

9-18-08



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Caleb Koch spends summer in El Salvador See page 8

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124 N. 20th Street Omaha, NE 68102

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the register

Central High School

ITIME NEWS / IEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER A HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISM NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

INSIDE ...

■ News

Sophomore talks of tragedy at Little Sioux

Matt Vondrasck talks about those who were lost at a Boy Scout Camp at Little Sioux Ranch and the fatal storm that took them. **Page 8**



MATT VONDRASEK

■ Books

Central alumnus promotes new memoir

Rachael Shukert promotes her new memoir "Have You No Shame" this summer at Omaha's favorite literary venue, The Bookworm. **Page 11**

■ Sports

New activity card policy has eyebrows furrowed


New policy aims at filtering out unidentifiable students. **Page 7**

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Death of Central alum is remembered through art

Central alum and former cartoonist of *The Register* Connor Meigs is remembered after his death in 2004. His art is on display, put together by his mother at the Florence Mill. **Page 6**

■ Entertainment



The Breaking Down debate
The game and some of this summer's biggest books.
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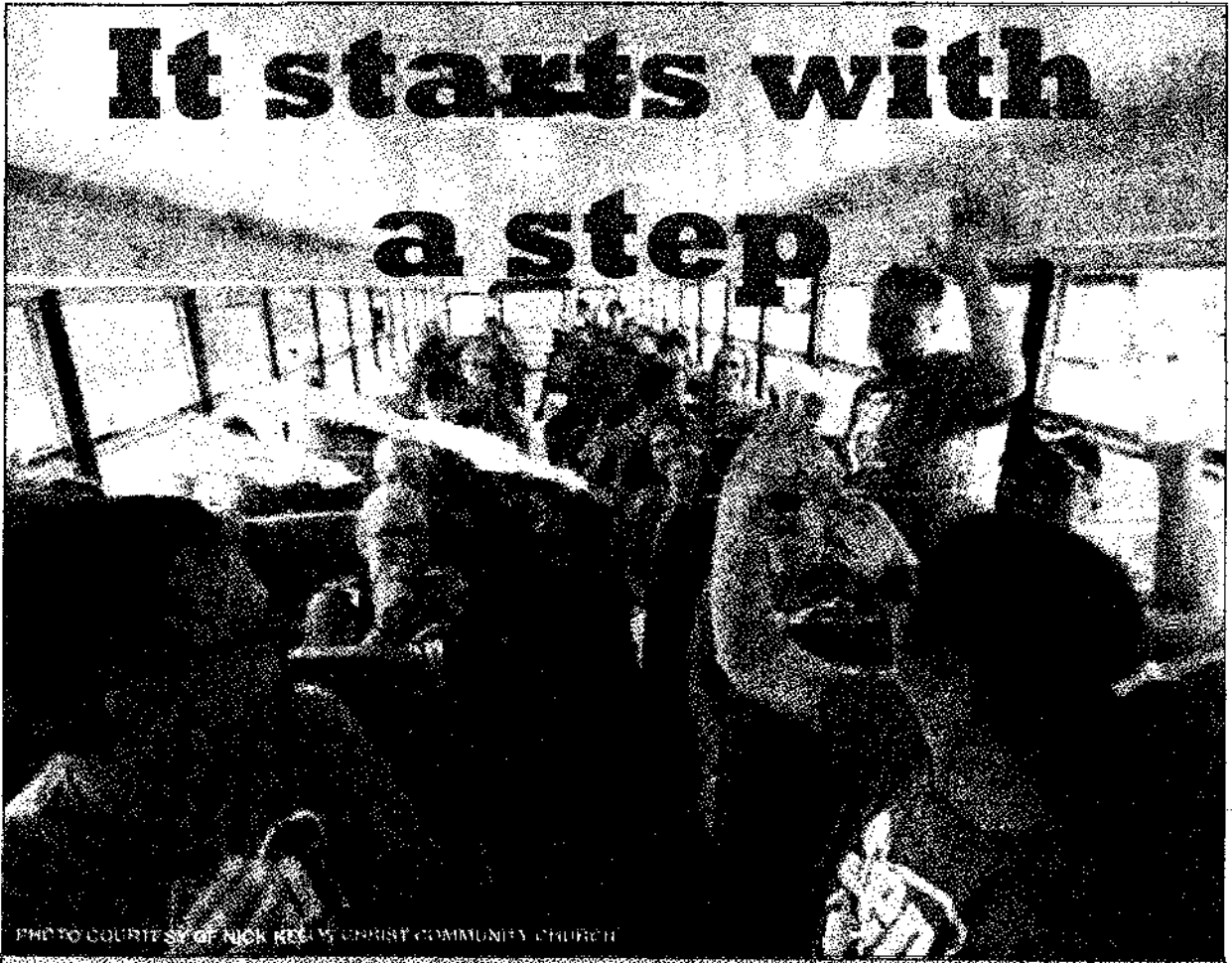


PHOTO COURTESY OF NICK REEVE CHRISTIANITY COMMUNITY CHURCH II

Churches 'Step Out' for a good cause See page 9

Learning Community

Program aims at providing equal opportunities for all students in all school districts in Omaha.

See page 10



College Corner

Card Miller (12) wants in a college...

A safe campus

University of Washington

Location: Seattle, Washington

Type: 4-year public

Application dates: check www.washington.edu

Maintaining a safe campus and preventing violence is a high priority at the University of Washington. A special number to call gives access to a safety guard to any student on campus. They also offer a violence prevention training program to students.

An ethnic cultural theater and the UW World Series are a part of the Arts and Humanities events that go on every year at UW.

Matt Danner (11) wants in a college...

A non-intimidating environment

University of Nebraska at Omaha

Location: Omaha, Nebraska

Type: 4-year public

Application dates: February 1, 2009

A campus close to home and familiar surroundings to most students creates a non-intimidating environment. To be admitted to UNO, a minimum of a 20 on the ACT is required. There is a broad range of majors to choose from and one can even choose to live at home to cut living expenses.

Bulletin Board

Your link to the school and community

Test Poetry Book

The Test Poetry Book will be available at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Library, 215 S. 14th St., Omaha, NE 68102. For more information visit www.unl.edu/testpoetrybook. Cash will be accepted for purchase.

Written Poetry Contest

The Omaha Area Written Poetry Contest is open to all high school students in Nebraska. Each entry requires a person to write a poem and submit it to the contest. For more information and to submit your entry visit www.unl.edu/writtenpoetry.

Women Poetry Contest

Women Poetry Contest
 William S. Eliot Library
 1405 S. 14th St.
 Omaha, NE 68102

Omaha Farmers Market

Locally produced vegetables, meats, fruits, cheese, and more. Also a seasonal number of craft items and baked goods. Open Saturdays through Oct. 11, from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. For more information visit www.omahafarmersmarket.com or call (402) 345-5400.

Omaha Healing Arts Center

Join a team of students in experiencing the Dept. of Medicine's new Wellness Center at 7 a.m. Omaha Healing Arts Center is located at 1401 Howard Street. For more information contact (402) 345-3073.

Camelot Chess Club

Interested in chess? Try your luck outside of Central by checking out Camelot Chess Club. Located at the Camelot Franchising Center at 9270 Cash Ave. Chess club will be held every Friday from 12:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Drop by any time. For more information call (402) 444-3891.

Creation Festival: The Tour

Located at the Mid-America Center at 6 p.m. Nov. 17 bands playing at the event will include Kutless, Thousand Foot Krutch, and Pillar. Tickets cost \$23 and \$33. For more information visit www.midamericacenter.com or www.theatrtour.com.

OPS Mock Trial

Interested in politics? Then perhaps you would be perfect for OPS Mock Trial event taking place on Sept. 25 at the PAC Building. For more information contact Center teacher, M. Jones. The PAC Building is located at 1401 Howard St.

Volunteer Opportunities

Omaha Community Playhouse: For more information visit www.omahacommunityplayhouse.com or contact Tracy Peters at (402) 558-4878.

Omaha Children's Museum: For more information visit www.ohcmuseum.org or contact Jan McKenzie at (402) 342-3166 ext. 415 or jmckenzie@ohcm.org.

Omaha Henry Doerly Zoo: For more information visit www.doerlyzoo.com.

Omaha Public Library: For more information visit www.omahapubliclibrary.org or volunteer by call (402) 345-4322.

Community Career Center: For more information visit www.comcc.org.

Omaha YMCA: For more information visit www.ymca.org.

Mosaic Community Development: For more information visit www.mosaicdevelopment.org or contact Josh Cooper, Community Development, jcooper@mosaic.org, (402) 343-6672 or www.mosaic.org.

Omaha Food Bank: For more information visit <http://www.omahafoodbank.org> or call Kazeev Hickman at (402) 341-1213.

The Humane Society Of the U.S.: For more information visit www.humanesociety.org.

"Disney on Ice: The Disneyland Adventure"


Disney on Ice is back and will take place at the Omaha Queen Center Sept. 18-21. Tickets will cost \$12, \$17, \$22, \$33, and \$62. For more information visit www.waltdisneyonice.com or www.icecenteromaha.com.

River City Roundup

Bands that will grace the mesquite of River City Roundup include Rodney Atkins, Sept. 25; Larry the Cable Guy, Sept. 26; and Jessica Simpson, Sept. 27. Tickets cost anywhere between \$17 and \$64. For more information visit www.icecenteromaha.com or www.ticketmaster.com.

Village Pointe Farmers Market

Locally produced vegetables, fruits, meats, and flowers. Cooking demonstrations as well. Through Oct. 4 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Located at 1401 and Burke Streets.



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The world's largest indoor fairground is located in Omaha, Nebraska's Henry Doerly Zoo



PHOTO BY MARK VONDRASEK/ REGISTER

Students gather to gaze at the photo of Rachael Joy Scott, the first girl killed at Columbine High School. They placed notes and personal mementos to express their emotions of violence in school.

“Life Choices” lectures students on danger of destructive decisions

BY ALI HODGE

They meant to tug at the heart strings, to get the teens of the world to realize the importance of how every choice effects others around you. The speakers of Life Choices wanted to show how one decision is like the wings of a butterfly, making soft waves in the air that topple atop one another until it creates a gust of wind half way around the world.

And the students of Central high school made a choice: to be loud and rude and disrespectful. And the effect: the rest of the student body couldn't hear.

Once the music subsided - and the chattering voices did not - a woman seen on the news the night before speaking on behalf of a teen killed in a driving accident, stepped in the center of the gym with a microphone. Andy Dawson was representing The 99, a walk-through theatrical haunted house focused on the importance of Christianity and the "stupid things that are killing teenagers today."

After an introduction, Michael Scott took the microphone to his lips and asked if anyone had heard of Rachael Joy Scott; many had.

Although the presentation focused on poor choices made by teens and how that affects their future lives and the lives of others, the common thread of the assembly focused on the short life of Rachael Joy Scott, the first victim killed at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado.

Michael Scott was the little brother of Rachael, and his family has since devoted their life to spreading the message that Rachael died to protect: the power of kindness and Jesus Christ.

"We've been all around the country to thousands of schools," said Scott. "I'm working on Life Choices and my older brother, older sister, and dad are traveling doing a program called 'Rachael's Challenge.' We focus more on destructive choices while they tell a lot of stories about

Rachael and Columbine."

As the lights dimmed, breaking news of nine years ago came on the large screen. Students running from the school with their hands over their head, photos of the deceased, tearful interviews from students who had witnessed the murders, and even special interviews with Craig Scott, who pretended to be dead lying next to his best friends as they died from gun shot wounds. Craig Scott was also a brother of Rachael Joy Scott and travels with 'Rachael's Challenge.'

"Don't wait until there is a tragedy at your school to make changes," urged team member Sarah Mallet dramatically. "You guys have the power to change things at your school. You control the atmosphere at Central High School."

After the presentation was over, students crowded around the wooden cross that stood outside Columbine decorated with scarves, bible passages scribbled on notebook paper, jewelry, beads, and notes. All mementos from students influenced by Rachael's story. "When he (Eric Harris) saw who he had shot, he pulled her up by her hair with the gun in her face," recited Michael Scott stoically. "Do you believe in your God now, Rachael?" he asked. She said, 'You know I do,' and he said, "Then go be with him.' And he shot my sister."

The horror of that day at Columbine combined with the last words of Rachael Scott seemed to hang in the room as students ran their fingers over the cross that for a year stood as her gravestone.

Sarah Mallet held hands with tearful students in prayer while Michael Scott hugged more students who approached him about Rachael.

While the assembly was well received by some, it was not well received by others. As students exited the gym, some complained that Christianity was being "pushed down their throat" and other just complained that it was "random."

In The Headlines

A COLUMN BY ALI HODGE
SUBMITTED BY

The phone rang once. Twice. Three times. All stood on the outskirts of the crowd at September 15th. I dashed without any sort of urgency as the police cars raced down Channing St. and pulled into the parking lot where the carnival was being held. Their red and blue lights piercing the darkness only for a moment before my eyes were forced away from them.

