of reasons people can't make the long-term commitment involved in adopting an animal. For me and my family, we all either have school or work; our schedule is just way too busy. You can't always predict stability of the future, but you can make a significant difference by providing a loving temporary home.

My family and I began fostering cats last year when school was virtual so we could be home more. Rescue organizations in Omaha and all across the country are desperate for homes to take in animals temporarily to relieve stress off of packed shelters.

Speaking from experience, deciding to foster can save the animal's life. Most of the cats we've gotten have been sick or were runts. The first couple weeks are often just nursing them back to health. It's not always easy but it feels really rewarding.

Fostering worked so well for us because of the flexibility. When you commit to fostering your generally committing only a few weeks or a few months. You really just get to step in for a period of cuddles, and play time and then pass them off to their new family.

It's also a great way to do a test run if you are

considering adopting a cat, but haven't lived with one before. The short period of time you're looking after them can give you great insight on what financial, time, and emotional commitments you'd have to sign up for.

Another good bonus is most of the time you get first pick at adoption! If you end up loving the cat(s) you're fostering you can always decide to make them a permanent resident of your home.

When my family and I started adopting cats, we used the first group of kittens we were watching as a test run to see if we could do it again. After that first group, we were able to help so many more kittens. It kind of put things into perspective for us because instead of just saving one cat, we saved over ten that year.

As a foster parent, we really got to know each of our cats. By the time they were ready to be adopted, we knew exactly what kind of home they needed to be in. At least with the organization we went through, we had full control over the process. It feels really good knowing the people who are adopting, and ensuring that they'll be going to a loving home firsthand.

Shelters all over the country are overflowing with cats and many are being turned away because there's not enough room. Opening up your home to be a foster parent will give many second chances to animals in need, while also opening up more room for the organization to rescue more cats. If you're not ready to make the full commitment, I would highly consider fostering over adopting because it's more beneficial to everyone involved.



# FASHION FORECAST: WINTER TRENDS

This winter season, fashion designers are taking risks. Read on to learn what the cutting edge trends will be in the upcoming months.

Ella Novak | Contributing Cartoonist

Ella Levy  
staff writer

Fashion designers are using their winter collection to express their creativity. This is an ordinary activity, but the things produced this year are nowhere near ordinary. Bazaar says it will be “nothing less than optimistic.” Splashes of color, eye-catching prints, and vintage comebacks inspire the winter wardrobe of 2021.

The Trend Spotter says fashion is back in a big way. COVID has inspired designers to think big. Not only were designers forced to have virtual runways, but their sales also dropped because people were not leaving their houses. Now that people

are going out again, designers want to give them something of extra importance to showcase their talents.

Everyone is waiting to step out into the cold and release their inner sense of style. “Here is a feeling we all have about wanting to be in the world again. We are in the mood for fashion. We are in the mood for sharing with other people,” says Raf Simons in a conversation with Miuccia Prada.

Mrs. Prada cautioned against letting everyone break out of their shell. “Something is mounting. Some desire, some excitement. I personally would like to control it because it’s probably not correct, but it’s there.” While caution is authorized everyone is breaking the rules. From print to color, nothing is off limits. This season there is no control.

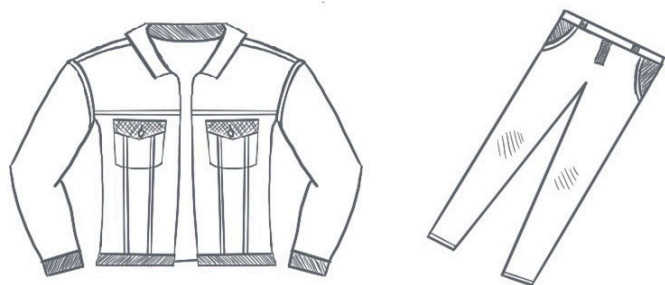
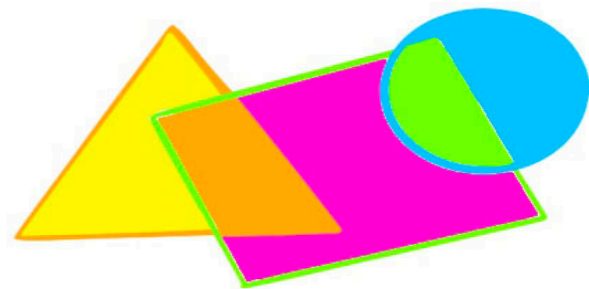
Female power was another big theme. Lucie Meier, at Jil Sander, said: “It’s a time of change for everybody. To be able to achieve change you need to feel empowered to do so.” Nadège Vanhee-Cybulski, at Hermès, has an important message to the world: “It’s urgent now to live again. The message to the world is that I have this conviction of designing clothes for a confident woman. Each of them has a way of expressing female power.”

This winter is about “an accumulation of nostalgia, expression of vibrancy, body positivity, and a touch of glitter, this season is embracing the maximalist aesthetic,” says Trend Spotter. This winter is all about embracing the fun side of fashion and just living through the experience.

## GEOMETRY CLASS

Be bold using colors and shapes that create standout geometric patterns. With black coats as a staple, adding a bold piece will instantly add joy to the outfit. Bazaar is promising bonus points for matching prints.

Trend Spotter says “essentially, more is more,” and this season there is no way to do it wrong.



## DARK DOUBLE DENIM

Pierpaolo Piccioli, at Valentino, said: “It’s the radical act of having strength to be who you are; that’s what I mean by romanticism today. It’s a subjective, almost anarchic gesture, assertive of one’s own identity – exactly like punk.”

According to Vogue “their ideas manifested variously in trends for boy-meets-girl styling (a short skirt with a boyish blazer), crisp, dark-wash denim, and sheer romanticism.”

This dark wash denim is translated to double whether that’s a jacket and jeans or a series. The Trend Spotter says this 70s inspired outfit is an “effortless chic style of monochrome denim with a subtle laid-back feel.”

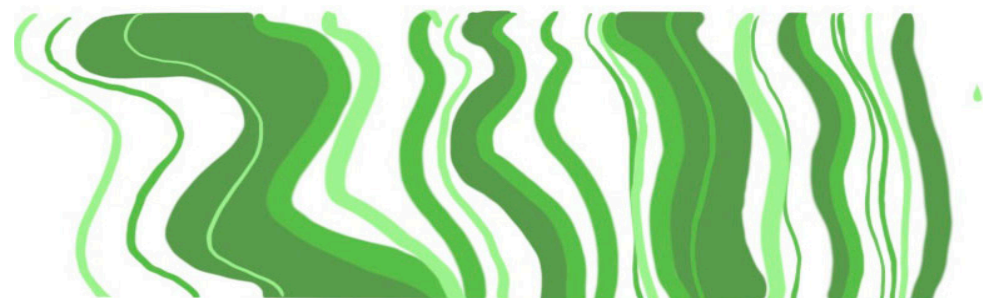
## COLOR POP

Autumn appears to be the season of madness. So why not bring the madness to color?

The traditional rules of fashion are being challenged by designers using a combination of saturated hues. This consists of pink and neon orange, bright purple and yellow, green and cobalt blue -- designers are finding endless opportunities.

Specifically, Versace started this trend after their premiered color pop FW21 collection. The bright hues of the early 2000s are back since this world has been aching for a burst of color.

Shades of green are seen as an early trend but will only continue to expand. Highlighted by Pantone for London Fashion Week, its playful, outdoor nature brings a breath of fresh air to the world.



## SKI SEASON

Bazaar says ski gear will be sported before, during, and after hitting the slopes. “This is an exaggerated take athleisure in that brings the exhilarating sport to your day-to-day.”

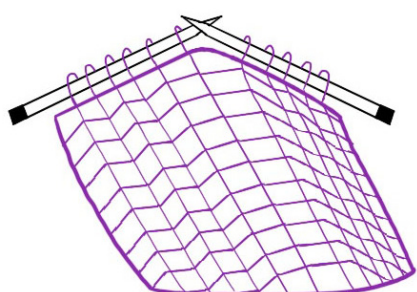
Oversized puffer coats, matching snow pants, and patterned knits are essential to this style. The Trend Spotter agrees with Bazaar using knitted loungewear, padded ski suits, and lot of layers in their description.

This style choice for this season comes from Chanel, Balenciaga, and Eduon Choi. “Embracing the chill on the runway, keeping it effortlessly cool.”

## FURRY FRIEND

Vogue says it is time to throw caution to the wind. Cropped or a style that goes to the floor, it does not matter.

Trend Spotter says oversized coats are the way to go when paired with a tube dress, catsuit, or a midi skirt with stockings. Vegan alternatives are going to be in session this season. Teddy bear, leopard print, or shag – the runway and the people are here for it all.



## KNITWEAR

Lastly the pieces that are also on display, knitwear. Knitwear is having its special moment this year, becoming a staple on the runway. Semi-formal to casual knitwear does it all.

Neutral tones of knitwear will be featured throughout the town. This is great for layering similar shades or minimalist hues.

