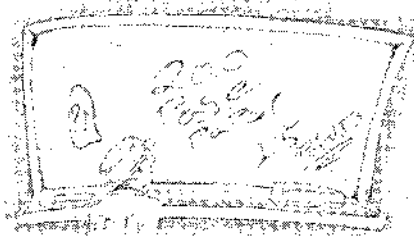


Why do homework?

Columnist debates whether doing homework is worth it with standards based grading.

OPINIONS, PAGE 17



Deathly Hallows premiers

The final edition to the Harry Potter series has begun, and Harry Potter fans can't get enough.

REGISTRATION, PAGE 7



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11 TIME NSPA/IEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER • THE OLDEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI • NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

Restaurant tax causes questions, frustration

BY TABITHA PANAS

As heard on the news, heavily talked about by politicians and heavily debated by restaurant owners and food eaters, we have a new 2.5 percent tax on restaurants here in Omaha. Mayor Jim Suttle proposed this new tax along with Omaha's 2011 Budget Proposal.

Some of the guidelines of the tax are confusing to customers and businesses paying the tax. One of the differences with this tax, as opposed to other taxes, is that it puts a 2.5 percent tax on the whole bill, including the regular 7 percent sales tax. While many restaurants are in obvious protest, some speak out on this issue.

George Sgourakis, owner of Greek Islands on 38th and Center Streets, says he does not like it at all. He also said that there were a couple of weeks that business got really slow. Greek Islands has not been as hard hit by the tax as some restaurants, but even still Sgourakis calls the new tax "a bad idea."

Many customers complain and so do some students. Junior Michael Blazek said if they raised the property tax by a half of a percent, then there would not have to be any restaurant tax.

Junior Sean Froeming thinks that the tax is unfair. "People who live outside of Omaha but work in Omaha get stuck paying the tax," he explains.

Both Blazek and Froeming agree that the tax will not affect them much. A few other Central students surveyed feel the same way, including juniors Marisa Pursell and Lewis Ryan. As teenagers who don't always go out to eat at restaurants, this tax will not be a big deal.

Omaha city officials hope that this tax will bring in \$14.8 million dollars annually. About \$13 million will go to the police and fire department pensions and the rest will go to the city for other various operations.

City Finance Director Pam Spaccarotella said that the receipts they received from October have met their expectations.

"All the businesses have been compliant," said Spaccarotella.

Although Omaha's restaurants are cooperating, many still disagree with the tax.

Some restaurants have put "mayors tax" at the bottom of their receipts, however Spaccarotella has still stated that all of the businesses have been "professional."

Many restaurants contacted do not feel comfortable speaking out on this issue, but a manager from Red Lobster, who wishes to remain anonymous, feels that the tax will overall hurt business in the city. At the same time, he understands the reasons for the tax.

"It is obviously doing well for the first month and is making up the deficit," said the manager, "because this city needs something straightened out."

Although the problem finding money to cover Omaha's budget deficit is clear, solutions are not.

Spaccarotella said that the city council considered many other alternatives but found the restaurant tax to be "the most fair."

Uriah Wertheim (11), feels the exact opposite about the tax. "They are taxing the tax," Uriah said. This is true, and many businesses are not happy either. Most taxes only take a percentage of the actual bill as tax but this new tax adds 2.5 percent to the entire total bill, after it has already been taxed by the regular sales tax.

Whether it is fair or not, the new tax seems to be a success. With the profits that have already been made, restaurants and customers hope it can end soon.

TeenNick presents student with award

BY TABITHA PANAS



Television network TeenNick Central's court reporter Jordan Somer.

But it wasn't Somer's passion for dancing or her prodigious talent as a pianist for which she was being recognized on this

occasion. Instead, TeenNick's award was given to her for her leadership. Others in the network's community have been recognized for their achievements in the field of

the Miss Amazing Pageant. Somer was named the winner of the award in the category of "Agent of Change," a title given to those who have made a difference in their community.

It was a surprise to Somer, but she had been nominated for the award. She had been nominated for the award because of her work in the community.

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she knew. She had been nominated for the award because of her work in the community. She had been nominated for the award because of her work in the community.