Top three items of the week from the Register

"All I can see" My sister's hand wrapped around my elbow wheeling the crowd to a new parking crowd.

"What?"
"Someone's shouting." I could now see the face of my best friend, Sarah, more serious than I have ever seen it before.

I checked on my shoes and started running with the screaming crowd. My feet thud in my the heavy sounds of gym shoes.

"Here!" I touched behind a car in the back of the staff parking lot, away from the lights of the 45 overpass. Around me hundreds of people were doing the same thing, sitting behind barriers with horrified looks on their faces. But we all were thinking the same thing: we're trapped.

A single chain link never looked so scary to me as it did in the middle park. I remember thinking, "Oh, My God. We can't get out."

Surprisingly enough, my adrenaline kicked in but unlike my friend Sarah, I wasn't panicking. My only fear was that the shooter was just behind looking for people to kill. If that was the case, here we were with about 1000 people in the back of a large parking lot with hundreds of cars. For a fraction of a second I thought of my best friend and the SWAT team members that were in the back were surrounding the area. My feet behind me I dashed around the grounds and sprinted toward home.

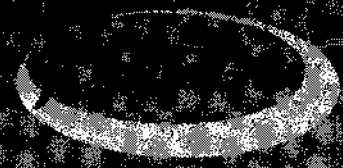
"How do you feel?" I asked over the loudspeaker. The speaker coughed and said, "How do the students feel?" I asked.

"The shooting started when Sarah was hit and she was hit in the back. It was so fast. Back that way." The speaker always says.

Another voice came over the speaker and said, "The shooting started when Sarah was hit and she was hit in the back. It was so fast. Back that way." The speaker always says.

Another voice came over the speaker and said, "The shooting started when Sarah was hit and she was hit in the back. It was so fast. Back that way." The speaker always says.

Book Updates



Yearbook Photos

Interstate Studios will be taking yearbook photos on the following dates:

- Tuesday, Sept. 23, 2008 Freshmen
- Wednesday, Sept. 24, 2008 Sophomores
- Thursday, Sept. 25, 2008 Juniors
- Friday, Sept. 26, 2008 Seniors who are not taking senior photos but would like a photo in the yearbook.

Photos will be taken during English classes. Information regarding photo packages will be sent home in September.

Get Your Senior Yearbook Photos In Now!

The deadline for Senior photos is Friday, December 5, 2008. Use the following info when submitting photos:

- Pose specification: Head and shoulder only.
- Background: neutral, no props allowed.
- Prints: Email/CD, jpeg file, at least 300 resolution; Widel-2x3, only need one.

Buy Your 2009 O-Book Online!

In addition to purchasing yearbooks in room 029 before or after school, they can always be purchased anytime online at jshs-yearbook.com.

Attention Students and Parents

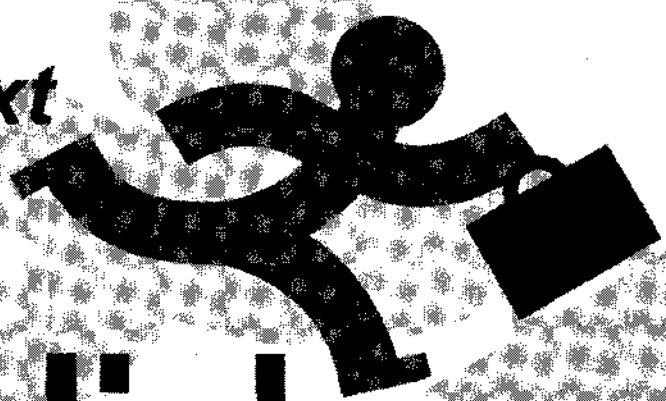
Senior and Friendship Recognition Ads are on sale now. Ad prices are as follows:

- Full page: \$200 full payment; \$100 down payment
- Half page: \$125 full payment; \$50 down payment
- Quarter page: \$80 full payment; \$40 down payment
- Eighth page: \$50 full payment; \$25 down payment

The deadline for a complete ad (with photos) and down payment is December 12 and all material should be turned into room 029 or to latrina.parker@ops.org. A remaining payment is due January 23.

If you have any questions, contact Editor in Chief Armani Conrad or Adviser Latrina Parker at centraljournal@ms@ops.org.

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WHAT'S IN FASHION

A COLUMN BY CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN
STYLING: JESSICA

While I was surfing the internet, I came across the best pair of Christian Louboutin pumps on christianlouboutin.fr. Christian Louboutin is a French designer who was inspired by a sign in front of the Museum of Oceanic Art that said for women not to scratch the wooden floor in front of it. This became his inspiration to design shoes that would not scratch the floor.

And my inspiration to say, "I have to have those shoes." They were a burnt orange color with a platform heel. What can I say, I'm in love.

So then I scrolled further down the page and just as I am convincing myself to go ahead and order the shoes, I run across the price. Oh my gosh I can't afford those. I thought, and then tactics began to run through my head of how I could buy those shoes. Could I save up? Could I borrow money from my parents? Anything is possible to be able to get those shoes.

Could a girl be so infatuated with shoes that she would do anything to get them? Or is the fashion industry just a matter of hundreds of ladies shoes that all live for?

Or is it just a matter of how much you love your shoes? I mean, I have a pair of shoes that I love so much that I would do anything to get them.

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Mother turns tragedy into community exhibit

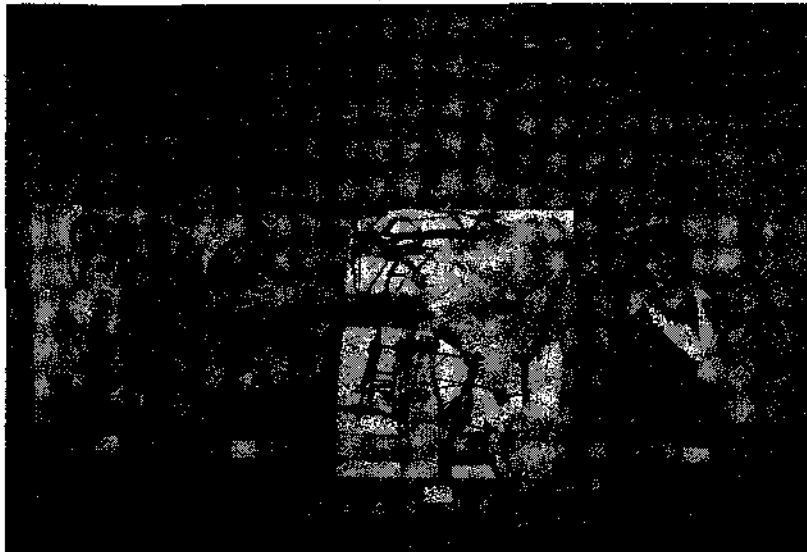


PHOTO BY MARK VONDRASEK/REGISTER

Sariah Ha, winner of the 2008 Connor Meigs' Art Award, has her artwork displayed at the Florence Mill Art Loft.

BY CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN

Central graduate Connor Meigs was an aspiring artist and cartoonist for the University of Kansas' Daily Kansan when he was killed on Dec. 24, 2004 in a tragic car accident.

The former cartoonist for the Register left behind a body of work that his mom Linda Meigs transformed into an everlasting gift for others.

"Before Connor died I told him that I would give him his own exhibit when he graduated from KU," said Meigs. "No one would take his work. The galleries wouldn't because it wasn't for sale and none of the museums would because they would say he was too young, and that he was just a student, but I knew that he wasn't."

Six months after Connor died Meigs opened up the Florence Mill Art Loft displaying his work under the title "Retrospective Dialog," which according to Meigs came from a saying of Connor's.

"He left 17 sketchbook journals that I didn't know existed," said Meigs. "The writings were about spirituality, humanity, and art work... and on the front cover of them were 'Art is not a communication it is a dialog.'"

In 2007, the Connor Meigs Art Award was given to Nick Shindell who recently graduated from the Chicago Art Institute with a Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts.

"I wanted to give what I wanted to give to Connor to somebody else," said Meigs.

This year the award went to Sariah Ha, graduate of California State University, Fullerton.

According to Meigs, the purpose of the award is to give the artist exposure to the art world as a career artist. They also have an exhibit that counts for their resume.

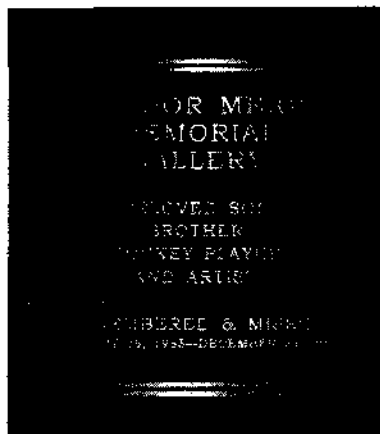
"All BFA graduates get an exhibit at their school displaying their work, but that doesn't count because it's their school, they have to do it, but this one counts for their resume," said Meigs.

Each recipient has their art work on display at the Florence Mill Art loft for a month.

The Connor Meigs Art Award has received \$10,000 in contributions from the Mammal Foundation, Barnyard Press, Metropolitan Community College, which provided housing for the recipients, and from the Meigs family. They also have support from the historical Florence community.

Whenever a recipient's art exhibit is up, Meigs always leaves up a book with all of Connor's art work to remind people where the award came from.

"We turned our tragedy into a blessing for other aspiring artists who deserve it," said Meigs.



A plaque dedicated to the artist greets visitors at the door.

Politics cause problems for families

BY CHRISTIAN CHAPMAN
COLUMNIST

A new woman vice president with five kids; where does she find the time?

Republican presidential nominee John McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin, is a mother of five children: Track, 21, Bristol, 17, Willow, 13, Piper, 7 and Trig, who is not quite one yet.

The majority of her children are in the time of their lives where they need their mother the most. Trig, who is still an infant with Down Syndrome, needs love, time, and care, which I'm sure she is giving him now.

If McCain wins, that means that she will be vice president, the second highest-ranking job in the United States of America. This means that she has to live under scrutiny and spotlight.

With her accepting the nomination, and if the Republicans win, that means for her children less and less time with mommy and more time with other people like the secret service or nannies.

I know if I was one of her children I would be happy that she was chosen for the great honor of being a vice president, but I would also be sad because I wouldn't have the chance to be normal and an individual without having to worry about being an embarrassment to my family.

As a teenage girl there comes boyfriends, dating, athletic and social events, school dances, best friends, and fights and arguments, not to mention everything else that is a part of the high school experience.

If their mother is elected they can say goodbye to all of that. They still can do all of those things, but they can't get the same experience with people following them all the time and having to watch their every move.

Take Bristol, for instance. She has to go through the scrutiny from the American people because she is 17 years old and pregnant out of wedlock and because her mother is a running mate.

Now she is marrying her baby's father, and despite what was said, I believe that it is to make a better image for herself, but more importantly for her mother.

Is it unfair to your children to change them into a different lifestyle that they are not used to? It is like changing their whole lives.

For Palin's children, they have to pack up and move to the other side of the country, leaving everything they know and love in Alaska.

At Willow's age, uprooting to another state is a harsh change, which is a setback in her life as a whole.

I believe that uprooting a child is like changing everything that they are or that they ever knew. It is a type of setback in development that can change a child's behavior.

At one point it's going to take a toll on the children for the worst. Or for the best; who is to say?

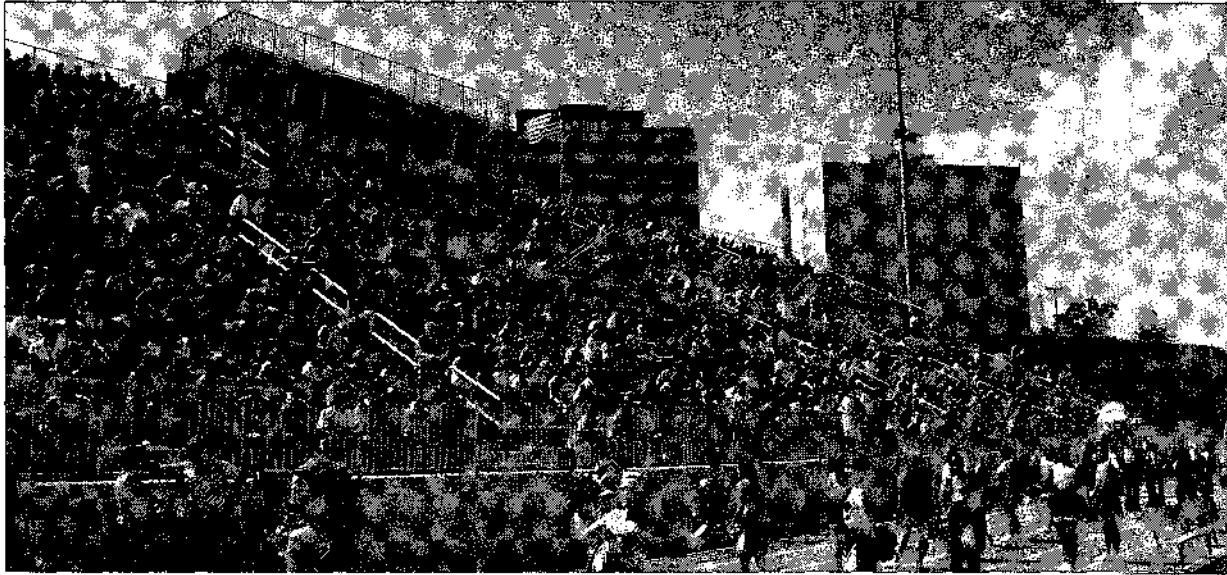


PHOTO BY MARK VONDRASEK/ REGISTER

A pep rally was held to recognize fall sports. Students showed up in large numbers to the first football game despite the new activity card policy.