No matter the style knitwear will always have a place in the closet.



# Common good outweighs individual rights, should be considered first

Charlie Yale  
web editor

The United States of America's Declaration of Independence prescribes three "inalienable rights" to all people, no matter who they are: life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Many more of these rights are guaranteed to Americans throughout the constitution, and the citizens have the power to amend these rights when need be. But when does the importance of the common good overshadow the substantiality of one's individual rights? What exactly is the common good? This issue will be looked at through the lens of two different dilemmas that America has dealt with in the past and still deals with today, war and public health.

According to the Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy, "the 'common good' refers to those facilities—whether material, cultural or institutional—that the members of a community provide to all members in order to fulfill a relational obligation they all have to care for certain interests that they have in common." Things that fit these parameters would be public health, public roadways, public parks, public libraries, public schools, civil liberties, public museums and cultural institutions, clean air and water, etc. The protection and maintaining of these things that fall under the label of the "common good" is essential to society—without these things, we would not have a well-functioning society. Therefore, it sometimes is necessary to make sacrifices for the common good.

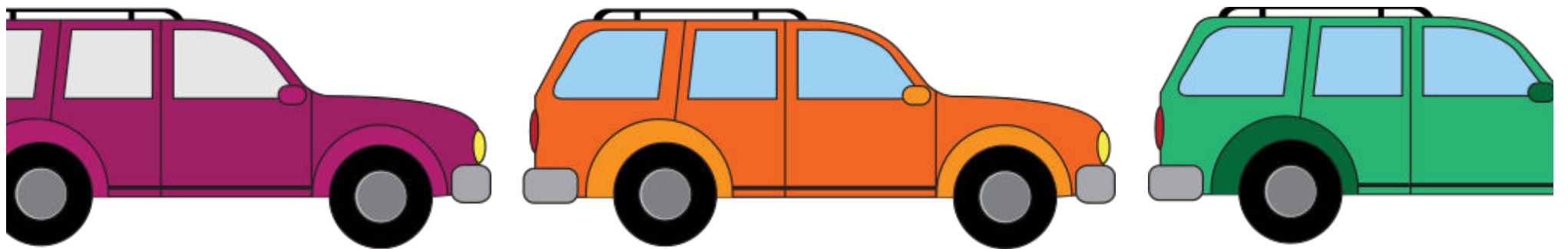
America has had a long and complicated history with wars. The Sedition Act, a wartime act put in place to help limit negative speech against the government during WWI, was one of many acts put in place by the U.S. government during a time of war that violated the freedoms of Americans. The Sedition Act of 1918 is one of the most infamous examples of "government overstepping the bounds of First Amendment freedoms," according to Middle Tennessee State's First Amendment Encyclopedia. At the time, President Woodrow Wilson realized that morale on the Homefront was low and was looking for a way to diminish disapproval of World War I and the draft. This law prohibited types of speech related to the war or the military, making it illegal to "incite disloyalty" against the

military, use or speak in any language deemed "disloyal" to the government, advocate for labor strikes or support countries at war with the U.S. This law is in direct violation of the first amendment, which specifically states "Congress shall make no law... abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble." The law led to the prosecution and arrest of over 2,000 people, with penalties being as harsh as a \$10,000 fine or 20 years in prison. This bill was a direct attack on American's freedom of speech, one of the principles that this country was founded on and an element that is essential to any democratic form of government. Without any type of discourse or difference in opinion, democracies turn into autocracies. The freedom of speech is arguably the most important right of all: without the freedom of speech, one would be not able to fight for any other right whatsoever. The harm of this bill outweighed any perceived benefits it had, causing a large wave of xenophobia to stretch across the United States. The people targeted by this bill were mainly pacifists, anarchists and socialists. According to the History channel, many of the immigrants in the United States, particularly Irish, German and Russian immigrants held these ideologies, causing their loyalty to the United States to be openly questioned by many. In this case, this law enacted by the United States government was a complete encroachment of the freedom of speech, and the perceived benefit to the "common good" that came from it was not comparable to what individual freedom was taken away.

Public health has become a part of our everyday lives over the last two years. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused many different people to have many different approaches on how to contain the virus, some rooted in fact while others are not as much. The main two ways recognized by most infectious diseases groups to help control the spread of COVID-19 have been masks and vaccines, which have both been hotly debated. According to an article from the US National Library of Medicine, this is not a new occurrence. "The first tensions over the scope of public health and the acceptability of its measures arose during the fight against infectious disease in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries," author Ronald Bayer says.

Matter of fact, the very specific issue of mandatory vaccination has been brought up and decided upon by the Supreme Court in the past. Henning Jacobson, a Cambridge, Massachusetts pastor refused to get a smallpox vaccination, which was mandatory in the state at the time. Jacobson, who had a bad history with vaccinations, believed that his family had a hereditary trait which would cause him to have an adverse reaction to any immunization given to him. Anyone who refused would be forced to pay a \$5 fine, which Jacobson ended up being prosecuted for. The case eventually reached the Supreme Court in 1904. Jacobson believed that Massachusetts's law violated his fourth amendment rights, but the Supreme Court disagreed. According to Oyez, "The Court held that the law was a legitimate exercise of the state's police power to protect the public health and safety of its citizens. Local boards of health determined when mandatory vaccinations were needed, thus making the requirement neither unreasonable nor arbitrarily imposed." In this situation, the benefit to the rest of the public coming from mandatory vaccination outweighed any of the risks to the person receiving it. The mandatory vaccination was decided upon by a local health board, making sure that the vaccinations were needed in Jacobson's city of residence at the time. In the case of vaccinations and masks, the amount of risk involved with these tools to help stop infectious diseases is so small, yet the benefit coming from it is so large. It is also proven that mandatory vaccinations do not violate the constitutional rights of a person in the U.S.

The common good is and will always be more important than the rights of the individual. We, as a society, have the ability to deny our neighbors and reject these sacrifices to the common good for our own benefit, but we also have the option to each accept small sacrifices to serve the common good and to help advance the quality of life for others. This doesn't mean that we can't ever think about ourselves or be selfish, but it is important to keep others in mind while making decisions that will affect the lives of a large group of people. In closing, it is important to keep the other in mind, because without the other, it is impossible to have a functioning society.



## Student drop-off, pickup system unorganized, needs change

Claire Shafer  
staff writer

In 2020, 6,721 pedestrians were killed nationally due to motor vehicles, a 4.8 percent increase since 2019. Many cities have recently implemented successful safety precautions to lower fatalities. With this in mind, it's time to change the current chaotic student pick-up and drop-off situation at Central High School.

Usually, Central has three designated student pick-up and drop-off areas: the stadium, the front of the school and the road between Central and the Joslyn Art Museum. Unfortunately, because of Joslyn's construction this year, the road between the two buildings is closed. Since the stadium drop-off gets easily congested, most parents choose to drop their students elsewhere. This results in the front of Central becoming the most used and dangerous student pick-up and drop-off area.

In addition to limited drop-off options, there are other reasons why Central has become unusually dangerous this year. For example, during last year's pandemic, about a third of Central's students were fully remote learners. Now that remote students have returned to in-person school, the number of vehicles in these areas has increased. Also, because of COVID, many parents have chosen to drive their students to school to avoid school buses, further increasing vehicles at drop-off and pick-up. Finally, because of the construction happening at Joslyn, there is no longer a junior parking lot. This has resulted in more juniors relying on parent transportation, adding to drop-off and pick-up congestion.

However, even in a "normal" year, with no pandemic or nearby construction, the front of

the school would still be unsafe for students and stressful for drivers. Most drivers approach the front drop-off from 20th street turning right onto Dodge Street. The right turn onto Dodge Street is particularly hazardous. First, drivers must contend with the school buses lined up along 20th Street that randomly merge into nearby traffic to exit. Then, drivers also need to worry about the intersection of 20th and Dodge Street which has a diagonal crosswalk used by students to get from the senior parking lot or Orbit bus stop to Central.

When drivers finally make the right turn onto Dodge Street to get to the front of the school, they must negotiate one of two turn lanes and a city bus lane, along with other cars in the process of dropping off or picking up. As if this wasn't enough, parents and Orbit drivers compete for the use of the city bus lane as it is the closest lane to Central's sidewalk.

With so many vehicles, not all parents can find a place at the curb, forcing some students to be dropped off in the second or third lane of Dodge Street. This results in students squeezing in between drop-off vehicles on their way to and from the curb. Another shortcut some parents use to avoid the commotion at the front of the school is to drop their students on 20th Street. This causes students to dart between school buses, even though the school administration has advised against this dangerous practice repeatedly.

OPS claims that the safety of every student is most important, however, pick-up and drop-off at the front of Central is the opposite of safe. The whole situation resembles the game Subway Surfers, but if you lose the game, instead of being caught by the officer, students could be hit and injured by a vehicle. The school and the city's traffic engineers need to promptly address this situation before any students are harmed.