"I took my passion for parents and the Special Olympics and put them together," she said. "The satisfaction of the award just inspires me as a person."

The best part is when I check with the girls who have been involved. One girl who was four years old went from being shy and avoiding all the time to being her own boss and publishing her own book.

The TeenNick HALO Award aims to encourage activism and leadership in young people.

The awards offer Somer and other teenage "Agents of Change," a role given to them by Cannon, not only the opportunity to be recognized for their dedication, but also to build on their achievements.

The TeenNick HALO Awards partner with a community philanthropist with a common goal with whom they share a passion.

Somer, this meant getting together in Los Angeles, Calif. twice to meet with actress Ricki Lake and her charity, the Ricki Lake Foundation, which works globally to raise awareness and prevent violence towards women.

Somer also had the opportunity to lead the red carpet show for the internationally broadcast HALO Awards ceremony, which aired on TeenNick on Dec. 10.

TeenNick surprised Somer with a \$25,000 grant for the Miss Amazing Pageant, and a scholarship to attend Harvard University.

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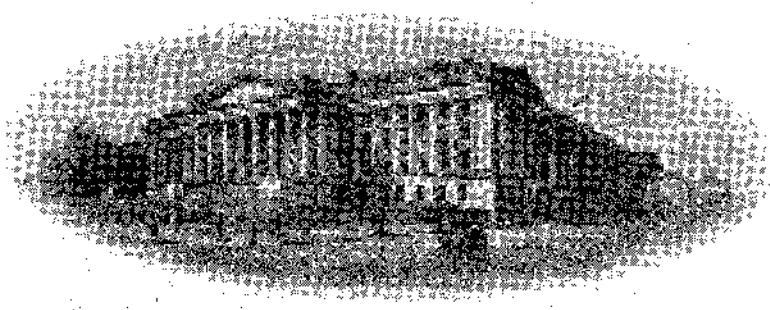
PHOTO BY MATTHEW VONDRASEK/REGISTER

Senior Jordan Somer pictured above in an interview with actor Nick Cannon from TeenNick's Halo Awards. Somer was given the Halo award for her work creating the Miss Amazing Pageant. The interview was broadcast during the premier of the awards show on Dec. 12.

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Vol.124, No.2, 20pages



College Corner

Future Plans...

See what the future plans are for some Central seniors.

Scott Simpson

Intended College/University: Art Institute of Chicago
Location: Chicago, Illinois
Type: Private four-year university

// To further my life goals and to pursue my dreams.

Application dates: Deadline: June 1

Caitlin Sorick

Intended College/University: Iowa University
Location: Iowa City, Iowa
Type: Public four-year university

// I want to major in journalism and it's one of the best in the country for writing.

Application dates: Rolling deadline

CALENDAR

Decemeber

17 CHS Singers, Bel Canto, Bell Choir
 "Holiday Under the Glass" at Joslyn Art Museum (CHS Singers, Bel Canto, Bell Choir)
 First semester/Second quarter ends /End of finals

20 Tri-M
 Tri-M Holiday Event and Caroling

20-31 Winter Break
 All Student and Staff Winter Recess

28-31 Holiday Tournament
 Boys and Girls Varsity Basketball-Holiday Metro Tournament

January

3 No School
 Semester break day/Teacher work day--No Students

4-7 Roadshow
 Roadshow auditions in the auditorium

17 No School
 Martin Luther King Day

20 FAFSA
 Education Quest/FAFSA Filing

February

3 All City
 All-City Music Festival (evening rehearsal)

8 College planning
 College Planning Night for Juniors

12 SAT
 SAT Testing for all students registered

Common Sense Digital Media Symposium held

BY MATTHEW VONDRASEK

Being a responsible digital citizen was the focus of the Symposium on Digital Media presented by Common Sense Media, thatsnotcool.com, and A Thin Line on Dec. 7 at the Rose Theatre.

Many Central students and faculty were in attendance at the event including former Central Principal Greg Fimmel.

The symposium began with opening remarks from Jim Steyer the CEO and founder of Common Sense Media who began his remarks saying how best "to achieve a citizenry that embodies our highest values is a tremendous challenge in the era of the new digital media."

He went on to say "Common Sense Media is approaching this vital task in an intelligent and responsible way."