New activity card policy filters students

BY ALANA BRUNOW

It's Friday night and the place to be is the football game. As a student, games are a radical place to hang out, eat, watch a good game, socialize and catch up on the latest drama. In the past, students would purchase an activity card, draining the pockets of students or their parents of \$35 to "save money." In the past, this card guaranteed students free admission at the gate of most regular, seasonal, high school games within Omaha Public Schools. This year, that's not the case.

Administration is cracking down and trying to tame the giant wild crowds of out-of-control teenagers. Supposedly, teens are uncontrollable when they group to show team spirit in abundance. An attempt to put a stop to this negative behavior, students attending a game in which their home team is not participating, will pay an additional \$3 for entry.

According to Bryan High's Principal, this will keep less mature individuals that do not attend either team's school from disrupting the environment. The plan is to cut back the number of seats filled because this will create a more relaxed atmosphere.

Individuals causing a riot or a problem cannot be generalized as a class of students that are not willing to pay an additional \$3 to enter an opponents game, but according to Central's athletic director, Darin Williams, there have been more incidents involving students from schools other than teams playing. By decreasing the number of unidentified students, administrators are more capable of controlling the crowd because identifiable students are more easily punished.

"Students attend games for more of a social interest than that of the game," said Williams. Unknown students and their friends have been known to cause the most problems. He thinks that with the inflation of prices with gas, athletic equipment, and staff to monitor the crowd, raising the prices will help the school financially. Williams stated, "That will help offset it."

Central's principal, Greg Emmel said, "some students will still continue" (to attend games where their team is not playing.) Although some will still bring negative behavior to games, the goal is to have less unidentified students, making it easier to make sure there are effective consequences for their actions.

Eagles teams have big shoes to fill

BY PETER BOCK
Contributing Writer

As school begins and Central students begin to usher into the halls of a school with one of the richest athletic traditions in Nebraska, it will only be a few weeks before the entire school's consciousness turns once again to sports when football begins.

Ranked number ten in the entire nation by the highly regarded sports magazine *Sports Illustrated*, the school is once again looking forward to fielding top teams in a majority of sports, namely football, basketball, and track and field.

But this year, things might look a little different due to the graduation of a handful of players who have made Central's athletic program what it is today.

Josh Jones, the leading scorer and a two-time first team all-state selection, has moved on to play for the Creighton Bluejays.

Ronnell Grixby, the third in the line of Grixby brothers who dominated on the gridiron for the Eagles, has also departed.

"It's gonna be different this year without guys like Ronnell (Grixby) and Josh (Jones)," says junior Kevin Shanahan, an avid fan who has attended many Central games the past two years.

"The football and basketball teams are gonna have some big holes to fill this year."

With all of these stars having moved on to bigger and better things,

Central's athletic program will have to find a new set of standouts to lead the pursuit of excellence that has become so standard in the past.

On the football side of things, returning senior quarterback Darlye Hawkins will have the spotlight focus on him to begin the season.

Hawkins, who played wide receiver last year, has been attracting scouts from all over and is considered a Division I talent.

Having graced the front page of the sports section in the Omaha World-Herald this year, pressure will be on him to carry the team like quarterback Chris Griffin did the previous season.

"Darlye was great at wide receiver, and I think he will be just as good at quarterback this year," says Shanahan.

As for basketball, replacing four starters will be tough. But there is no lack of experience for the key backups from last year's team, senior Paul Simms and junior Deverell Biggs.

They will be the leaders of a team looking for an unprecedented fourth straight state tournament win.

The track team, coming off an overall seventh place finish in the 2008 State Championships, will again be lead by Hawkins, the gold medalist in triple jump and a top finisher in the high jump.

So with the famous names of the past having departed, there are definitely some question marks regarding their replacements.

And some are a little weary with the success of the season.

But surely just as in years past, certain players will step up and keep Central at the top.

End Zone

A COLUMN BY ALANA BRUNOW
SPORTS COLUMNIST

The summer Olympics have come to a conclusion and it was an amazing year for sports athletic events. Records were broken right and left. Recently the Olympic events have been a hot topic of conversation. Everyone that tunes in has a favorite event. My personal favorite is gymnastics. Every time the gymnastics segment is on, I watch avidly.

I've had a strong passion for gymnastics since I was six years of age. My mom first enrolled me in classes at TNT where gymnastics and cheerleading classes were available. Over time, I was on and off with the classes, but constantly practicing recreationally.

After a year and a half of time off to focus on my studies, I enrolled again. Now TNT had relocated, expanded, improved and changed its name to Premier. I attended Premier for about two years, where I was recruited with a coach from my early childhood. I became a three, which is a non-competitive team of intermediate gymnasts varying in age.

At about the age of fifteen, I knew I would never qualify to compete at my gymnastics because I never had an opportunity to stay in gymnastics long enough to advance physically past a certain point. Due to being a gymnast as a child and going on and off training for eleven years, the strenuous exercise has already taken a toll on my body. I have nerve damage in various places on my back. My wrists are sore and hurt all get sharp pains from physical activity.

Most females competing are a minimum of sixteen years of age. Some have been competing since they were young girls.

Every time I see the gymnasts on television competing in the Olympics, I get a huge rush of adrenaline. When I see them complete their events successfully, my jealousy is outweighed by admiration. It takes a lot of motivation, time, blood, sweat, pressure and character to be a gymnast. These particular athletes are strong and confident. Each individual has without a doubt devoted most of his or her life up to this point to gymnastics. I admire the devotion it took to make them what they are today.

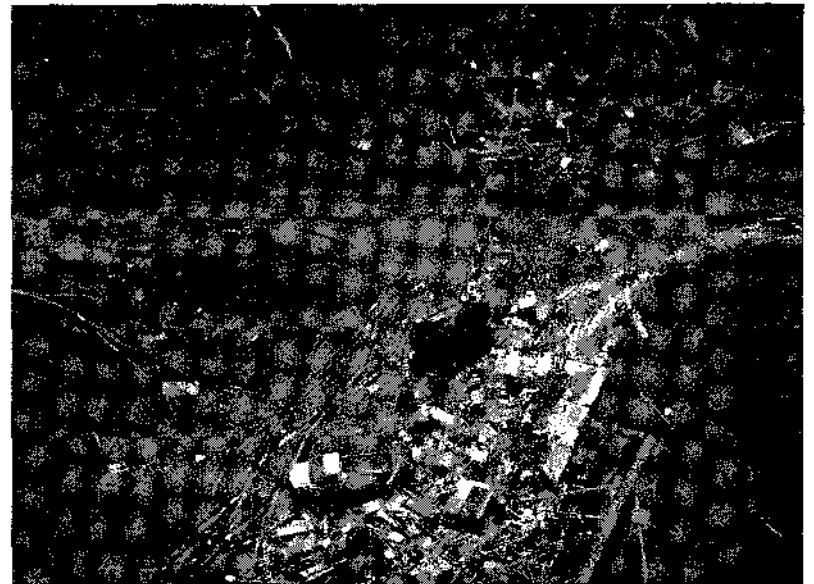
2008 SUMMER OLYMPICS Top 4 In Women's Division

Nastia Liukin (USA) Total: 35.525, Uneven Bars: 16.050, Balance Beam: 16.125, Floor: 15.525, TOTAL: 47.700

Shawn Johnson (USA) Total: 35.175, Uneven Bars: 15.775, Balance Beam: 16.650, Floor: 15.525, TOTAL: 48.150

Yana Kudachukina (UKR) Total: 34.975, Uneven Bars: 15.725, Balance Beam: 15.250, Floor: 15.000, TOTAL: 46.225

Li Xiaoyang (CHN) Total: 34.925, Uneven Bars: 15.675, Balance Beam: 15.250, Floor: 15.000, TOTAL: 46.175



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MATT VONDRASEK

(Left) Sophomore Matt Vondrasek joins President George W. Bush and the rest of his scout members at a special event to honor their bravery and the bravery of the four killed in the natural disaster. (Right) An aerial view of the damage caused from the summer tornados to Little Sioux Ranch.

Sophomore remembers summer tragedy at Sioux Ranch

BY CHELSEA WILLIAMS AND ALI HODGE

Tornados can happen at any time of the day and year. Matt Vondrasek, Life Scout for Troop 597, and his fellow scouts didn't see this sort of normal summer storm changing their lives.

On Wednesday evening, June 4, four teenagers were killed and 48 people were injured at the Scout Ranch, due to the tornado that touched down in Kansas, Iowa, Minnesota, and Nebraska. Just 40 miles north of Omaha was where Vondrasek was participating in a leadership-training course at the camp.

"The forecast of the day was mostly partly cloudy and was raining occasionally," said Matt Vondrasek as he remembered back on the day of the storm.

No one knew that during that particular day the activities were going to be cancelled because of the weather. "The tornado came just after dinner about 6:30 p.m.," he said.

The tornado killed two people in northern Kansas. It destroyed much of the small town of Chapman. The cumulus

cloud also caused extensive damage on the campus of Kansas State University.

The Iowa citizens and scouts may have known that the tornado was already in their location and damaged some of the Iowa area, but it was later that they would soon be stunned.

"After the tornado had left, we took a brief roll call to make sure we had everyone accounted for," said Vondrasek.

That evening after the scouts went over the list of the members, the camp supervisors had noticed that four members of the group had died during the events of the storm.

The camp members that had died on June 4 were: Josh Finnen, 13, Sam Thomsen, 13, and Ben Petrzalka, 14 which whom all were from Omaha. Another member included was camp staff member from Eagle Grove, Iowa, Aaron Eilers, 13.

"I did not know any of the boys that died directly. I had met some of them but they weren't close friends," said Vondrasek.

It has been approximately 89 days since the incident occurred. Since then some of the other camp members and Vondrasek

have been honored by President Bush in Washington D.C. They received a tour of the White House and a special dedication from the president for their bravery during the storm.

Vondrasek is currently a sophomore in high school and is attending Central. He has been participating in class and doing after school activities as well.

Despite the storm and the tragic loss, Vondrasek is not discouraged from attending the camp again and understands that bad weather can happen.

"I will be attending the scout camp again next summer. Pahuk Pride, the leadership training seminar, is a great training course and just because Mother Nature throws a wicked curve doesn't mean we'll stop doing a great thing," says Vondrasek.

Many students stated that they wouldn't possibly go back to the Little Sioux Scout Ranch, but Vondrasek is very proud of being a scout leader.

"I am a youth staff member at the camp and I thoroughly enjoy being there and participating in the events that we do."

Junior spends time in El Salvador with local church

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

Not many students would be able to say they had the opportunity of traveling outside of the country over the summer. And if they did chances are they didn't go to a third world country to offer their time and effort to help those less fortunate than themselves.

Junior Caleb Koch took the rare opportunity to travel to El Salvador along with 70 other high school students.

"I loved everything about it," said Koch.

The food and culture were two things Koch enjoyed about the "Land of the Saviour", but what he loved most were the people.

When Koch was in eighth grade he also took part on a mission trip to Mexico.

"The experience of seeing a third world country made it even better," said Koch comparing his Mexico mission trip to the trip to El Salvador.

"I was expecting similar things from Mexico," said Koch.

Two groups of students from Christ Community Church were able to have a hand in aiding the El Salvadorian locals. The high school group took two separate trips to El Salvador. The first group consisted of 2008 high school graduates and

they stayed in the city for 13 days.

Eighty volunteers made up the second group, about 50 more than the first group.

Koch was a part of the second trip to El Salvador.

Over the course of seven days, two of them were spent traveling to and from El Salvador. The rest were spent teaching English at the local public school. The school consisted of students from preschool age to high school age. Teaching was one of Koch's favorite things to do.

"Teaching was awesome," said Koch.

To be evenly distributed throughout the classrooms, the Christ Community students were separated into groups of about four or five to give English lessons each day.

For two and a half hours in the morning the students taught then went back to the church for another authentic El Salvadorian meal.

Then, the students returned to the school and taught for another hour and a half.