**yearbook senior photos (& baby photos) due  
Dec. 31st! email to [central.oobook@ops.org](mailto:central.oobook@ops.org)**



# arts & style

## MATH TEACHER STARTS BUSINESS

Being a teacher requires a lot of work on its own, but a math teacher also makes time for her other passion: baking.



Photo Courtesy of LAUREN BEITEL

Beitel's cookies are decorated with colorful frosting and designs. She usually works on her cookie orders during her time off on the weekend.

**Alice Larson**  
staff writer

Math teacher Lauren Beitel discovered a passion beyond teaching during the pandemic. Like many, Central math teacher Lauren Beitel found herself exploring new hobbies during the pandemic. While watching the baking show *Nailed It!* with her husband, fellow Central teacher Peter Pham, Beitel was called to try her own luck in the kitchen. Consequently she found a love for decorating cookies, is now a self-proclaimed "cookie" and runs a small side business LeBakery during the summer months and on weekends.

While Beitel's time commitment to LeBakery varies on how many orders she has to complete, she spends about five to six hours baking every weekend. Beitel accepts orders from friends and family and runs an Instagram page that promotes her baked goods. While some profit comes with completed orders, Beitel says running LeBakery is more of a hobby than anything else, "It a hobby that turned into a small business, not super profitable, but enough to make back what I put into it." She makes cookies for events ranging from birthday parties to wedding showers. So far her favorite cookie order was for a Frozen-themed birthday party,

where she was able to use her creativity to make edible snowflakes and Olafs.

Beitel's attention to detail, creating original designs, and mouth-watering, flavorful cookies truly make an order from LeBakery, money well spent. All LeBakery cookies are vanilla almond flavored sugar cookies decorated with royal icing, an original Beitel design and are individually packaged. Beitel has used the preciseness in which she teaches mathematical functions, to originate visually appealing, designs, that have ranged from football themed cookies, to floral bridal beauties. Regardless of the event Beitel is able to create fresh decorative ideas that leave customers in awe. Beitel accepts orders for cookies in batches of a dozen, and priced at thirty five dollars per dozen. This breaks down to approximately three dollars per cookie, prices vary slightly depending on the chosen design. While three dollars may seem a hefty price to pay for a single cookie, one must consider what type of business they would be patronizing. LeBakery is a small business, run by a local Central teacher, who creates one of a kind designs, all from her home. All in all, three dollars does not seem such steep a price to pay considering the realities of the business. LeBakery cookies are delicious, artistically designed cookies that are a must try dessert for all.

## Concert during pandemic was successful and safe

**Noemi Gilbert**  
staff writer

The live music industry was hit especially hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. When musicians stopped being able to tour and the CDC warned that singing was a significant spreader of Covid and spaces for gathering closed, many wondered if the concert experience would ever return.

Over the past months, several artists announced tours and began playing shows again, albeit with safety measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19.

On Oct. 2, I saw Indigo De Souza perform at the Slowdown. Indigo De Souza is an indie rock singer-songwriter from Asheville, NC. She is signed to Saddle Creek Records, which is based in Omaha, and released her sophomore record "Any Shape You Take" in September 2021. Throughout the show, I was impressed with the safety procedures put into place by the Slowdown and by De Souza's band.

To enter the Slowdown, everyone had to show either proof of vaccination against Covid-19 or proof of a negative Co-

vid-19 test result in the last 48 hours. This is the case for every show on De Souza's tour. I showed my vaccine card and my ID at the door. It was simple and easy, and knowing that everyone in the venue was vaccinated or had a recent negative test result made me feel much safer.

Masks were optional but recommended for those who were fully vaccinated and required for anyone who wasn't fully vaccinated.

I would estimate that 60 percent of people were wearing masks at any given time. Sometimes people pulled their masks down to drink, but quickly pulled them back up. The tables were spaced very far apart.

Close to the stage, people stood much closer together and danced, but everyone was respectful of each other's space and no one got overly close.

Overall, the environment felt clean, and I left feeling safe, reassured and thankful for the opportunity to go to a concert.

Many of Indigo De Souza's songs discuss mental illness and self-destruction. "When am I gonna get out of bed like ev-

erybody else does, everybody else does? When am I gonna get a better head like everybody else does, everybody else does?" she asks in "Take Off Ur Pants," a highlight from De Souza's 2018 debut album "I Love My Mom."

When I listen to this song alone while driving or in my room, it seems frustrated and angry at the inability to do what everyone else can.

But, hearing it performed with loud guitars and people singing along around me, it seemed like a reassurance that I wasn't alone in my experiences or feelings.

I was reminded of the importance of experiencing art in community, and I was more grateful than ever for the opportunity to see live music safely.

I was impressed with the safety procedures put into place by the Slowdown and [the] band.



**BAND KIDS** on page 12



**ART PROGRAM** on page 13



**MOVIE THEATERS** on page 14



## Q&A: Band members speak on leadership positions

**Callan Maher**  
staff writer

There are many opportunities for student leadership at Central and one is becoming a part of band leadership. Within the band there are opportunities to be a band president, drum major and section leader. Some of these students shared their responsibilities and the role they play in making the band run smoothly.

The band has three drum majors, Elana Elder and Emilio Parra-Garcia, who are seniors, and Amelia Larson who is a junior. Michael Abboud, who plays the tuba, is a senior and a co-president of the band. Ross Paule plays the sousaphone and Grace Rock plays the baritone in the marching band, and they are junior section leaders. Chineme Ekeh plays the trumpet and is a senior section leader.

**Q: What does your leadership position entail?**

**Elder:** I conduct but it is also a leadership role, so I lead different fundamental block and stretching. I also give pep talks.

**Parra-Garcia:** I am one of three drum majors so I'm partially in charge of the band, conducting the band during our shows, setting up the field for practice whether it is an afternoon practice or morning practice and then just making sure that everyone has music and everything that they need.

**Abboud:** I am co-president of the band. I coordinate bonding experiences as well as giving input about activities and how we initiate things.

**Paule:** I am a low brass section leader. I make sure that everyone has what they need, and mainly I just make sure everyone is okay mentally and having fun. I make sure people are doing what they are supposed to be doing but also having fun.

**Rock:** I am a low brass section leader. I make sure that everyone is doing okay, and I just help make things more efficient. I make sure people are on the right dots for marching band.

**Ekeh:** I am a high brass section leader, so I just overlook the trumpets and mellophones during marching band. I just make sure that while we are marching everyone knows what they are doing and knows what the shape is. I help with their music, making sure everyone knows their notes. I lead practices and take any of my section member's grievances to the band director.

**Q: What is the best and worst part of your role?**

**Paule:** The best part of my role is that it feels nice to have all my work, because I have been playing the tuba since sixth grade and I think I am pretty good at it. It is nice to know that all my hard work has paid off. The part I don't like doing as much is when they do not take me very seriously.

**Elder:** The best part is being such an integral part of the band and since you are conducting you feel as if you are connected to everything going on. It's nice to feel needed. It's nice to feel like you are important. The worst part is as a drum major you are separated from your section. You are up on those stands so you don't get those conversations that you would if you were in the formations. I miss being in the clarinets sometimes.

**Ekeh:** The best part is just working with my section and talking to each of them and getting to know them, like finding out everyone's personalities and what makes them tick. I would say the worst part is working with deadlines and when the stress hits and everyone is kind of on edge because you have to remain focused. You have to put up a front and make it look like you know what you are doing.

**Q: Is it hard to lead people who are so close in age to you?**

**Parra-Garcia:** I don't feel as though it is hard, I feel as though it is the opposite because they are the same age as me, so we are able to communicate easier. Both are coming from a place of understanding. Just that connection or closeness in age gives me the ability to create a connection with people.

**Rock:** Sometimes, like when I have to make sure they're not messing around, I have to be a bigger person and tell them to stop doing it and that's hard, but I think being that close in age helps us be more of a friend than an authority role.

**Elder:** Juniors and seniors yes, but with freshman and sophomores, it is such a large divide. Like you don't think about it because it's only three or four years, but they are so tiny. I remember when I was a freshman the seniors seemed so big, not necessarily just their size but their personalities were so big because they were so comfortable with where they were, because they had been in band for four years.

**Q: How do you get your peers to listen to you, or does it come with the title?**

**Paule:** I think it definitely came with the title at first, but I think because they all respect me they listen to what I have to say. But like I said I do have to raise my voice and yell at them sometimes.

**Parra-Garcia:** I think that it does not always come with the title because you need to earn people's respect. People are only going to listen to you as much as you listen to them and so whenever I try to communicate with band members I am also open to conversation and never hesitate to listen to their opinions as well.

**Ekeh:** Honestly, it is just expressing how important what we are doing is, making sure they realize what needs to be done and how we are going to do it. Making sure people know the deadlines we have to meet. Know what they are working towards.

**Q: Do you feel as though the leadership follows you out of the band activities and into your personal life?**

**Elder:** Kind of, I am more upbeat. I just want to try and make everyone more comfortable, and I strive to set a good example. I don't do things that I don't want other people to see me doing.