Omaha Mayor Jim Suttle voiced his support for Common Sense Media with an official declaration in support of responsible digital citizenship.

A panel discussed various issues facing young people in the digital media world including social networking, cyber crimes, cyber bullying and sexting. The panel was composed of NorthWest High School student Alexis Knight, McMillan Middle School student Charles O'Donnell, South High School student Andrew

Martinez, Nathan Hale Magnet teacher John Kaup and Mayor Suttle's Director of School Initiatives Barbara Farho.

The panel was moderated by MTV producer Sway Calloway who has worked for many years advocating responsible digital citizenship for young people. Hundreds of area students and parents actively participated in the discussion with questions and comments in addition to those of the panel members.

A video was shown that pictured instances where digital media was used irresponsibly and the unexpected consequences that many teens are not aware of.

Common Sense media also informed the audience that it currently offers educators print and video resources to teach parents and students about the media issues it is targeting.

Students who attended the event were provided a media agreement form for them and their parents to sign that went over ways to be a responsible digital citizen. The form included information regarding, the protection of personal passwords, posting of inappropriate material on social networking sites, slanderous use of media outlets and how parents and teens can work together to remain safe while using digital media while still maintaining independence.

Parents attend OPS Cyberbullying Conference

BY MEKENZIE KERR

Due to the uprise in suicide cases in result of bullying, OPS's Safe, Secure, and Disciplined Schools (SSDS), held a meeting for parents during parent-teacher conferences.

The meeting addressed the realities and casualties resulting in bullying across the nation.

SSDS discussed the serious repercussions in bullying. When the bullying is found out about by parents, it is usually too late.

"How many students we've dealt with being bullied and becoming distraught," said Bette Ball, counselor, "is seen constantly."

SSDS advises parents to be aware of what their students are doing online and via texting.

Whether it involves taking the students' phone at night or simply checking in what their daily online activities are, they encourage parents to be vigilant.

Many efforts are being made in order to help prevent cyberbullying throughout the United States, and make it known to parents about the



INFOGRAPHIC BY MEKENZIE KERR/REGISTER

Central's Career Closet offers hope

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

Come one and come all, here arrives another positively unique detail about Central.

Spanish teacher Audrey Faltin and special education teacher Stephanie Knudston will begin Central's Career Closet the last week of January 2011.

The program will provide students who might not have interview appropriate clothes with the chance to obtain an appropriate outfit.

Donations are currently accepted in the teacher's lounge and with Knudston and Faltin, however only staff and guardians are available to donate at this time.

Knudston says the program won't fully open until the last week of January.

For now the closet will only be open one day a

month.

"We decided to begin with one day a month, but that is not set in stone," Knudston says. "If the supply and demand are there for the services provided by the Career Closet, we will begin opening the Closet more frequently."

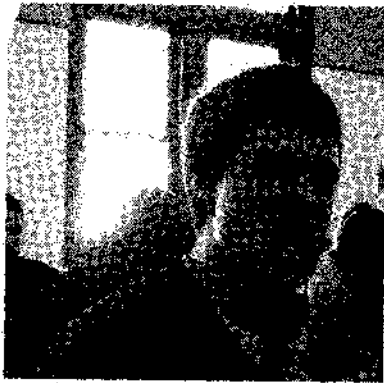
Many community businesses are helping Central in this program including Banana Republic and Talbots by donating clothing.

With the Closet providing two services of giving interview-appropriate clothes and help with applications and interviews, Central students will be well-prepared for the working world, making them the talk of the "part-time" business community.

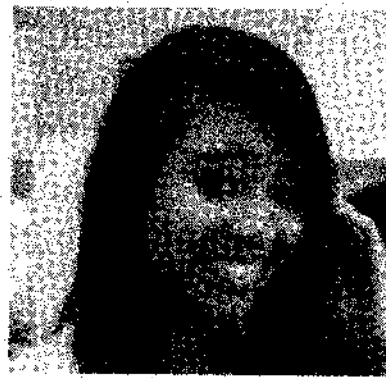


PHOTO BY KATIE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

Spanish teacher Audrey Faltin hangs up clothing doanted to the Central's Career Closet. Donations go to students for interviews.