Koch and all of the other Christ Community students had to break out of their summer routine and wake up at 5:30 a.m. everyday. The day started with an authentic El Salvadorian

breakfast made by the hotel's cooks. Then all of the students loaded into two school buses and headed off to the church.

There, as a group the students prayed and worshipped to prepare them for the day of trying to translate English into Spanish and Spanish back into English.

Translating and trying to understand a whole different language was a tough task, but with the help of translators, from both the U.S. and El Salvador, communicating with and teaching the students turned out to be a bonding experience instead of a struggle.

Koch pointed out a quality he loved about the El Salvadorian students.

"In America, if a group of El Salvadorians came to teach us Spanish we wouldn't be nearly as attentive as they were."

The El Salvadorian children had a surprisingly enthusiastic reaction to the Americans.

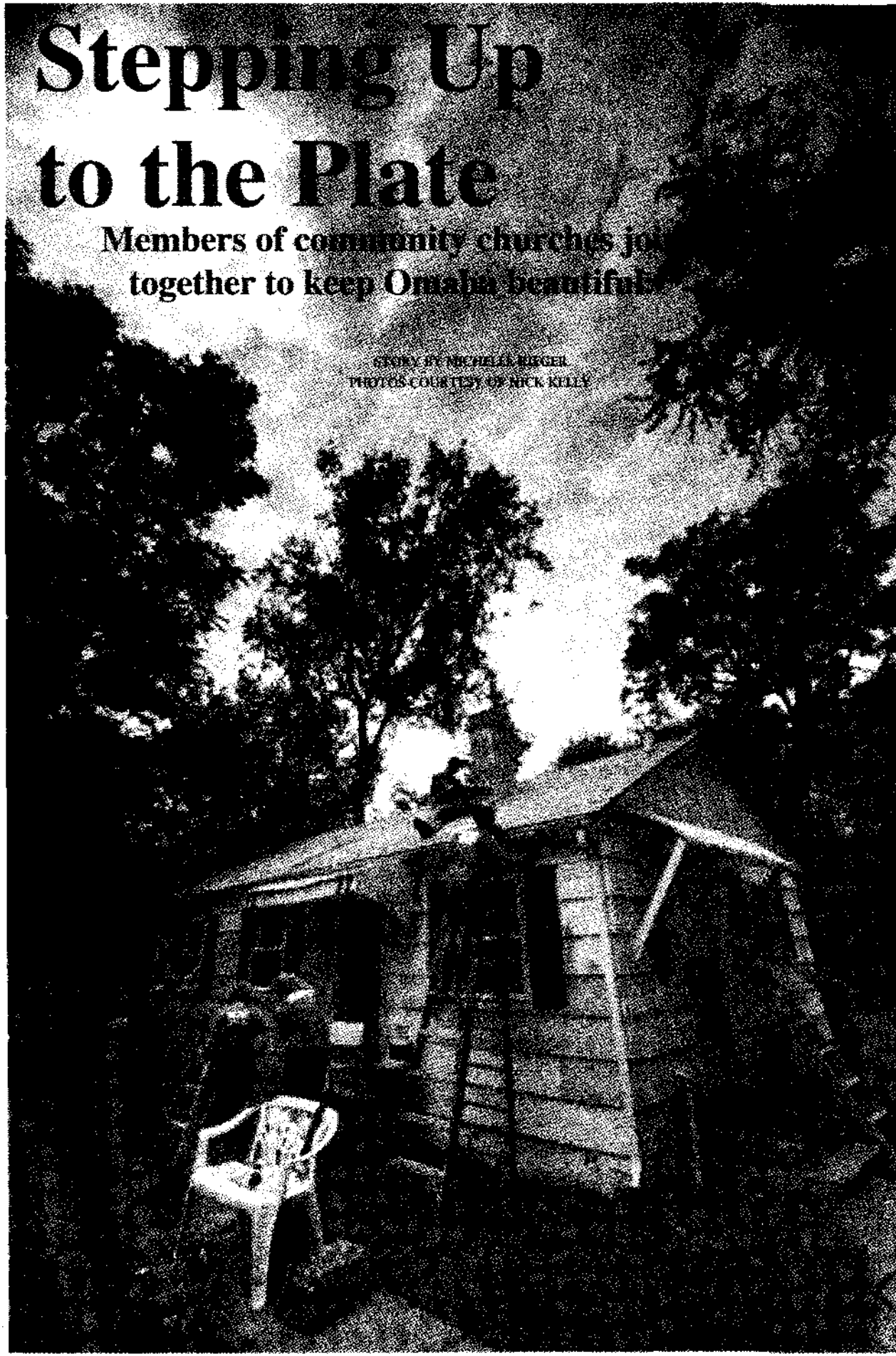
"They thought we were superstars and would ask for our autographs", said Koch.

Despite a busy schedule, Koch would like to go on a mission trip again in his senior year.

Stepping Up to the Plate

Members of community churches join together to keep Omaha beautiful

STORY BY NICHELLE RINGER
PHOTOS COURTESY OF NICK KELLY



Volunteers from all across Omaha decided to Step Out and Serve their community on Sunday Aug. 24, 2008.

Step Out and Serve is a service project now involving over 31 churches in the metro area. This is the fourth year of the volunteer project. It is known as the nation's largest volunteer workday on a Sunday.

For the majority of Sunday afternoon and evening, people of all ages helped with various projects throughout Omaha. Some painted, cooked, cleaned; whatever they could do to make their community more beautiful. They helped over 125 non-profit organizations in the end.

Other projects included landscaping, car washing, visiting nursing homes and even visiting student jails to socialize with the inmates.

Over 6,200 volunteers participated this year. Along the streets, in parks, in front of homes, in kitchens and in schools passersby could see the bright blue tee shirts worn by the hard-working volunteers.

Freshman Olivia Bell volunteers every year with her family. This year the site she helped out at was her former elementary school, Benson West. As a part of the Embrace teachers program, Bell and her family, along with other volunteers, painted the teacher's lounge as well as pulled weeds outside and made treats for the teachers.

The reason for Bell participating?

"I like to help keep Omaha clean," said Bell. "I liked how I was able to help out in some way."

"We want to bring heaven here on earth," said Andre Sims.

Director Andre Sims said the purpose of Step Out and Serve is for churches to demonstrate the love of Jesus Christ. He said they want to express serving each other and Omaha, and being a light in the world.

Step Out and Serve started out at Christ Community Church. Over the years, more and more churches in the metro area got involved by partnering with each other.

"Step Out is a great way to bring all churches together," said Sims.

He also said there are many different denominations that are part of Step Out, including Catholic and Lutheran churches.

The reason for everyone wearing the same bright colored tee shirts is to demonstrate unity. He also said it doesn't highlight one church or one individual.

"It's a great way to unify the cause and to show everyone working together," said Sims.

The Step Out and Serve project was able to get in contact with the Omaha Fire Department to install smoke detectors and carbon monoxide into 18 homes that needed them.

Volunteers were also able to finish painting five homes in North Omaha.

Keep Omaha Beautiful is another community service that works year-round to help keep Omaha clean.

Anyone is able sign up and help out. Children from the age of 2 to senior citizens participated and contributed to the beauty and cleanliness of Omaha.

The state name "Nebraska" derives from an Oto Indian word meaning "flat water".

Learning Community

Learning Communities combined with Building Bright Futures works to improve the quality of public education in Omaha by providing equal opportunities for all school districts

STORY BY AEL HODGE

INFORMATION/VISUALS COURTESY OF GREG EMMEL, LEARNING COMMUNITY

Learning Communities combined with Building Bright Futures will go into effect January 2009, stated a new press release.

The project aims at improving the school districts of Bellevue, Bennington, Douglas County West, Elkhorn, Gretna, Millard, Omaha, Papillion-La Vista, Ralston, South Sarpy and Westside by offering equal opportunities to these schools both academically and financially.

"We are surrounded by endless opportunities," said Dr. John Mackiel, Superintendent of OPS, the only representative of the schools involved at a meeting at Burke High School on July 29. "I believe the opportunities are endless when businesses and industries and school districts are collaborating."

The project has already been put to the rest at Underwood School, what Learning Community calls their "Focus School." Finishing touches on the school located at 90th St. and Western Ave. were completed this summer before the start of the new school year on Aug. 6. The purpose of the school is to create an environment completely diverse with students representing all areas of Omaha, and improve the opportunities for students who may, in a regular school district, be at a disadvantage.

A number of meetings took place over the summer to discuss the progress of the program, held at local high schools such as North, Northwest, and Central. Among the fifty or so in attendance were principals of schools, teachers and school board members running for Learning Community offices and a few concerned and interested members of the community.

The Learning Community concept began many years ago as a result of work involving many people concerned with education in Omaha. Legislative hearings about the future of metropolitan area schools were held in Janu-

ary of 2006 and drew a lot of attention from the community and much effort was put forth to address changes in public education. LB 1024 came about and made it possible for schools finance structure statewide and included the revision of the Omaha Public Schools. As a result, Learning Community emerged.

The Learning Community Coordinating Council includes representatives from members from each district, the existing Board of Education members from each Learning Community, a nonvoting member who is a resident of the district and not an administrator employed by such district, and a Superintendent Advisory Committee made up of the superintendents from each school district.

Meetings over the summer focused on the details of the Learning Community program.

"Learning Community requires two things," said Mackiel, "Social unification, or socioeconomic education, and fiscal resource sharing."

Combined with Learning Community is also Building Bright Futures, an organization which has many of the overlapping goals as Learning Community does.

"BBF analyzed the needs of youth across school districts and is currently working with the 11 school districts to address the challenges and opportunities of youth and families moving between districts," stated the printed out power point, which gave an overview of the program.

Building Bright Futures works to heighten the quality of early child care and education, create more time and opportunities for learning, assess physical health, offer opportunities for credit rescue and recovery, support career awareness and develop programs to bridge the transition to post-secondary education and career opportunities.

The change will effect Central, as well as

all schools in the city, by creating a steady financial flow, but also by providing diversity in the classrooms.

"Overall, more dollars should flow from the parts of the Learning Community with fewer students toward areas with more students in poverty. The network will be more dollars available for OPS because we have a greater concentration of these families in our district. For our school as a whole, we may eventually see more students from other school districts in the LC at Central, and we may have some students who may have attended here choose to go to other districts," said Greg Emmel. "I think this is a positive change for the Omaha Public Schools."

This is a unique opportunity to address student needs by utilizing more resources for those students with greater needs. At Central we appreciate the learning opportunities available to our staff and students because of our diversity. Hopefully, more students and staff in the entire LC will eventually be able to participate in those opportunities."

Members of the community had questions mainly regarding how Learning Community will effect their children's school. Mackiel said that the program will provide schools with more diversity and choice in order to attract a greater population of students.

For example, he said, a school that has programs such as Agriculture will attract students interested in those programs over other schools. As a result, each school, very much like Central High School, will have a greater amount of diversity.

When speaking, officials of Learning Community have in mind not only OPS, but many other school districts as well, some with a higher population of Latinos, some with a higher population of Black students and some with a higher population of White students.

Quick Facts on Learning Community

School Districts Involved

- Bellevue
- Bennington
- Douglas County West
- Elkhorn
- Gretna
- Millard
- Omaha Public
- Papillion-La Vista
- Ralston
- South Sarpy
- Westside

Brief Timeline of LB1024

- July 14, 2006**
LB1024 becomes a law.
- September 1, 2006**
The school board of each member school district of a learning community appointed a board member to serve on the learning community council.
- July 1, 2007**
Each learning community coordinating council submitted a plan to the state committee for the Reorganization of School Districts, including Class V school districts.
- February 1, 2008**
The Department certified state aid for the 2008-2009 fiscal year.
- July 1, 2008**
The year of the dividing plan was submitted, the regional class V school district was divided and three new Class V school districts are effective.
- July 5, 2008**
The Department provides \$262,500 in transition grants learning community for building the general fund budget of the learning community during the 2008-2009 school year.
- What's to come...**
- February 1, 2009**
The Department will certify state aid for the 2009-2010 school year.
- November 1, 2009**
Schools will begin implementing learning community plans prior to the 2009-2010 school year.



PHOTO BY ALI HODGE/ REGISTER

Author Rachael Shukert signs copies of her books for fans after her book reading this summer at The Bookworm Booksellers.

Central alumnus promotes new memoir at Bookworm

BY ALI HODGE

It's June 28, and in the middle of a city sweltering in the summer heat and repairing after a night of storms, book lovers trickle into The Bookworm, Omaha's favorite family-owned booksellers. Toward the back of the quaint store, they gather, all with the same light pink and cream colored book in their hands: *Have You No Shame?* One particularly bright face can be seen floating in and out of the small crowd, shaking hands, giving hugs, and sharing a smile that is nothing less than contagious.