**Rock:** When I was a freshman, I definitely saw that through my section leader. Once they are a section leader, they are always a section leader in my mind. So, I think that is how people think of me, but I don't really see it that way, at least for myself.

**Q: Do you think you enjoy band more or less now that you are a leader?**

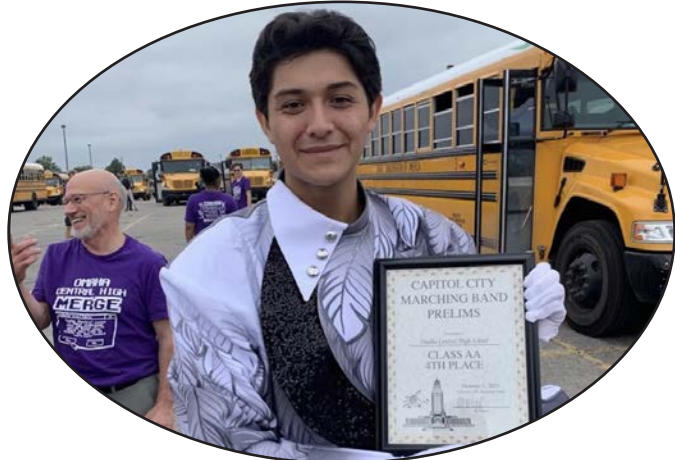
**Abboud:** More. I get to take past knowledge and kind of pave the way to how I would have or how I could have seen band go better in the past years.

**Parra-Garcia:** I definitely enjoy band more, only because I feel as though I get to impact people. I feel as though I have gained a lot more knowledge about band, and I see it as more than just an activity on the side. It has become a passion of mine.

**Paule:** I think that I enjoy it more. I definitely did not enjoy my freshman year. That's just because I hated freshman year, but I definitely do enjoy it more this year because I don't have a ton of power, but I like having some kind of power. I like being able to be heard and to be listened to.



ELENA ELDER - SENIOR



EMILIO PARRA-GARCIA - SENIOR



CHINEME EKEH - SENIOR



GRACE ROCK - JUNIOR



ROSS PAULE - JUNIOR





CECILIA ZAHM | The Register

Left: Junior Chloe Johnson works on a multi-media piece in the Kent Bellows studio. Right: Junior Francis Hoover offers advice to sophomore Hunter Stoffel about her sculpture.

## Students find enrichment in the Kent Bellows art program

Cecilia Zahm  
section editor

Ever since it was established in 2014, the Joslyn Museum's Kent Bellows Mentoring Program (KBMP) has been a safe haven for high school artists. The program is a place where students from all over the metro can work with the help of mentors to create art in a studio environment.

Out of the about 50 teens in the program, several each year are Central students.

Each student in the program is assigned a mentor, who is a practicing professional artist. Mentors are there to give feedback and show different techniques to students, which allows teens to take their art to a higher level. Additionally, mentors also give students an example of what a future career in art might look like.

The program takes place at in a two-story building at 33rd and Leavenworth, which once served as the studio for the late Kent Bellows. Bellows, who the program is named for, was an Omaha artist who created hyper realist artworks. After his death in 2005, the studio was slowly transformed into what it is today: a program inspiring young artist and preserving Bellows' legacy.

The programs at Kent Bellows include painting, print making, digital animation, photography, music production and sculpture, to name a few. The wide variety of programs allows student artists to explore their interests in a way that isn't usually available at school.

Teens making art in the Kent Bellows studio attend two times a week after school. They each put high effort into creating one to three pieces that will then be displayed in a show at the studio come the end of the semester.

Even just walking into the building, it's clear that the KBMP studio is a highly creative space. Art pieces and photographs line the walls, and teen artists can each be seen deeply immersed in creating their pieces. There's a room for producing music, a room where the 3-D art program works, and even a space filled with computers for digital artists.

"Just being in the space itself is powerful," said Francis Hoover, a junior who's been involved in KBMP for two years.

One thing that makes KBMP so special is the freedom given to students. "The structure here is less rigid than at school. There are adults, but they aren't teachers," said Hoover. "The mentors don't restrict you. In a school space you have to be 'school appropriate', but here you can be yourself. If you want to swear or show the body in your art, you can."

This alternative atmosphere is part of what's made the KBMP so successful with students. Having a space where they can be themselves and create art is important to teens, and that's really the experience that students take away from this program.

For sophomore Hunter Stoffel, KBMP has allowed her to create art more freely. "When I'm at Central, the majority of the art that I do is just drawing on my school assignments," said Hunter. But at the studio, she's able to put more focus and time into making art.

KBMP is also unique because it provides access to mediums and materials student normally wouldn't get to try out. Both Hoover and Senior Sonia Ramirez are currently using woodworking, a medium unavailable to them at Central, to make their pieces. "Right now, I'm creating a giant wooden ship. It's something so out of my comfort zone, but here I can explore that," said Ramirez.

"I've always known that I wanted to be part of this community," said Hoover. "I think of Kent Bellows' studio as a place you can make lifelong friends, create beautiful art, and just have a safe artistic place."

## Dune isn't your average Hollywood blockbuster

Jane McGill  
staff writer

On October 22nd, I was among the millions that filled theaters to see the new event movie Dune. In the months prior, the film was the subject of a tremendous amount of anticipation due to its all-star cast. However, unlike many of the moviegoers that went to see Dune on opening night, I was totally uninterested in Timothee Chalamet or Zendaya. That's not to say that I dislike either of these actors, on the contrary I have greatly enjoyed both of them in several films, but there was only one name that lured me to the theater that night: Denis Villeneuve. Villeneuve is perhaps the greatest filmmaker working in Hollywood today. Every time I have gone to see a Denis Villeneuve movie, I have left the theater completely blown away. Dune was no exception. Dune is not only the greatest blockbuster of the year, it is one of the best films of the year.

Villeneuve's films set themselves apart from Hollywood's glut of other blockbusters by their ability to combine the best aspects of arthouse and blockbuster movies, and that is on full display here. What Villeneuve accomplishes visually with Dune is nothing short of breathtaking. If each frame in the movie was a painting nearly every one would be deserving of its own place at a museum. More than anything else, Dune feels otherworldly. Rarely in recent memory have I felt so completely transported as I felt when watching this film. A lot of this is attributable to film's dazzling production design, which created sets so beautiful and yet so realistic, that the environments of the film did not feel like sets, but like a tangible, lived-in world. As with any modern blockbuster, visual effects are a major component of the film and Dune incorporates its effects more flawlessly than any other movie in years. The computer generated elements of the film are grounded through being composited into shots with practical elements that ground the effects and give these shots a layer depth and realism absent from Dune's big budget contem-

poraries.

Concerning the film's main draw, its cast, this yet another area where Dune not only succeeds, but delights. The cast brings more than star power to the film, they bring incredible performances. Timothee Chalamet delivers what may be the greatest performance of his career thus far as Paul Atreides. Oscar Isaac embodies the character of the Duke of House of Atreides with an appropriate amount of intensity, and just enough heart to endear the character to viewers, while Rebecca Ferguson gives us the film's best performance as Lady Jessica. In anyone else's hands the character may have ended up lifeless, but Ferguson makes you care about Lady Jessica just as Chalamet makes you care about Paul. Stellan Skarsgard is absolutely chilling as the main antagonist, Baron Harkonnen, making your skin crawl with every moment he's onscreen. I do not consider this to be a flaw of the film, but I feel that the manner in which the marketing department promoted Zendaya's role in the film could leave some viewers disappointed, as she occupies a very minor role.

A major potential pitfall that the filmmakers could have fallen into is weighing the film down by loading the first act with lore and backstory from the infamously complex novel. Instead, the film wisely only includes information necessary to understanding characters and plot events prior to their relevance to the narrative, and leaving many of the most nebulous aspects of the worldbuilding to context clues. And while some of the exposition scenes are a bit clunky, overall they remain engaging. The primary aspect of the film that held it back from receiving an A+ is the story, which is great, but incomplete. The film definitely feels like a part one, and despite the masterful directing, amazing visuals, marvelous acting, the ending sets up the potential for a fantastic sequel more than it provides a satisfying conclusion to the film that preceded it. If this movie does not make enough money to justify a sequel, that will truly be a shame.



Photo Courtesy of GREATEST MOVIES WIKI

Dune, released Oct. 22, is the long-awaited adaptation of Frank Herbert's 1965 novel of the same name.



# THE REGISTER

## Aksarben Cinema comfortable, somewhat pricey

Shyla Youngs  
staff writer

With many things starting to get back to normal after the start of the pandemic, many people are returning to old activities, and movie theaters are close to the top of that list.

Aksarben cinema is one of the many great movie theaters to go to with friends, family, a partner, or even by yourself.

A bonus of Aksarben cinema is all of the restaurants around the theater, so catching dinner before is a good option. Going out to eat before is a good idea if you're trying to save money and not spend it on overpriced snacks.

The overall environment of the theater was good. The service was great and the workers were very kind to me. Both the theater and the bathrooms were very clean, making the overall experience even more enjoyable.

The one drawback was the price, but all movie theaters are expensive, so Aksarben cinema does not differ from that.

I bought two tickets and the price came to be a little over twenty two dollars, and it was twenty three dollars for two large drinks and a large popcorn. I do recommend going on five dollar Tuesday, where every ticket is five dollars and they have deals on popcorn and other items off of their food menu.

The theater itself was very comfortable. All of the chair in the theater is was in reclined. I do know that some of their other theaters have seats that do not recline, which is pretty uncomfortable to sit in for long periods of time. The one negative thing I have to say about the theater is that it can be very cold at times. This is any easy fix although, and bringing a blanket makes the experience even more comfortable.

Overall, with the prime location, kind service, and comfort, I recommend going to Aksarben to catch a movie anytime.



SOPHIE YOUNGS | The Register

Aksarben Cinema is surrounded by restaurants and retail. The prime location makes it a perfect spot to catch a movie and a meal.

## Quasar Drive-in exceeds expectations, worth the cost

Isabel Walocha  
staff writer

The Quasar Drive-In of Valley, Nebraska pays tribute to a classic family outing while also showing modern movies.

The website of the Quasar Drive-In provided a lot of information and answers most questions for those who are interested. The website is easy to function and gives clear information about the dos and don'ts of the drive-in. Under the "FAQ" tab, I was able to find out information such as where I should park and when I should show up. The website also gives clear information on how to buy tickets and food permits, which can also be purchased at the box office.

The cost of the Quasar Drive-In was slightly pricey. The tickets and food were essentially the same as if one was seeing a movie at Aksarben or Majestic Cinema. This first made me hesitant to purchase things such as a food permit in order to bring in outside food. Because the experience and food exceeded my expectations, my party felt that the cost was worth it. The organization and the ability to see two movies for the price of one ticket made the expensive cost seem not terrible.

There was a vast selection of dinner and snacks available at the snack bar. The concessions were very organized and clean. Viewers were to stand in line, picking up the things they wanted



and proceeding to the cashier. The only downside to the food was the price. The cost of a burger and fries was slightly more expensive than a fast-food restaurant or other drive-in theaters in the area. That being said, the quality of the food was very good and the menu offered a wide variety of choices for both snacks and a meal. The cheaper and, in my opinion, more cost-efficient choice would be purchasing a food permit. Purchasing a \$10 food permit allows a car to bring in whatever food their hearts desire. This is more cost efficient than buying a \$9 burger and fries, but nothing beats fresh movie popcorn.

From beginning to end, my experience at the Quasar Drive-In exceeded my expectations. The process of going through the box office and finding our parking spot was quick and smooth. This may be because we were able to purchase our tickets online before the movie. The workers of the drive-in were very kind and reminded us that everyone was welcome, even pets when on a leash. Though every car required their own radio, there was no buffering of sound or static throughout either of the movies. There was also a smooth transition in between both movies, for those who only stayed for the first or were only viewing the second.

The experience I had at the Quasar Drive-In guarantees my return. I had a great time watching both movies, and the experience was better than any drive-in movie theater I had been to in the area. I completely recommend this theater for movie outings with both friends and family, and I will be returning to go see more Halloween classics for the upcoming season.

## Marcus Majestic Cinema quality, not first choice

Conor Harley  
staff writer

Deep into West Omaha, just off West Maple Road, the Marcus Majestic Cinema of Omaha stands tall. The theater was heavily remodeled and renamed in 2013 to its now current status, as one of the premier theaters in the city.

The theater is state of the art with twenty movie viewing rooms, complete with surround sound systems, reclining seats, wide movie selection and large viewing screens. The experience is always great at Marcus Majestic Cinema because of these reasons but also many more.

The theater has a built-in bar and grill named Take Five, complete with multiple flat screen television for watching sporting events on. This gives you an opportunity to eat some great food after watching a movie.

The selection of concessions is wide, having nearly anything you could want to watch a movie. The concessions and food could be a bit expensive, leading most to just bring in their own food.

When I went to the theater recently, I decided to view Shang Chi. The film was great, but the theater truly

enhanced the experience. The combination of the lighting, large screen and great sound system truly made me feel like I was physically in the film.

I munched on some popcorn and drank a slushy while watching the film, and although overpriced, it was tasty. The seats were extremely comfortable and also added to my viewing experience.

The pricing for a ticket is equally overpriced. A single ticket came in at just over ten dollars. This along with the price of concessions certainly was not a cheap movie theater experience.

The theater is certainly not the most optimal option in Omaha simply because of the prices, but this does not take away from the high quality of the theater. Personally, I try to not go to this theater unless I have to. I would rather go to the Village Pointe Theater because of the cheaper prices, and surrounding stores and restaurants.

All in all, I would probably not recommend the theater to anyone, but it's certainly not the worst option in Omaha. If I had to rate it on a scale of one to ten I would give it a solid six out of ten.



SOPHIE YOUNGS | The Register

Majestic on West Maple Road was remodeled in 2013. The theatre has twenty movie-viewing rooms.



# REVIEWS: CINEMA

## Film Streams theatre takes cinema to new level

Alice Larson  
staff writer

Attending a show at Film Streams, is a cinematic experience unlike any other in Omaha. Film Streams is a non profit movie theater that runs entirely on donations from the local community. The movie house only shows niche films, in “devotion to the presentation and discussion of film as an art form”.

The theater, is still taking the pandemic very seriously. Covid precautions are their current focus, in reopening their theater safely. Every patron is asked to wear their masks in public areas, the ticket booth, and lobby, but are able to remove them for dining in the theater’s café, and are free to eat once in the theater. Hand sanitizer, and masks are free for the taking, and staff as well as theater capacity is limited to minimize possible Covid exposure.

The theater’s efforts to discuss film, intelligently, and as a form of artistic expression, is only elevated by the interior’s & décor in the Dundee location. The design exhibits the feel film-houses were intended to have. Sleek black and chrome finishes don the lobby, and dining area, the bathrooms look worthy enough to be in the post of a social media influencer, my favorite aspect of the theater, has to be the seats of the screening room. The seats are plush blue velvet, are still comfortable after a ninety minuet movie, and reflects the elegant big Hollywood feel that is presented throughout the establishment

The decency of the cinema’s décor is not reflected in their prices. The theaters prices are not only affordable, but less expensive than average movie theater prices. Their economical ticket prices, are not a reflection of poor quality movies, quite the contrary is true. Features shown, are insightful and touching pieces that force the audience to think, and emote feelings in a way that is not true of other theaters in Omaha. However the featured films are only shown for a limited time, so if there is a movie, you are anxious to see, buying tickets in advance is a must.

The theater’s attention to details, such as affordable prices, customer service, and a beautiful designed theater, are what derive the cinema’s loyal audience, that comes to



SOPHIE YOUNGS | The Register

Film Streams’ Dundee location, which was renovated and re-opened in 2018, shows niche films. The theatre is taking the pandemic seriously with many precautions put in place.

showings again and again. Attending a show at Film Streams is truly an experience like no other Omaha theater, and a unique must have experience for local movie-goers.



SOPHIE YOUNGS | The Register

The Alamo Drafthouse Cinema has locations in La Vista and Midtown (above). The theatre serves food and drinks during films.



## Alamo Drafthouse Cinema provides luxurious dine-in experience

Livia Ziskey  
editor-in-chief

Going to see a movie at the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema is more than just a show- it is a luxurious and all-inclusive experience. Their motto is “best film, food, and drink all in one seat”, and I can assure that this holds true when taking a visit.

Alamo has two locations in Omaha: Midtown and La Vista. I reviewed the La Vista location, but with the wonderful experience, I plan on taking a trip to the Midtown location soon.

Upon entry, I was greeted by a friendly ticket-taker who directed me to my theatre. The lobby also showcased a poster of all the current films being shown in a calendar format, which I had never seen before. During the Halloween season, the Alamo will be showing plenty of classic horror films, as well as many new movies of other genres.

I bought my ticket online and redeeming it at the entrance to my auditorium was quick and efficient. The theatre itself was spotlessly clean and the seats were noticeably comfortable, which added to the luxury of the whole experience.

Soon after being led to my seat, a waiter came to take my drink order and guide me through the menu. Food and drink options were extensive, ranging from chips and queso to a Bavarian pretzel pizza. There were plenty of vegan, gluten-free, and vegetarian options, so there is no doubt that every attendee will find something they enjoy. For adults, the wine and cocktail

menu was also extensive.

I ordered a strawberry shake and french fries, both of which were delicious. My food came before the film had even begun. The pricing was decent as well, with my food costing \$16 altogether. All sodas and popcorn came with endless refills, which also added to the value.