Rachael Shukert is one of the many authors The Bookworm hosts as a part of their summer activities, but she has one quality that sets her aside from other big name authors visiting Nebraska such as David Sedaris and Jackie Collins. For Shukert, she's coming home.

Shukert grew up her entire life in Omaha, was a frequent visitor to The Bookworm, and even enjoyed all four years of high school at Central. She grew up as an avid member of Omaha's Jewish scene and became particularly interested in drama, a passion she developed at Central, that took her all the way to New York.

Shukert said being in Omaha again after tours in larger cities wasn't a step down, but rather a refreshment.

Being in Omaha again also stirred up some old memories for Shukert, in particular her high school years as many of her teachers and friends from Central were among the fond faces at her book signing.

"Central helped me a lot," said Shukert, whose book has been the talk

of major literary voices for the past few weeks. "In fact, I think writing themes in English taught me how to write ... since I'm constantly writing under a deadline."

Shukert was very involved in theater arts during her time in high school, performing in plays such as "Fiddler on the Roof" and "Oklahoma!"

"Mr. Daily - he's like my favorite teacher of my life," she recalls. "Dr. Shawver, Ms. Maloney ... I remember all of my teachers from Central. They all made an impact."

After graduating in 1998, she went on to New York University with full intentions of majoring in acting. However, once understanding fully the details of her major, she fell away from her dreams of the stage and began to write plays instead.

"I'd always written a lot and I'd always known I'd have the facilities to do that," Shukert said. "The complete failure I made of my acting career sort of forced me to turn a different direction."

"Have You No Shame?" is Shukert's debut novel and is a compilation of short stories of her life as a Jewish Midwestern in Omaha and in New York.

"Growing up Jewish in Omaha is interesting," she said. So interesting in fact, the subject became a major theme of the book. "As a writer, I cast a pretty, observational eye and that's what the book is."

Shukert pitched the idea of the book to her editor and publishers of Random House. Both were familiar with her play writing and were more than excited to take on her latest project.

"It's sort of terrifying," she said with a huge smile, "to sort of have this thing out there."

Her talent for writing and understanding of the human psyche creates a debut novel that has received stunning reviews from publications and literary blogs such as "Time Out New York," "Bust Magazine," "Refinery 29," "Gally Kat," and most monumental, "The LA Times."

"It's incredibly stressful," laughed Shukert of the review process. "I think it's more stressful for the people around you. My husband has threatened to move out during the process!"

Relieved it all turned out well, Shukert enjoyed an extensive book tour taking her everywhere from New York to Los Angeles, to

Omaha.

After talking openly through a few interviews, hugging old friends, and kindly chatting with new fans, Shukert sits down behind a table set up in front of the small crowd. She sheepishly slips some eye glasses over her nose and opens to a book marked section of the novel.

After the crowd quiets, she begins to read, her voice echoing through the room, transforming with each character that passed through her. The audience listens intently and is free with their laughter; all can agree that her writing is a down-to-earth, refreshing sort of humor, free of any unnecessary vulgarity.

Questions roll in after the reading about her life in Omaha, her life in New York, and the process of becoming a well-known author.

"I think that there is a down-to-earth quality in Omahans that is in short supply in New Yorkers," said Shukert to the attentive crowd. "It's interesting to talk to New Yorkers as a New Yorker. I also get the best of both worlds."

She told the audience of her travels and how she believed it was important for a writer to work, live and function out of their comfort zone.

"I am a camera," she laughed.

Shukert plans to write a second book about her time living in Amsterdam. She intends for it to be just as autobiographical, and equal in wit and humor. Taking into consideration the realistic expectations of writing a second novel, she doesn't expect it to be complete until 2010.

Book Marked

BY ALI HODGE

Many aspiring writers dream of the English-ruled things. You searched a summer of inspiration. When considering entertaining people in general, let alone steps, rarely ever consider what may be going on in the literary world.

At this, I have to shake my finger.

Even if you don't find inspiration at a book signing and would much rather be a neuroscientist, taking a step into the realm of modern literature can be, even at the least, a fun thing to do. Speaking of taking a step into the realm of modern literature, that's just the thing I was thinking about when I entered through the doors of one of my favorite book venues, The Bookworm.

Rachael Shukert was my definition of an up-and-coming author. She was laid back, but conscious of her every movement, factoring back and forth between her regular personality and her professional self. She had a smile that carried the definition of contagious, and a personality that illuminated with her previous life on the stage. She was young and fresh, looking like someone who would have a bright new outlook on life.

And at that she did. Her voice, as it rang through the many nooks and crannies of The Bookworm, transformed with the spirit of her characters. Her writing was as crisp as autumn air, humorous as any professional comedian, and for lack of a better word, natural. She was a regular college graduate, entering the world in a time of an ironic turmoil, with lids on her plate. Instead of letting it pull her down, she turned it around, making the audience before her chuckle, and even laugh out loud with the problems that have been the common among the younger generation.

Sitting in the audience, all I could think was "I really want to be where she is." I had never been to a book signing before in my life, but I had always known that if I was going to be an author, I would have to go through something like this, but, silly me, I had never done my research until now.

I felt like I was in my element, the closest feeling of belonging I'd ever experienced since my first day in Journalism.

A few weeks down the road, I found myself at another, one of my favorite yet generic, book venues, Barnes and Noble, in midnight with my friends wearing a shirt proudly displaying my "Team Jacob" status. I'm not a fanatic fan of the Twilight series. I just find midnight book parties amazing. Amazing in the sense that an author could manage such publicity on just wearing a silly dream of their success.

After all of this, experienced an author than ever certain of at least a direction of where my life will go, a hard-to-believe that someone as casual as I am about literature is going to be out there, out there, contributing. But it all started here.

After a summer of reading, writing, and myself being a book ender, I'm there, inspired, than ever, and ready to start my ascent with the rest of you.

The breaking dawn debate

■ Pro

Caution: review contains spoilers

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

"...And they lived happily ever after."

Very few readers and fans of The Twilight Saga by Stephenie Meyer actually saw the end of the last book of the series, "Breaking Dawn", as a happy ending. Most readers were expecting a more riveting ending to the climactic series.

It was, to put it bluntly, cliché. And that doesn't have to be a bad thing. Evidently, Twilight fanatics aren't too fond of cliché endings. Few readers were accepting and supportive of the final book. Those readers that actually liked the book were probably ones that prefer non-violent solutions in all situations.

Many of the twists in this novel may have seemed unrealistic to most, but then again the whole plot is unrealistic, which is why so many got hooked on the series in the first place.

The first three books, "Twilight", "New Moon" and "Eclipse" were hits with readers. The plot revolves around a teen girl who falls in love with a vampire. The Cullen family is not human. They are all vampires. As odd as the plot may sound it has become a number one best seller. So, the main character, Isabella Swan, falls in love with Edward Cullen, a child of the Cullen

family. As they fall in love with each other, Isabella, better known as Bella, risks everything to be with Edward. Victoria, a vampire seeking revenge after Edward kills her mate, kills Bella throughout the first three books.

In this novel Bella becomes pregnant with Edward's child, a half human, half vampire fetus that leaves her hanging by a thread.

Many readers saw Bella getting pregnant as impossible. It was impossible. Why did it seem impossible?

When one becomes a vampire all human emotions are frozen, making it impossible for Edward to have a child.

In this case however, Meyer makes it happen for an odd reason this angers many of her avid readers. The fact that this whole series is full of unrealistic things like this was bound to happen.

Some argue that this novel was "too sappy" and that it gave readers unrealistic views on what it means to be happy. They said that there was no loss in the end and it ended too unrealistically. Give the girl a break. In the first three novels of the series, Bella went through a lot of hardships and heartbreak. She deserved to be happy. The book was written for her.

Readers across the country either loved "Breaking Dawn" or were wondering what she was thinking.

■ Con

Caution: review contains spoilers

BY ALL HODGET

"...And they lived happily ever after."

But the reader did not. At least this reader didn't. It took everything within me, despite my love for the sappy, cliché vampire couple, to finish Stephenie Meyer's latest novel, "Breaking Dawn".

As I sat at the midnight release of the book party - I love midnight releases of books! - my friend clapped on and on about how this silly internet spoiler had leaked on the internet.

"And Bella and Edward are going to get married and have a baby and then Jacob is going to imprint on the baby girl," she laughed. "Isn't that stupid?"

"Yeah, but that just wouldn't happen." I scoffed, like the true nerd that I am. "I have faith in Stephenie Meyer that she wouldn't destroy her series like that."

Sure enough, as I sat in my bed reading that night, I was appalled at where the story was going. Bella was pregnant with some mutant kid, Edward had suddenly become this sex-crazed, over-obsessive husband, Jacob became a pedophile, and the entire story went down the drain!

From a writer's point of view, it sounded as if this is what happened. Stephenie Meyer's editor said, "Stephenie, you're spending too much time on this last book! We need it to the press yesterday!" Been there, done that. Instead of crankin' out some good pages, she

was busy worried after she transforms into a vampire? Come to write that, so we'll just say she skips special power... yeah... a love shield!

My friend said: The moment the entire story has been revealed, you guys don't have time to write that either!

Oh yeah, I'll get all of these super powers together for one huge, life altering hanging, plop Alice the peace-maker has the ending climax disappear in the air? No problem? Okay. Let's go home! Not disturbing your day!

In the last minutes before her editor fired her, she ends the book with Edward and Bella having sex... sigh...

Well, excuse me for joining that Facebook group trying to pretend it ended with *Eclipse*!

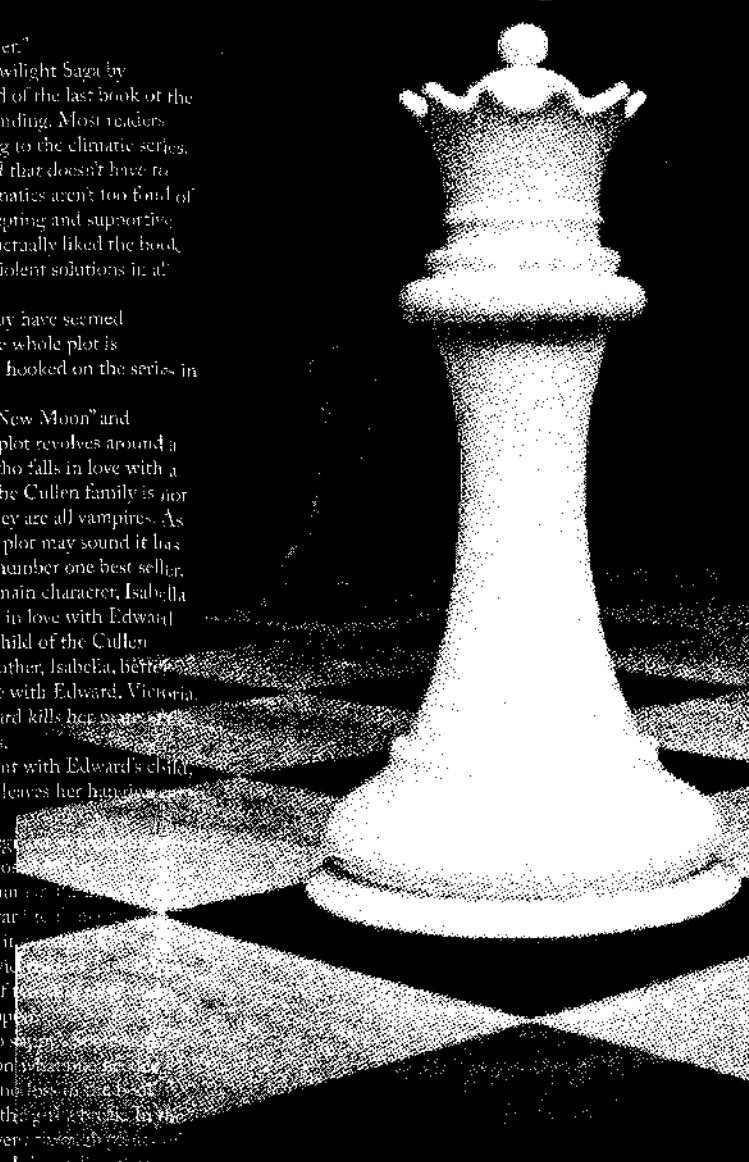


PHOTO COURTESY OF LITTLE BROWN PUBLISHERS

Neyo enchants audiences with more romantic album



DEF JAM RECORDS

BY TORIANN RUSS

Neyo's "Year Of The Gentleman", set for release Sept. 16, is his follow up to "Because of You", which received the 2008 Grammy Award for the Best Contemporary R&B Album.