The ease of payment was especially nice. I was able to pre-swipe my card and handle the transaction before the movie started, so I could focus solely on the film as the night progressed. If I needed any more food throughout the night, all I had to do was write my order on a slip of paper and a waiter would come by to assist me. I appreciated the attentiveness and friendliness of all the service during my time at the Alamo.

Another notable element of this theatre is their no-texting-talking policy. Although all theatres have this policy in some form, the Alamo is extremely strict about having conversations and using phones during the movie. For this reason, it may not be the best option for families with young children who cannot adhere to these rules.

For me, however, the Alamo provided a lovely experience. In terms of dine-in theatres, this was the best I have visited yet. The service was quick and helpful, and the atmosphere was welcoming. With a wide variety of films and food to choose from, the Alamo Drafthouse Cinema can surely provide enjoyable entertainment for everyone.



# sports & leisure

## JUNIOR SPEAKS ON SPORT TRANSITION

Juggling more than one sport throughout the school year can create challenges for students.



**Lea Langer**  
staff writer

**G**ia Stang, a junior, has reached the finish line of her cross-country season, and is now preparing to dive into the upcoming swim season. The transition between the two sports comes with anticipation, self-reflection, and a newfound sense of hope.

Stang is not competing at districts, so her cross-country season ended Oct. 7. With the season's end, Stang realized she is not fully satisfied with how it went.

"I'm sad because next year is my last year and I could've done better this year, but it makes me feel motivated for next year because I get to do better," Stang said.

Last year as a sophomore, Stang did not have a normal cross-country season due to covid, which is partially why she feels she did not perform her best this season.

"I wasn't used to running so I was out of shape and kind of forgot the feel of the sport," she said.

Stang hopes that with the proper conditioning (optional practices two times a week before try outs in Nov.) she will be able to get the feel of the sport in time her swim season this year.

"I would like some time off, but I know I'll be in a much better position if I use the time that I have in between sports to prepare myself for swim," she said.

Conditioning is not the only aspect of the transition between sports that Stang is taking advantage of.

"This year I'm going into swim with a whole season of cross country under my belt", she said. I had the endurance during cross country season that I'm going to bring into the swim season.

Stang knows it will take a lot of effort to prepare for the season because of the high difficulty level she experiences as a varsity swimmer, including one inevitable setback.

"I feel anxious and a little hesitant for the start of the season because most of the swimmers on the team swim for a club team outside of school and I don't," Stang said. "The other swimmers have all year to practice and I'm just starting off."

Despite this setback, Stang feels there are greater benefits that come with the difficulty of being on the varsity swim team compared to running for JV cross-country.

"It's more rewarding because we are pushed much harder in swim than cross country, like we do stuff in the mornings and nights and the weekends," she said. "It's a big commitment."

Stang enjoys running more than swimming and will continue to run during the swim season as it helps her endurance in both sports.

"It's much easier to get into running because you can run anywhere and you can practice anywhere, and it's not as hard to adjust your techniques," Stang said. "For swim it's harder because you have to be at a pool and there's more technical aspects to it, like your arms and your head have to be a certain way."

Although a significant difference lies in the technique between the two sports, Stang feels it is easy to compare swim and cross-country because of their more important similarities.

"They're both mentally and physically challenging because they're very independent sports," she said. "You can't fall back on your team."

Even though Stang does not depend on her team athletically, she does in other ways. The bond she has with her cross-country teammates makes it bittersweet to end the season and move on to a different sport.

"I'm not as close to them when I'm not in cross country because it's hard to stay in touch when you're not seeing them after school every day," she said.

Stang feels the atmosphere with her swim teammates is much more competitive.

"I sometimes have to fight to stay caught up with everybody who has been competing for club," she said. "They are going to bring the competitiveness into the school season which gets stressful."

Given the competition on the team, Stang also recognizes the comradery and support she receives on the swim team.

"We all know the struggles and how challenging our sport is so we can understand each other, and all acknowledge that everyone is trying their best through their ups and downs," Stang said.

Compared to her teammates, Stang considers herself the slowest swimmer on varsity. Despite this, she is working toward earning her third chevron on her letterman jacket this year and staying motivated for the season.

"Even though I've had a rough start to the year with cross country I'm motivated to break through my past mind sets," she said. "Now I'm an upperclassman and I want to be a role model."

Although the upcoming swim season is daunting for Stang, she is ready to become a stronger and more confident athlete.

"I hope I can prove myself wrong this year," she said.



Photo Courtesy of **GIA STANG**

Stang shows her love for trail mix during her cross country and love for fellow swimmate, Elliot Brown (right).

## NFL coach under scrutiny after incriminating emails were released

**Charlie Yale**  
website editor

Trigger Warning: This article contains content related to sexual assault.

**E**arlier this October, Raiders coach Jon Gruden retired after it was revealed that he sent racist, sexist and homophobic emails to many other people in the NFL. The Raiders, currently 5-2 and the leaders of the AFC West, are home to the only out gay player in the league, defensive end Carl Nassib. The NFL has recently done a sweep of over 650,000 emails, many of which they are yet to release. According to the New York Times, Gruden "said that the leader of the N.F.L. players' union, who is Black, had 'lips the size of Michelin tires,' and used homophobic and misogynist language to denigrate people in football including Roger Goodell, the N.F.L. commissioner."

Gruden is not the only former NFL member that has come under fire for these emails. Bruce Allen, former Washington Football Team owner, was one of the frequent recipients of Gruden's emails. According to NBCSports Pro Football Talk, Bruce Allen sent "a questionable photo to multiple members of the league office. The photo depicted two scantily clad women."

The article reports that one was giving the other a fake shot with a fake syringe, and Allen captioned the photo with something along the lines of "For our next meeting on HGH." Allen was copied on or sent many more of emails of a similar vulgarity to this one, according to the New York Times. According to Tom Davis, a former chairman of the House Oversight Committee, "This isn't unique to the Washington Football Team. It's all over sports. It's all over locker rooms and college campuses." The toxic environment surrounding sports at all levels pushes many people away from sport as a whole. Sport is supposed to be a fun event that can be witnessed and participated in by all, not something an elite few can control based upon ideals and hate.

It is important that the NFL takes steps to help root out hate in the league. Firstly, the NFL needs to publish the rest of Allen's emails. Only a portion of them have been released, and it is important that we see how this man, one of the former most powerful figures in the NFL, thought about the players, staff and many other members of the organization. This will still not be enough. The Miami Dolphins are currently engaged in trade talks with the Houston Texas for star quarterback, Deshaun Watson. Watson has recently come under fire because of over

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**SAYERS STATUE** on page 17



**SENIOR ATHLETES** on page 18



**DODGEBALL** on page 19



## Sayers' memory to be honored with statue

Isabel Walocha  
staff writer

A statue of NFL player and Central High School Graduate Gale Sayers is to be put up at Central High School.

It will be put up by the Central High School Foundation outside of Central High School. Michele Roberts, Executive Director of the Central High Foundation says the idea of the statue had multiple contributors.

"It was a collaboration of alumni, largely from athletic. They wanted to do something in the memory of Gale," says Roberts.

Roberts feels Gale was an obvious choice in honoring an exceptional Central student.

"Gale, I feel, represents Central student by- he gave back. Throughout his career he persevered and beat all odds. HE excelled. He always remembered his roots, where he came from, and continued until he passed away. He gave back to Central High School, to the foundation, to the students, making sure they had all the opportunities that they could ever dream of," says Roberts.

The Roberts and Central High Alumni first reached out to the football stars' brother, Roger Sayers. The alumni first discussed having a scholarship, but Roger told them that the family would really like a statue.

The statue of Sayers, created by Central parent Alston Littleton, was set to go up last year, but due to Covid-19, it will go up in January of 2022 and Central will host an unveiling at the first football game of the 2022 season. The statue will stand high with the Victory Eagle.

"The Victory Eagle is up high, and we have it looking down on one of its greats" says Roberts.

Gale Sayers, originally born in Wichita, Kansas in 1943, started his football career at Central High School. After graduating from Central as a multi-sport athlete, Sayers moved on to the University of Kansas. During his time in at the University of Kansas, Sayers managed to set a NCAA record for a 99-yard run, among other accomplishments.



Photo Courtesy of THE CENTRAL HIGH FOUNDATION

**Gale Sayers statue will be placed outside of the stadium in January of 2022.**

Sayers was first drafted to play for the Kansas City Chiefs, but ended up playing for the Chicago Bears in 1965. He continued to play for Coach George Halas for seven seasons and retired right before the 1972 season. Sayers time with the Chicago Bears was spent getting a record setting 22 touchdowns in his rookie year. Sayers is most recognizable as the youngest player to be inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame at age 34. The public also see Sayers as not only a star football player but a lovely friend in the 1971 film Brian's Song. This film was based on fellow Bears player and best friend Brian Piccolo and his tragic death from embryonal cell carcinoma.

After a lengthy career with the Chicago Bears, many knee injuries caused Sayers to retire in 1972. Sayers then returned to the University of Kansas to get his undergraduate degree and takes on the career of an Assistant Athletic Director.

Sayers passed away on September 23, 2020, at age 77 after living with Dementia. Friends and family honor his legacy by sharing their memories of Sayer.

"The NFL family lost a true friend today with the passing of Gale Sayers. Gale was one of the finest men in NFL history and one of the game's most exciting players" says Commis-

sioner Rodger Goodell.

Aride Sayers, the wife of Sayers, is extremely thankful for the expressions of love and kindness in the death of her husband. Ardie Sayers states how grateful she is for the messages and flowers yet encourages supporters to donate to charity to show their love for Sayers.

"It makes me stronger just to know all the people that love him all over" says Aride Sayers.

Though a public event was unable to happen due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the memory of Sayers lives on at Central High School. Students will be reminded of his talent every day and will be given an opportunity to appreciate the legacy of Gale Sayers.

Roberts makes one final comment when reflecting on what hopes comes from this statue.

"I think this statue helps currents and future students to look back at the past, to see some of our greats, as well as remember the level of excellence to continue on into the future. I feel the statue is a good thing, as our kids walk out on to the football especially, to know that to dream big, it's within reach and other people who walk these hallways have done that."



Photo Courtesy of JUSTUS ALLERUP

Football was a sport that Allerup was able to participate in prior to coming to Nebraska. Coach Storm and an athletic trainer help carry him off the field after his injury.

## Foreign exchange tears ACL, unable to play in the football season

Jaden Cheloha  
staff writer

In their week three matchup against the Elkhorn South Storm, the Central football team lost one of their most valuable players of the season to injury. Justus Allerup, a foreign exchange student from Denmark, tore his ACL, MCL, and meniscus early in the first quarter of the game. "I could feel right away that it was a serious injury and new it was my turn to sit out for some time," says Allerup. In terms of recovery, it will take 9 months after his surgery before he's able to get back to playing again.

As was a starting wide receiver and outside linebacker for the eagles, he saw a lot of playing

time prior to his injury. He struggled with a hamstring tear in his first week at Central, which did limit him, but he did manage to shine in the games he played. On offense, Allerup had 6 receptions for 77 yards through three games with one touchdown scored in the team's week one game against Columbus, and 9 tackles on defense.

It truly is an unfortunate turn of events for him, as he said, "one of the main reasons why I came over here was to play football the American way and see if it could bring me somewhere." Even with his relatively productive season put to an untimely end, the senior still plans on making his exchange year one to remember. "Besides my injury, I have had a really good start on my exchange year and the Central students have welcomed me very well."

## Opinion: NFL must do better to combat sexual harassment

GRUDEN from page 16

20 civil lawsuits and ten criminal complaints accusing him of sexual misconduct and sexual assault. Is the prospect of winning so important that a team would intentionally trade for a player who is accused of sexual assault? Watson has yet to play a snap this season for the Texans this NFL season.

The NFL needs to stop the performative action that it is taking and incite real change within the football community. Sacrifices will need to be taken and there will certainly be pushback, but in the end, it is more important and better to have a football community that is accepting of anyone and everyone than it is to deal with internet trolls and naysayers. According to NBC, roughly 70 percent of the players in the

NFL identify as black or African American. Currently, only 3 of the NFL's 32 teams are coached by black head coaches, less than 10%. Not a single NFL team has a black owner. Professional football is far less diverse than we would believe, and it is important that more black people are hired for leadership and ownership positions in the NFL. Former Super Bowl MVP and Black College Football Hall of Fame co-founder Doug Williams TODAY NBC that "Somewhere along the lines, the owners have to play a part in this and make the head coaches realize, 'You can't hire all your buddies just because you know them. You have to look outside ... because there's some talent out there that you might be overlooking, and a lot of that talent is in this minority pool that we have here,'" referring to the lack of minority coordinators and coaching staff in the NFL.

Recently, two House Democrats sent a letter to Roger Goodell requesting documents and files relating to the NFL's investigation of the Washington Football Team. A toxic workplace culture in the NFL that disrespects minorities, women and people of different sexualities is not sustainable, and we must work towards a football future that is accepting of everyone.



# SEASON FINALE

After countless practices, games and unforgettable memories, senior athletes reflect on their sport.

## Grace Titus: Softball

Livia Ziskey  
editor-in-chief

As Central's softball season concluded this fall, so did Grace Titus's time playing the sport. The senior pitcher has been a member of the softball program since her freshman year. Although she will not be pursuing it in college, softball left an impression on Titus that will last after she graduates from Central.

Titus has been dedicated to softball for nearly ten years. She played with Memorial Little League, which was not only an opportunity to be involved in a sport, but also provided family bonding time.

"My little sisters played, and my parents coached, so softball has been a big part of my life," Titus said.

She played for a select softball team for a season, but Titus realized she wanted to dedicate more time to music, and select softball did not allow her to do so.

Memorial softball took place in the summer, so when Titus began high school, she started playing with Central's softball team in the fall. Balancing other extra-curriculars with her sport soon presented itself to be a challenge for Titus.

"With the softball season being shorter than the other fall sports, we would have a game nearly everyday and two or three games on the weekends. It's definitely difficult, but I have to make sure I have time for my homework and that usually ends up cutting out some of my sleep. I just have to stick to a pretty strict schedule," Titus said.

When Titus participated in the musical sophomore year, she relied on her aforementioned "strict schedule" every day.

"I would go to rehearsal from 3:30 to 5:30, my dad would pick

me up and drive to softball, and I would play a game from 6:30 to 8:30, and then I would get home and do my homework. This would happen a few times a week, so that was definitely stressful," Titus said.

This season, Titus' dad became the coach of Central's varsity softball team, which Titus was a part of. Having her father around for her final season was a memorable experience.

"I have two little sisters who play softball, so he was going to be around all the time anyway, so it was kind of inevitable. It's been really nice to have him and my sisters around, having that last family softball hurrah, especially after COVID and everything," Titus said.

Titus originally became a pitcher when she first began softball thanks to her mother's guidance, and has played the position ever since.

"Pitching is always an issue in softball, because there aren't a lot of us. My mom basically told my sisters and I that we need more pitchers, so all three of us were," Titus said.

Even though pitching comes with a lot of pressure, Titus finds the position to be the most rewarding.

"I'm definitely one for working under pressure, so I enjoy it. You're in the midst of it all. I think I would have had less fun with softball if I wasn't a pitcher," Titus said.

For those who have considered playing softball or are looking for a new activity to try, Titus recommends joining the Lady Eagles' softball program.

"I think it's a fun way to spend your fall, especially since you aren't busy with any big finals yet," Titus said. "If you have some experience, or even if you don't, come check it out."

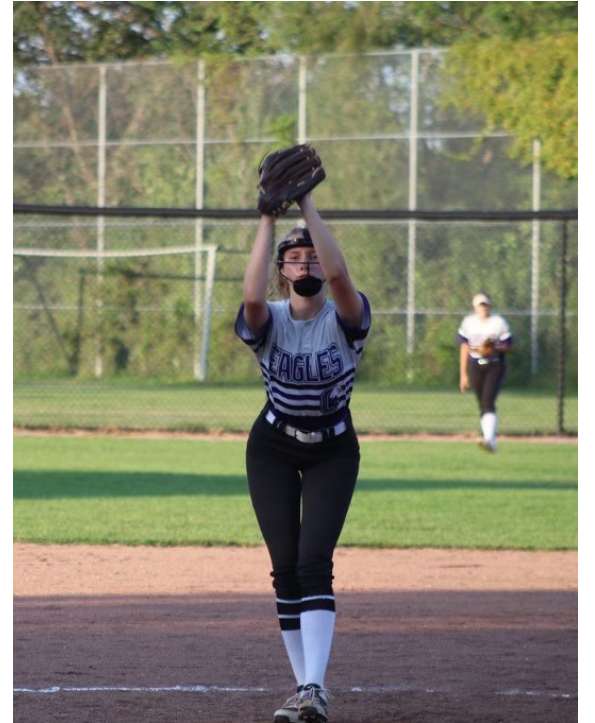


Photo Courtesy of GRACE TITUS

Titus' position of choice is pitcher. It is one of the most integral parts of softball, and she enjoys most aspects of it.

## Claire Williams: Multi-Sport



Photo Courtesy of CLAIRE WILLIAMS

Williams shields the ball from a Millard North player during a game. Her other sports allowed her to prepare for the basketball season.

Shyla Youngs  
staff writer

Claire Williams has participated cross country, basketball, and track during her time here at Central. Being a multi-sport athlete, Williams states sports have not only helped her physically, but also as an individual.

"Playing and doing three sports keeps me busy all year round, but it's made me a better person by teaching me time management and how to communicate better with others. I've also developed many great friendships through sports, it can be stressful at times, but I wouldn't trade it for the world."

Williams has played select basketball since second grade, ran track since seventh grade, and has participated in cross country since her sophomore year. With a lot of experiences in athletics Williams expresses how her love for basketball is greater than the other two.