"Closer", the album's first single is his ode to a woman that he can't get off his mind. No matter what he does or thinks about, thoughts of that special girl keep sneaking back in. From the words, "And I just can't pull myself away/ Under her spell I can't

break/ I just can't stop," it's clear he's hooked. "Miss Independent", one of my favorites, is more of a romance or love song, which is the dominating vibe of this CD. He croons, "It's something about/ Just something about/ The way she moved/ I can't figure it out/ There's something/ About her." In this song as well as others, he talks about some special girl. In this particular track, he explains how well she is doing on her own and speaks in general about women who are independent. Once again, Neyo seems to amaze



his fans. Making his singing debut just two years ago, he has been writing songs for quite some time. He has written songs for various different types of music and many people including stars like Britney Spears and Whitney Houston. Some familiar song titles that he has written are "Irreplaceable" by Beyonce and "Take A Bow" by Rihanna. From his stunning songwriting, to his Grammy award-winning albums, he could surely be the next greatest male singer and songwriter of the decade.

Borghesina is the largest jewelry store in the nation.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

House Bunny: star-studded comedy with heart, generic message

BY MARK VONDRASEK

Anna Faris is perhaps most popular for her role in the "Scary Movie" Series, which spans over several movies. She is a widely known, but still underrated actress. But this will all change, though, as Faris delivers a stunning and hilarious performance in "The House Bunny".

Faris plays Playboy Bunny Shelly Darlington. She is your stereotypical 'bunny', who lives in the playboy mansion, goes swimming with 'Hef', and enjoys slumber parties with her fellow 'bunnies'. She is living the good life, and appreciates it too, having come from an orphanage to live at the Playboy Mansion.

Then the plot thickens! Shelly is given a mysterious note from Hugh Hefner and is kicked out of the Playboy Mansion. Shelly wanders around for a while and then happens to stumble onto a sorority filled with awkward, shy girls who are struggling to keep their house, named Zeta, going. The girls need thirty pledges to their Sorority from incoming freshmen to keep it going.

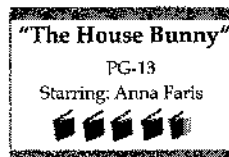
Shelly, being an expert on the opposite sex, becomes the 'house mother' of the Zeta Sorority in order to teach the girls how to function properly with the other boys. She uses her many tricks to lure in the boys, and they

pay off too. The girls are completely transformed into beautiful women and they meet their required thirty pledges. The girls have more luck finding dates, and are more confident because of Shelly's help.

But along the way, Shelly meets a nice boy named Oliver, played by the son of actor Tom Hanks, Colin Hanks. Oliver is the exact opposite species of the boy that Shelly Darlington is used to - Colin is the smart kind. Oliver reads, goes to plays, and volunteers at a retirement home. Shelly is completely out of her field of work and must adjust to Oliver's different thinking if she wants to win his heart.

And she does. She dresses "smart", studies American History, and even wears one of the Sorority Sister's glasses, which she cannot see through. Through it all, Shelly Darlington learns a lesson: that all men cannot be swayed by a car wash with girls in bikinis. In the end, Shelly is offered to come back to the Playboy Mansion and be 'Miss November' on a fold-out spread. Her final decision becomes a life turning point.

The movie was well-directed and every scene was filled with witty jokes that didn't ruin the movie with too many punchlines. Faris delivered her role with stunning precision and skill; she played the part of 'stupid blonde' well. Equally, Colin Hanks portrays a realistic intellect with talent. All in all, House Bunny is worth the ticket price and gas money.



Behind the Scenes

A COLUMN BY TORIANN RUSS
ENTERTAINMENT COLUMNIST

Was this the summer of great movies, or what? Yearbook's going to have a tough time deciding on the best movie of the year. One of the many movies that were premiered this summer was "Wall-E", a Disney Pixar movie.

After seeing the movie, it left my mind open about a few things. Mainly, what our world is going to be like in 100 plus years, and what pollution can do to not only the world, but to mankind as well. Pollution is often ignored in our society, and this movie was a real eye opener. I've never really paid much attention to pollution, and on many countless occasions, I have thrown a cup out of the car window or spit gum onto the ground. I've even left candy wrappers and chip bags outside at local parks and other miscellaneous areas in the Metro.

The idea for "Wall-E" from Pixar Animation Studios was first thought of in 1994 during a brain storming session for follow-up movie to their upcoming debut Toy Story, which was almost done. At the time Andrew Stanton, who directed the movie as well as "Finding Nemo" had no character to go along with the story line, which was 700 years in the future, with a trash compacting robot left behind after mankind backed up and left a polluted, uninhabitable Earth. He also had a character named "Wall-E", whom at the time didn't really fit into any of the movies that were being premiered. So he decided to put two and two together and came up with this wonderful movie.

I often found myself laughing at the charming character. I was very amused by the determination that he put into trying to get his girlfriend, Eve, back. That was one of the things that kept me glued to my seat and on edge. Although young children wouldn't understand the concept of the movie, since there's no dialogue, ages 12 and up would really get a kick out of it. Hence, I sure did. Honestly, the movie came off sort of dull, but after about 45 minutes things start to make more sense and you can actually start to understand what's going on.

After a while, finding Eve, we finally started to accommodate humans whom were living on a spaceship. Every human was a hunched man, which they never got. Due to their constantly sitting, they could no longer stand. Products that used to be made from natural resources are all that they consumed, so they lived, well, basically ran by machines.

We only have one Earth, and we mustn't mistreat it. Pollution comes from our place and are placed onto mankind. If we mistreat something that can not be fixed, then how would we fight something that may never be repaired? I think that the movie was trying to convey just that. Pollution needs to end.

Coming to Theaters

Opens Nationwide on Oct. 3, 2008

Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist

PG-13 by Universal Pictures

Starring: Kat Dennings and Michael Cera



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

A comedy about two people thrust together for one hilarious, sleepless night of adventure in a world of mix tapes, late-night living and loud, live music. Nick (Michael Cera) frequents New York's indie rock scene nursing a broken heart and a vague ability to play the bass. Norah (Kat Dennings) is questioning pretty much all of her assumptions about the

world. Though they have nothing in common except for their taste in music, their chance encounter leads to an all-night quest to find a legendary band's secret show and ends up becoming the first date in a romance that could change both of their lives.

Director: Peter Sollet

Opens Nationwide on Sep. 19, 2008

Lakeview Terrace

PG-13 by Screen Gems

Starring: Samuel L. Jackson and Patrick Wilson



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

A young couple (Patrick Wilson and Kerry Washington) has just moved into their California dream home when they become the target of their next-door neighbor, who disapproves of their interracial relationship. A stern, single father, this tautly wound LAPD officer (Samuel L. Jackson) has appointed himself the watchdog of the neighborhood.

His nightly boot patrols and overly watchful eyes bring comfort to some, but he becomes increasingly harassing to the newlyweds. These persistent intrusions into their lives ultimately turn tragic when the couple decides to fight back.

Director: Neil LaBute

INFORMATION COURTESY OF SCREEN GEMS

The nation's longest straight road is "O" Street in Uxbridge, NE. It is 39 miles long.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ROTTENTOMATOES.COM

Mamma Mia called good, hoaky entertainment

BY ALANA BRUNOW

These days, a good musical movie targeted at old and young audiences is difficult to come by. On rare occasion, a heart warming romance that includes comedy will catch my attention. The new motion picture and musical, Mamma Mia had me from the first preview.

Seventies pop sensation, ABBA has been rather popular for over twenty years now. Women of all ages and even a few men can find familiarity in almost all of ABBA's greatest hits. One of their most awarded tunes was "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme," which has also been remixed recently in one of Madonna's newest hits titled, "Hung Up."

As a girl, I remember growing up hearing ABBA, GOLD blaring throughout my house while my mom cleaned. I knew most of the words to almost every song by the age of ten. Now, every time I hear one of these tunes, I am reminded of happy, naive childhood memories.

The second I saw a preview for Mamma Mia, my mother and I knew we would have to see it when it hit theaters! Going into a theater with high hopes, the musical was nothing of what I expected, it was a million times better!

Although there are some corny scenes here and there, it was adorable! The personalities of the quirky characters were very realistic and easy

to relate to. Everything is very fluent and cleverly structured. Most musicals all have the same basic story to them, but this one has a refreshing twist.

Meryl Streep is one of my favorite actresses and I am really happy she took on the role of one of the main characters, revealing her vocal talents. Her first big movie was in Death Becomes Her, which was always one of my favorite movies.

Though her role in Mamma Mia as the flirtatious, free spirited mother fits her personality famously, the singing was a shock.

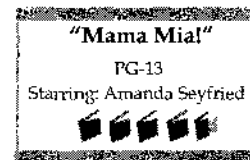
All of the music combined with great acting gave me chills.

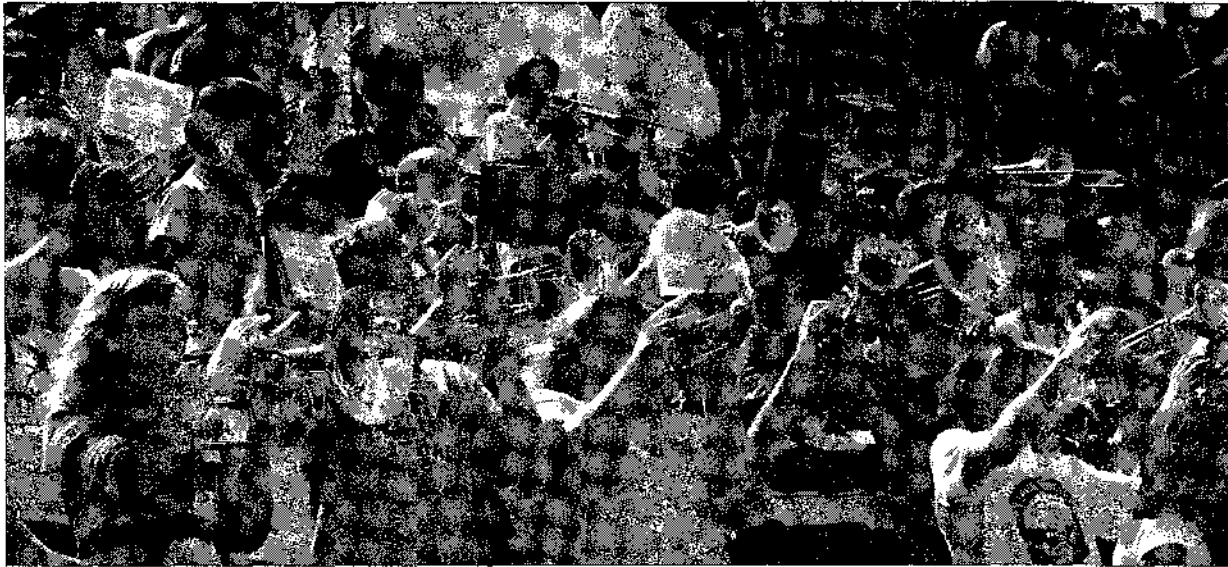
A plethora of old ABBA tunes were featured in Mamma Mia, including "Take a Chance on Me," "Honey, Honey,"

"Waterloo," "Gimme, Gimme, Gimme," "The Winner Takes It All," "Dancing Queen," "S.O.S.," "Chiquita," and "Lay All of Your Love on Me."

This genuinely heart filled acting contributed to the quality of the film. Many actors also expose hidden vocal talents.

Overall, this movie showers the viewer with positive vibes and loads of energy. As an ABBA fan, I was extremely tempted to get out of my seat and start dancing and I couldn't help but sing along. This musical is great for audiences of all ages and is definitely one of a kind.





MARK VONDRASEK/REGISTER

The band provides pep music for the school's fall sports pep rally. Their new season's marching show theme, which they have been working on very diligently since the end of the summer is "Weathering the Seasons."

Band marches toward new season

BY TORIANN RUSS

Hard work, determination, and lots of breath are all the qualities needed to be successful in a marching band, especially Central's.

The Central High Marching Band contains all of these qualities and are more than ready for their upcoming show.

"Weathering the Seasons", is the title of the marching bands show that will be performed at the first home game. The theme is based on songs from the four seasons including "Awakening Hills", for the spring and "Summer Time", for the summer. For the fall and winter they used "Fights on Full", which ends with the Eagles song and "Carol of the Bells", which features a final drum-line solo

performance.

Practice is the main ingredient to their success, and it takes up all of zero hour, which starts at 7:15 a.m. as well as first hour.

Marching Band is also required to practice every Tuesday night from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and the drum-line and flag corps even have extra practices.

Although practice makes perfect, that's not the only thing that makes the band so successful.

"To be in band, you have to play an instrument of course, have to be at a proficient level, be able to read music and it takes a lot of time, practice and effort," said the band president, senior Todd Alba.

In addition to morning practice, members

attend a mandatory band camp that also impacts their level of skill. The camp duration is a week and lasts from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and then from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m.

Since many members of the marching band will graduate after this year, members feel it will be different seeing how the newer members will react and how well they will do next year.

For now, doing the best that they can is more than acceptable to the school as well as the president, himself.

"Our goals for this year are to get comfortable for the competition and to give what we have," said Alba, who is also a drum major in the band. "We're not looking for a number, we just need appreciation."

Lil' Wayne's new album considered success

BY TORIANN RUSS

Millions of fans breathlessly awaited "The Carter III", the most recent album from well known recording artist Lil' Wayne. Lil' Wayne has been considered "The Best Rapper" by many critics, fans and hip-hop legends alike. After releasing a steady stream of albums, both solo and as a member of The Hot Boys, he has, by far, risen into super-stardom over the past decade.

On this album, Wayne has included top beats from producers such as Kanye West and Swizz Beats. Wayne switched up the game on his track "Tie My Hands" featuring Robin Thicke, which is based on a more personal topic, the Hurricane Katrina protest and losing just about everything in the tragic event. In one of his verses he says, "Yeah, born right here in the USA/ but, due to tragedy looked on by the whole world as a refugee/ so accept my emotion/ do not take it as an offensive gesture/ it's just the epitome of my soul/ and I must be me." Wayne is clearly stating that the U.S. could have done way more to help the victims,

instead of calling them refugees as if they aren't even U.S. citizens.

For the people who did not have the pleasure of purchasing or even hearing some of the tracks, I strongly recommend that you do. Like his previous work, it is phenomenal, even though the vibe is somewhat new. It seems as if Wayne is trying to reach out to his fans more and show them his innermost thoughts.

Out of all 18 tracks, the tempo is more of a mixture rather than a whole fast or slow paced album, due to the 13 different producers that helped put this album together.

Lil' Wayne, born Dwayne Michael Carter, first came on in 1997. The Hot Boys, where he first started, was formed with Juvenile, B.G., Turk, and Lil' Wayne himself, and were signed to a record label named Cash Money. The group didn't work out so well and two years later, Wayne put out his first solo album "The Black Is Hot".

In his slow and mellow track "Mr. Carter"

featuring Jay-Z, Wayne gets personal on a few topics. All three of his verses explain different aspects of his lifestyle career and perception of his "haters". In his first verse he says "Man, I got Summer hatin' on me cause I'm hotter than the Sun/ Got Spring hatin' on me cause I ain't never sprung/ Winter hatin' on me cause I'm colder than ya'll/ And I would never, I would never, I would never fall/ I'm being hated by the seasons." Point blank; he has haters worldwide in every shape and form.

The most extensive album yet, with 18 tracks, is by far not a mix-tape. Some of his best songs on the album are of course the hit single "Lollipop", which is one of the best sellouts in history, as well as "Mr. Carter" with a guest appearance from Jay-Z. The Carter III is a very diverse album, and also includes artists such as T-Pain and Baby Face. Wayne has been using Tha Carter for some time now, so maybe three times a charm and he'll find a more creative album title next time.

"The Carter III"

Artist: Lil' Wayne
Key track: "A Milli"



The 99 makes audience think

BY MICHELLE RIEGER

One is not sure quite what to expect from "The 99". But when one pulls up to 60th and "J" Streets, one can know it is something worth waiting two hours in line for.

The 99 is described as a 'virtual reality walk-through theater'. Some would describe it as more of a haunted house to others that didn't know what to call it. Ninety-nine is the average number of young people ages 10-25 that die each day in situations that could easily be avoided according to The National Center for Disease Control.

Situations like suicide, car accidents and drug abuse were some of the scenarios portrayed in each of the rooms.

As the audience is walking through each of the different rooms depicting real life situations of how young people die everyday, a man in a black cloak is leading them. He represents fear. The man in the cloak narrated and told the story of the youngest person in each room.

The first room that audiences walked through after they had been introduced to "Fear", was the car accident scene.

This room held two cars from an actual car accident. The actors were placed in the exact positions that police had found the real victims.

For the reenactment (and in all of the other rooms) the actors used authentic materials, such as the vehicles and the actual 911 calls made after the accidents.

In another room that many referred to as the 'suicide room', the actual tape found after a teenage girl killed herself was used and shown in the room.

The tape was of the suicide victim apologizing to her parents for disappointing them. She said she was sorry and now that she was ending her life she could no longer disappoint them.

On the other side of the room was a girl with blood all over her body and a gun on the ground.

Domestic and street violence was another situation depicted in a very realistic way. A room that was eerily realistic was the 'crack house'. Members of that 'home' were stoned, wasted and wrecked. One guy kept asking for help, he didn't know where he was. Another young girl sitting on the corner could only wait for the next time for a member of her family to hit, kick, or slap her. This was probably the only life she knew.

After the audience had seen all of the horrible realities, they were forced in a room that some probably did not believe in. No one was for sure whether or not this room is a reality. This was the 'Hell' room. Victims in agony screamed and reached through the metal bars trying to get out. Some audience members hid their faces in their boyfriend's or girlfriend's shoulder. Some thought this whole production was some joke. But most took it seriously.

After being in the eerie, gruesome room a bright, white light shone through and everyone went racing towards it. This represented heaven according to the speaker at the end of the production.

The Movie Scene

Film Streams Theater, El bolero de Raquel (Raquel's Shoe Shine Man), Sept. 19, Sept. 20, Sept. 21, 6:25 p.m., \$8, www.filmstreams.org

Man on Wire, Sept. 19, Sept. 20, Sept. 21, 7 p.m., 9:15 p.m., \$8, www.film-streams.org

AMC Theater, Burn After Reading (R), Sept. 18, 5:35 p.m., 7:55 p.m., 10:15 p.m., \$8, www.amctheaters.com

Bangkok Dangerous (R), Sept. 18, 7:40 p.m., 10:05 p.m., \$8, www.amctheaters.com

Hanlet 2 (R), Sept. 18, 5:40 p.m., 8 p.m., 10:15 p.m., \$8, www.amctheaters.com

Tyler Perry's The Family That Preys (PG-13), Sept. 18, 7:10 p.m., 9:50 p.m., \$8, www.amctheaters.com

The Women (PG-13), Sept. 18, 7:00 p.m., 9:45 p.m., \$8, www.amctheaters.com

Star Wars: The Clone Wars (PG), Sept. 18, 7:20 p.m., 9:40 p.m., \$8, www.amctheaters.com

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants 2 (PG-13), Sept. 18, 2:10 p.m., \$8, www.amctheaters.com

Traitor (PG-13), Sept. 18, 7:10 p.m., 9:50 p.m., \$8, www.amctheaters.com

Staying

Who Shenae Grimes, AnnaLynne McCord, Ryan Eggold, Jessica Stroup and Lori Loughlin

What New Series: 90210

Where Channel 11, The CW

When Tuesday nights 8/7c



For all of those fans of the oldies, you know that "90210" was the "Gossip Girl" or "One Tree Hill" of the 1980s. So for all of those who miss it, the CW has you hooked up. Starting this last week, the television station launched a spinoff of "90210" with a hot new series of the same name. It has been well-received by audiences and already being put on the success list. So if you are sitting at home and looking for something that's guaranteed to be entertaining, take a trip to the rich, California coast with the talented new cast.

The Music Scene

Omaha Music Hall, October 11, 2008, Jim Gaffigan, 1804 Capitol Ave, 7:00 PM

Omaha Music Hall, October 11, 2008, Jim Gaffigan, 1804 Capitol Ave, 10:00 PM

Omaha Music Hall, December 7, 2008, Moscow Ballet's Great Russian Nutcracker, 1804 Capitol Ave, 3:00 PM

Rockbrook Village Shopping Center, September 18, 2008, Art Unlocked: Music & Masterpieces, 108th & Center St., 5-8 PM

Holland Performing Arts Center, September 20, 2008, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Thirteenth and Douglas Street, 8:00 PM

DC Centre, September 15, 2008, Learning to Fly in the Public Eye with John Knicely of WOWT Channel 6, 11830 Stonegate Circle, 6:30-9:00 PM

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- 168th & Burke - Omaha
- 168th & Q - Milford
- 84th & Giles - La Vista
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Slowdown, Neko Case and Giant Sand, Sept. 15, 8 p.m., \$22, www.onepercentproductions.com

Sokol Auditorium, Jonny Lang, Sept. 16, \$27, www.onepercentproductions.com

Orpheum Theater, Comedian Jerry Seinfeld, Sept. 18, 7 p.m., \$48-\$78, www.ticketomaha.org, 345-0606

Slowdown, Apocalyptica, Sept. 18, \$18-\$20, 9 p.m., www.onepercentproductions.com

Anchor Inn, Conor Oberst & the Mystic Valley, Jenny Lewis, Matt Focht and Son. Ambulance, Sept. 20, 9 p.m., \$20, 18-year-or-older show, www.onepercentproductions.com

Mid-America Center, Earth, Wind & Fire and Michael McDonald, Sept. 21, 7 p.m., \$150, \$75, \$59.50, \$45

Qwest Center, River City Roundup Concerts (Rodney Atkins, Larry the Cable Guy, Jessica Simpson), Sept. 25-27, \$17 - \$64, 9 p.m.

Slowdown, Lotus, Oct. 9, \$12 advance \$15 day of show, www.onepercentproductions.com

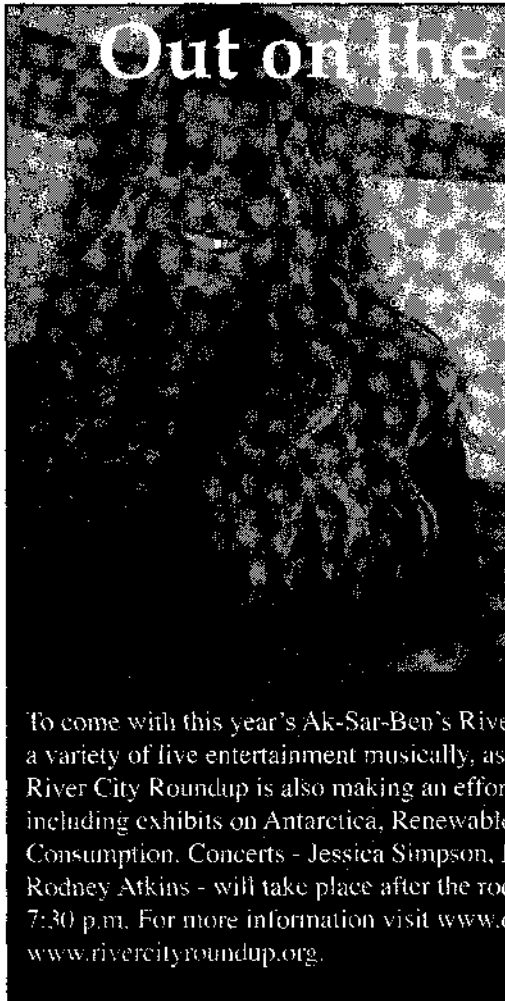
Sokol Auditorium, Tegan and Sarah, Oct. 9, 8 p.m., \$25

Qwest Center, Rascal Flatts and Taylor Swift, Oct. 11, \$49.75 and \$70

Omaha Music Hall, Comedian Jim Gaffigan, Oct. 11, 7 p.m. and 10 p.m., \$39.75

Holland Performing Arts Center, David Byrne, Oct. 17, 8 p.m., \$53, \$48 and \$43, www.ticketomaha.com

Lincoln's Pershing Center, Panic at the Disco, Dashboard Confessional, Plain White T's and The Cab, Oct. 18, \$35.95



Out on the Town

Who Jessica Simpson as well as Larry the Cable Guy and Rodney Atkins

What River City Roundup

Where Qwest Center Omaha located at 455 N 10th St.

When Sept. 25-27

To come with this year's Ak-Sar-Ben's River City Roundup includes a variety of live entertainment musically, as well as with the rodeo. River City Roundup is also making an effort to go green this year including exhibits on Antarctica, Renewable Fuels and Average Trash Consumption. Concerts - Jessica Simpson, Larry the Cable Guy and Rodney Atkins - will take place after the rodeo approximately around 7:30 p.m. For more information visit www.qwestcenteromaha.com or www.rivercityroundup.org.

Central Eagles vs. Millard North, Sept. 23, 1010 S 144th St., 7:30 PM \$5 adults/ \$3 students (Girl's Volleyball)

Central Eagles vs. Bellevue West, Sept. 24, 1501 Thurston Ave Bellevue, NE, 7:30 PM, \$5 adults/ \$3 students (Girl's Volleyball)

Central Eagles vs. Gross Catholic, Sept. 29, 124 N. 20th St., 7:30 PM, \$5 adults/ \$3 students (Girl's Volleyball)

Central vs. Bellevue East, Sept. 30, 124 N. 20th St., 7:30 PM, \$5 adults/ \$3 students (Girl's Volleyball)

Central Eagles vs. TBA, Oct. 2, 6:30 PM @ Lincoln (Girl's Volleyball)

Central Eagles vs. Marian, Oct. 7, 7400 Military Ave, 7:30 PM, \$5 adults /\$3 student. (Girl's Volleyball)

Central Eagles vs. Omaha South, Oct. 24, 124 N. 20th St., 7:30 PM (Girl's Volleyball)

The Sports Scene

Curriculum, Student/Community Committee, TAC Building, 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM, Sept. 22, 3215 Cuming St., FREE

The Theater Scene

Omaha Community Playhouse, "Intimate Apparel" Aug. 22- Sept. 21, 6915 Cass St., Contact For Schedule: www.omahaplayhouse.com

Omaha Community Playhouse, "The Cocoanuts" Sept. 12-Oct. 12, 6915 Cass St., Contact For Schedule: www.omahaplayhouse.com

Blue Barn Theatre, "The Goat or Who is Sylvia?" Oct. 16- Nov. 8, 614 S 11th St., Thurs-Sat-7:30 PM Sun-6:00 PM.