"I love basketball the most. Basketball brings out the best in me and I've played it since second grade and it's really helped me develop along the way," Williams said.

Williams expresses how playing multiple sports helps her prepare for all of them.

"Cross country definitely helps me prepare for basketball. I'm already in shape when the season starts and that helps when we are trying to condition for basketball."

For her upcoming seasons, Williams has high expectations for her and her teammates in all three of her sports.

"My expectation for this year for basketball is to win state,

and for track is to make it to state again. Along with that my goal for cross country is to run a twenty-one again," Williams said.

For basketball, Williams believes her, and her teammates did well last year in basketball compared to previous seasons. Because of this she has full confidence they will make it on their journey to state.

"Last year my teammates and coaches worked really hard to get as far as we did and because of that we'll be able to go even further this year. I'm really happy with the progress we've made as a whole and am most excited for my basketball season because of this," Williams said.

After her high school career ends Williams states she does plan on playing in college but is waiting to commit till after her senior season. With all of this on her plate, Williams has been given opportunity to reflect on her growth as an athlete.

"My biggest change from freshman year to senior year is my confidence. As a freshman I wasn't very confident in myself, and I was scared a lot of the time. As I've gotten older, the confidence in myself has developed and I can handle pretty much anything given to me," Williams states.

Williams expresses the bittersweet emotions that have developed and will continue to as she partakes in some of her last games as an eagle.

"The thing is I am going to miss most is playing with my teammates and working with the best coaches," Williams said. "I would stay an extra year if I could just play with them again. I'm also going to miss the way the student body at Central supports their athletes, especially the student sections."

## Joseph Warren-Pasley: Lacrosse

Ella Novak  
staff writer

Joseph Warren-Pasley is a senior this year who has been playing lacrosse since he was eight years old. He currently plays for the burke bulldogs (due to Central's lack of a lacrosse team) and wishes to continue on with the sport later on in life if opportunities line up for him. Warren-Pasley's lacrosse career has also consisted of select teams like Nebraska premier his eighth grade year, the hula boys (prep's lacrosse team) from eighth grade to his junior year.

Warren-Pasley had started lacrosse when, "my mom had a coupon for 1 free year of Omaha lacrosse club and I didn't enjoy it at the time since I was eight but my mom thought I could be good so I kept going back," said Warren-Pasley.

Part of the reason that Warren-Pasley's mom chose lacrosse over other games like soccer was because, "My mom used to teach native American history at UNO and the story of how lacrosse was started was one that she would always tell," said Warren-Pasley. Lacrosse started as a game called stickball formed by the Native American Indians.

Throughout his nine years of playing lacrosse Warren-Pasley has learned skills like "how to take criticism and how to adjust to what other people are doing, what I need to do and how to fill a gap," said Warren-Pasley, "If they need me somewhere that I don't necessarily want to be but the team needs me to do it I have to

and I think that teaches people a lot about life and how to sacrifice things for the greater good."

A particular thing that has kept Warren-Pasley going all this time is his love for "the drive and passion that everyone has. Since its not a very well known sport you don't really have people on the team who don't actually like the sport or people who don't want to be there. They're their for their love for the sport," exclaimed Warren-Pasley,

With several other extra curricular activities like band, choir and working two jobs taking up time in his schedule, Warren-Pasley explained how he still makes the time to "go every Wednesday and still practice and try to be there for my team even though it can be difficult trying to balance everything out."

Since Warren-Pasley has shown great skill in the sport, colleges have reach out to him to express their interest in having him play for them. Warren-Pasley stated how his offers are "D3 schools and if one of those schools has a major I'm interested in and want to give me a scholarship for lacrosse I will absolutely pursue it. It's a fun sport and if it can lead to some opportunities down the line then why not?"



Photo Courtesy of JOSEPH WARREN-PASLEY

Joseph must balance lacrosse with his other extra curriculars.



# EAT, SLEEP, DODGEBALL

**Grace Ridgley**  
section editor

A group of teenage boys in poorly cut, white tank tops walk out from behind the divider. Girlfriends look away in horror as they strut onto the court, short-shorts and basketball shoes in tow. On Oct. 28, the Omaha Central High DECA group hosted the first ever dodgeball tournament.

Originally, the idea to host this tournament came from a project in three students' marketing class; Seniors Kate Vokal, Layla Allen and junior MacKenzie Mabus, came up with the idea while deciding on a fun and creative way to raise money for a non-profit of their choice. Their project was chosen to be made into a reality.

"I wanted to choose something that would have the most impact and that I had the most interest in, and I found this place called Future Kids. It is a non-profit where they raise money to allow for kids in low-income areas, and who can't afford to play sports, the opportunity to play by providing them with camps. They mainly focus on soccer, and they come to different schools after hours to provide different programs," Vokal said.

She went on to describe that sports are an important outlet for children to have, and that Future Kids is helping them achieve their goals.

The girls decided to choose a dodgeball tournament because of inspiration from other schools.

"We've seen stuff like powder puff football, but we wanted something that everyone could get involved in," Vokal said. "And I feel like, because it's our senior year, we should have more activities to bring us together."

The tournament was set to have a bracket of 16 different teams. Students were able to get together with friends and sign up, but once spots were filled, a waiting list was started.

"I was honestly afraid that no one would want to do it, but that wasn't the case at all. I've had so many people reach out to me, and we already filled out all the spots on the bracket. I'm just excited to see how it goes," said Vokal.

In addition to the tournament itself, there was also a costume contest for the teams. The best costume award went to freshman team, Untouchaballs.

At 5:30 p.m. on a Thursday, the gym was full of students and parents watching the tournament. There were also water and cookies available to purchase at the concession stand.

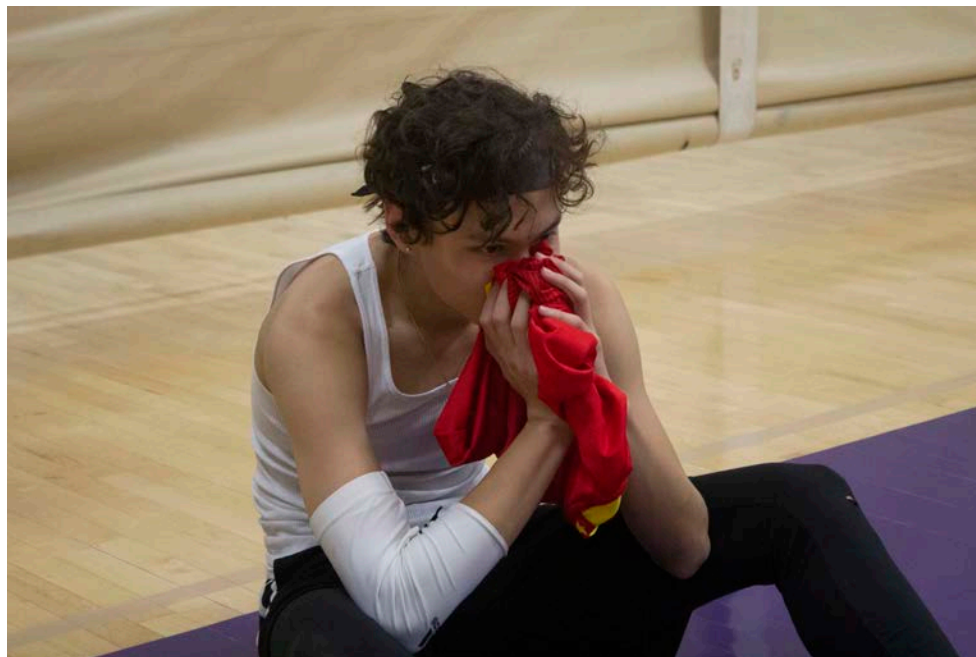
The teams marched onto the court right on schedule, and the energy was high. There was a good mix of students from every grade playing on the teams, but in the end, it was a face-off between the senior boys.

"It was just so electric on the court—it made me want to just jump out there and grab a ball and throw it myself," stated senior, Kenya Winston.

After the best of three finale between teams, The Dodgefathers and , the winner got to play a group of teachers. In the end, the teaches beat in their nail-biting match.

The tournament was described as a success by many of those who attended. The consensus from most was that the tournament was both for a good cause and allowed Central to be together in a fun setting.

Senior Anna Tiritilli finishes off the night by saying, "I saw a lot of dedication and engagement out on the court tonight to support future kids—and I loved every second of it."



Daniella Hernandez | The O-Book

Top; Senior Samuel Lavender is upset after a tough loss. Bottom; left to right, Natalia Shrader, Amaya Garrett, Shyla Youngs, Livia Ziskey, Hanna Sortino, Gabrielle Garrett. The ladies of All Dodge No Balls won their first match, but lost in the second round.





# PAINTING THE TOWN

SOPHIE YOUNGS | The Register

Omaha is home to a variety of powerful street art done by local artists who are often anonymous to the public. A drive around the city features colorful examples of self-expression.