Orpheum Theater, "Jerry Seinfeld" Sep. 18, 409 S 16th St., 7:00 PM

Orpheum Theater, "The Pirates of Penzance" Oct. 15th(7:30 PM), Oct. 17th(7:30 PM), Oct. 19th(2:00 PM), 409 S 16th St.

Bemis Center for Contemporary Arts 724 S. 12th Street, Bemis Underground: vision/re-envision, August 8, 2008- September 13, 2008, Free

Pulp Art Gallery 6114 Military Ave, New Work by Parskid, August 15- September 8, 2008, Tuesday-Friday 11am-7pm, Saturday 10am-6pm, open Sunday and Monday by appointment

Durham Western Heritage Museum 801 S. 10th Street, EyeWitness: American Originals from the National Archives, October 4, 2008- January 4, 2009, Sunday 1pm-5pm, Tuesday 10am-8pm, Wednesday- Saturday 10am-5pm, members are free, \$7

El Museo Latino 4701 S. 25th Street, Frida Kahlo: Letters and Photographs, September 6- November 29, 2008, members free, \$5 general admission

The Sports Scene

Central Eagles vs. Creighton Prep, Sept. 19 7400 Western Ave., TBA, \$5-adults/ \$3-students (Football)

Central Eagles vs. Bellevue East, Sept. 26, Home, 124 N. 20th St., 7:00 PM, \$5-adults/ \$3-students (Football)

Central Eagles vs. Papillion, Papillion-LaVista, Oct. 3, 402 E. Centennial Road Papillion, NE, 7:00 PM, \$5-adults/\$3-students (Football)

Central Eagles vs. Millard West, Oct. 10, 124 N. 20th St., 7:00 PM, \$5-adults/ \$3-students (Football)

Central Eagles vs. Omaha Bryan, Oct. 17, 4 700 Giles Road Bellevue, NE, 7:00 PM, \$5-adults/ \$3-students (Football)

Central Eagles vs. Westside, Oct. 24, 124 N. 20th St., 7:00 PM, \$5-adults/ \$3-students (Football)

Central Eagles vs. Mercy, Sep. 15, 150 South 38th Street, 7:30 PM, \$5 adults/ \$3 students (Girl's Volleyball)

Central Eagles vs. Omaha North, Sept. 16, 4410 N 36th St., 7:30 PM \$5 adults/\$3 students (Girl's Volleyball)

The Art Scene

Joslyn Art Museum 2200 Dodge Street, Uncreated Light: Steve Joy Paintings, 1980-2008, June 28- October 5, 2008, Tuesday- Saturday, 10am- 4pm , Sunday Noon- 4pm. \$7 general admission.

Anderson O'Brian Fine Art 8724 Pacific Street, Wearable Artist: Kay Chapman October 14-16, 2008, Monday-Friday 10am-5:30pm, Saturday 10am-5pm

Question of the Issue

Your Views on the World Around You

Omaha's Westside High School provides laptops for student use. The program, which was implemented four years ago, allows students to use the computers with Internet access.

How would getting new laptops to use at home and at school impact your education and personal life?

"Having laptops would make school research/homework easier by being able to take you computer somewhere comfortable and quiet. Plus you would save trees by handing things in electronically."

Haley Bruns (10)

"I think that laptops will help us get work done faster because with the Internet we have endless information at our fingertips, which we can use to our advantage. With laptops we can also get our work done faster which will allow us to have more personal time."

Zakella Williams (10)

"If we get laptops then it wouldn't be necessary for students to rush to the library or computer labs here just because they don't have a disk to save it on."

Rachel Polanco (10)

"I think it would be fun and much better than carrying around textbooks all the time."

Danyelle Pechar (11)

"It would be a lot easier and a great help with doing homework. I only have one computer at home and twelve people have to use it. So it would be great for people who have big families and only one computer."

Keith Taylor (9)

"I think it would make a huge impact. We would be able to "go green" and we wouldn't be able to say that our dog ate our homework or that we lost it because we could just electronically turn it in."

Katelyn Kildow (9)

"It wouldn't [help]. All kids would do is try to hack into MySpace."

Kenyon Muhammad (10)

"I think it would keep a lot more kids focused and help out the older kids even more [with college and assignments]."

Develle Smith (10)

"I think that it'd be nice to have laptops at home so I could do my homework without getting rushed by my family, since we all share one."

Patricia Prine (9)

"Well, I don't think they really need new laptops to get a better education. They just need to do the work like the rest of us manage."

Helen Erickson (9)

"It would change a lot. You could store data easier because you could type notes in class and have your notes for classes in the computer. It would take up less space."

Connor Thelander (10)

"It would be easier to do computer assignments at home for the students who don't have computers at their house."

Kiya Owens (10)

"Getting laptops to use at home would teach everybody responsibility by taking care of it and not just abusing it. I think as growing adults we need to have more privilege and need to learn responsibility."

Maryus Knight (9)

"I feel if we got laptops for home and school it would improve our learning ability because we use computers a lot and know how to use them. I don't think we should receive them if they are used for noneducational purposes."

Anna DiRuocco (9)

Next Issue:

Every year a teacher is chosen and named as Teacher of the Year nominated by their coworkers and students.

Unofficially, who is your favorite teacher and why would he or she be qualified for this award?

What do you know about ...

U.S. / African American History
Provided by Rod Mullen, Social Studies

- Who was the first black person who ran for President?
 - A. Shirley Chisolm
 - B. Barack Obama
 - C. Thurgood Marshall
 - D. Jesse Jackson
- How many United States Presidents have been assassinated?
 - A. 4
 - B. 3
 - C. 2
- What year did Nebraska officially become a state?
 - A. 1860
 - B. 1520
 - C. 1867
- What was the name of the Mexican-American that headed the National Farm Workers Association?
 - A. Frida Kahlo
 - B. Cesar Chavez
 - C. Diego Rivera
 - D. Ricky Martin
- Who are Nebraska's two state Senators?
 - A. Chuck Hagel, Ben Nelson
 - B. Ben Nelson, Lee Terry
 - C. Lee Terry, Jim Esch

ANSWERS: 1. B 2. C 3. C 4. B 5. C

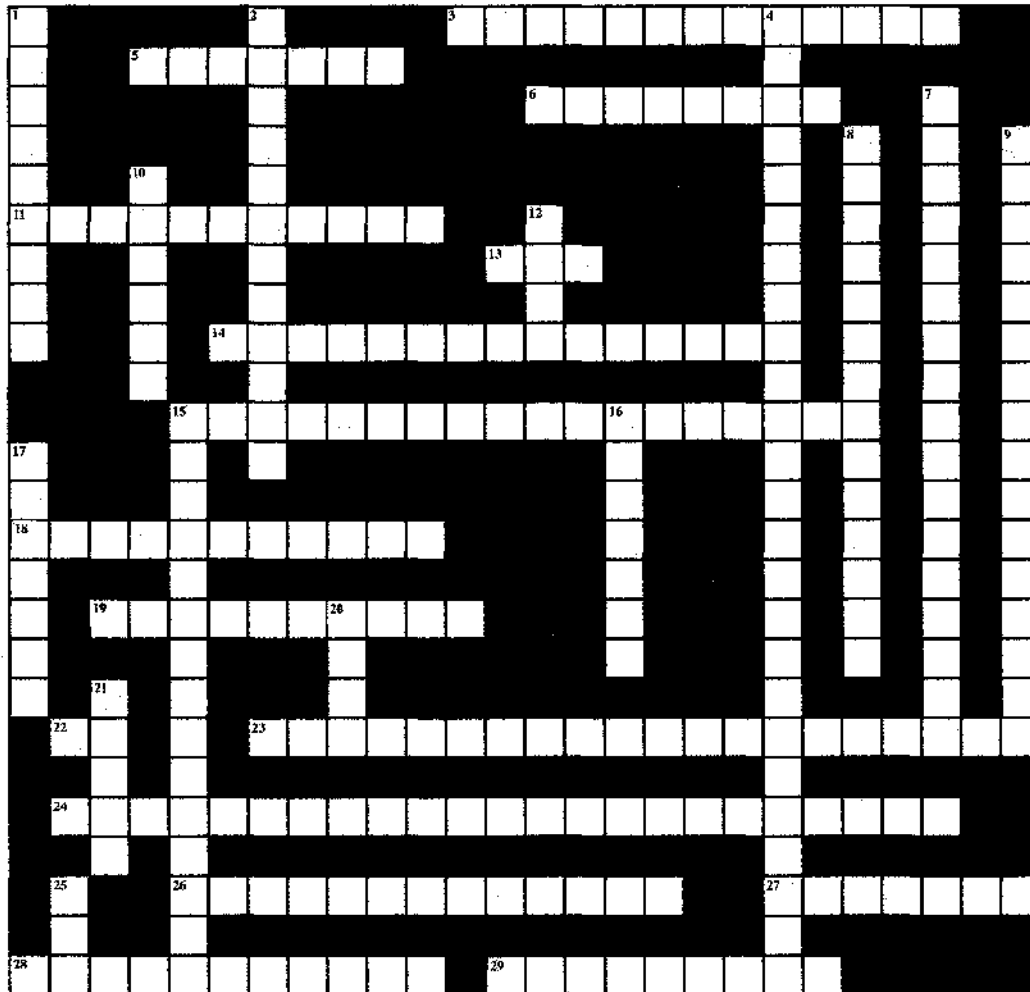
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Best Pizza

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BEST OF
OMAHA

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Crossword



- Across**
3. What's a polygon with four equal sides called?
 5. What planet has a storm system called the Great Red Spot?
 6. What heat resistant element replaced cotton as the filament of choice in electric light bulbs in 1910?
 11. Who did Adolf Hitler dedicate Mein Kampf to while in prison?
 13. What's short for "binary digit"?
 14. What inscription on U.S. coins did Roosevelt try unsuccessfully to remove?
 15. What team hired the NFL's first professional cheerleading squad in 1972?
 18. Which of Henry VII's wives gave birth to Queen Elizabeth I?
 19. Who is the principal of Central High school?
 22. What mathematical symbol was determined to be transcendental in 1882 by Ferdinand von Lindermann?
 23. What is an NBA player deemed if they receive the Maurice Podoloff Trophy?
 24. What is the title of Tim O'Brien's famous novel in which the main character is named after the author?
 26. What does the number of protons in the nucleus of an atom determine?
 27. What decade did names start to appear on the back of jerseys?
 28. Who was the first president to become vice president after resignations?
 29. What is the top number of a fraction called?
- Down**
1. What Yankee's star was considered "The Idol of the American Boy"?
 2. Where is Central's graduation held?
 4. What is one of the first novels read in Honors English at Central?
 7. Next year marks Central High School's _____ birthday.
 8. What will not be back to pass Earth until 2061?
 9. Who was the author of the American classic, *Absolum, Absolum?*
 10. What sport sparked a war between El Salvador and Honduras, after an unpopular referee's call in 1969?
 12. How many presidents played a role in the Vietnam War?
 15. What famous structure was 26.5 miles long until 1989?
 16. What sport used "home run" before baseball?
 17. Who spoke the words, "They told me to take a streetcar named Desire, and transfer to one called Cemeteries, and ride six blocks and get off at - Elysian Fields!" in Tennessee William's *A Streetcar named Desire*?
 20. In 1996, scientists were urged to look for more signs of life on which planet?
 21. How many holes are in the original Whiffle Ball?
 25. What number is an improper fraction always greater than?

Artist in Residence

Artist: Caroline Hodge

CHS's Playlist



Caroline Hodge is a sophomore at Central High School. She is avidly involved in the art department as well as artistic endeavors outside of school including privately paid projects. She is the contributing artist to The Register and O-Book. You may send feedback to Hodge at central.journalism@ops.org. All content is original and belongs to The Register.

Photo of the Issue



Tearful students hold hands in a prayer with Life Choices speaker, Sarah Mallet. The assembly, although considered controversial, provoked a lot of emotion from the students. The story of Rachel Joy Scott, the first killed at Columbine, was the main thread of the assembly designed to teach kids about how destructive decisions hurt others.

Mark Vorutessok is a senior at Central High School and the photographer for The Register. Any questions, comments or updates can be mailed to Mark at central.journalism@ops.org or markvorutessok@live.com.