"I am thankful for my mom."
-Harrison Turone (10)



"My friends."
-Sydney Doty (9)



"I am thankful for a safe school."
-Kate Bonham (9)



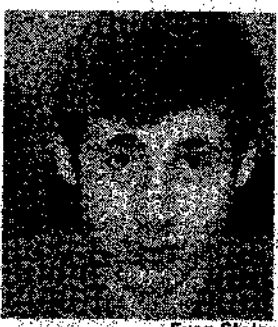
"I am thankful for life."
-Allen Terry (11)

What are you thankful for this holiday season?

BY TABITHA PANAS

Student designs shirts for Threadless

BY TABITHA PANAS



How about \$2000 and a \$500 gift card?

Junior Evan Stoler has been designing t-shirts for a Web site called Threadless.com, which is known as the "hardest online t-shirt competition to win," for many designers. Threadless receives about 1000 t-shirts a

week and picks only eight of them to be printed. Despite these odds, the fourth t-shirt Evan submitted, "Peacocks are Pigeons Zapped by Rainbows," was picked to be printed.

Getting their t-shirt printed is the dream of all who submit designs to Web sites like Threadless. Being "printed" means that the Web site is going to turn the design submitted into actual shirts to sell on their site, where the designer will make a percent of the profit.

Those who have their designs chosen on Threadless receive one of their t-shirts, which are printed on plain American Apparel shirts, along with a \$2000 prize and a \$500 gift card to Threadless.com. Stoler received these benefits when he won, but that's not quite all. His t-shirt is selling on Threadless for \$15, of which he makes \$1 on every purchase.

He has since then had two other t-shirts printed. His design "You Are What You Eat," featuring a squirrel head in the

shape of an acorn, was printed at SquidInk.com. Another t-shirt featuring an eel in the shape of a lightning bolt, "Electric Eel," was printed at Ript Apparel.com.

Stoler is currently working on a collaboration with a designer from Brazil to create a hopefully eye catching t-shirt with the concept of a peach with a crown representing Princess Peach from the Nintendo Game Mario Brothers. E-mailing designs back and forth, Stoler has collaborated with designers from all around the world including England and China. Their goal is to perfect a design that will win.

But, where do these clever ideas come from? The artist doesn't quite have an answer but said he is "always looking for something witty or clever that could make a good design."

After he has an idea for a shirt he sketches it in pencil and then traces it with ink. From there it goes to the scanner into Adobe Photoshop where he smooths out the lines and adds layers of color. Finally, it goes to the Website where it is submitted. "Then you just have to sit back and hope someone likes it," Evan says.

No matter how many shirts he has designed, Stoler knows that there will always be harsh critics. "Some people think my designs are too simple," he said, "but I just don't like a lot of detail."

Critics can be frustrating, but the process of designing the shirt for them to critique can be fun. Stoler bought Photoshop on his laptop six months ago, but says it is still difficult to use at times. He admits that he still doesn't know half of it.

This is a ton of work, but the junior still seems to enjoy it. "It's a way to express myself through art," he says. Other benefits also appeal to him such as the \$2000 prize that motivates him to perfect his designs.

As much as he would like to design t-shirts as a career, he said he couldn't count on it. "That business is not very sturdy and it is hard to make a living," he says.

Maybe someday he will be surprised when he gets a contract with a famous designer, but for now he calls it "just a hobby."



PHOTO COURTESY OF / THREADLESS.COM
Junior Evan Stoler has been creating his own t-shirt design which he sells online. Above is one of his designs titled "You Are What You Eat."

Students selected for All-State Music Festival announced

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

During the spring of 2010, voice musicians interested in the All-State Music Festival were given the music to prepare over the summer for the festival which was held on Oct. 20.

Auditions were held the first week of October. Out of a total of number of 443 students of the state of Nebraska, 16 were chosen from Central.

The juniors selected were Kaitlin Beck; soprano, Elyssia Finch; soprano, Jazmine Polk; alto, Jacob Wilson; tenor and Je'Ronele McGhee; bass. Sophomores selected were Terrel Brown; tenor, Derizan Moore; tenor and Joe Fitzgerald; bass. Seniors selected were Lea Farho; alto, Sara Doghman; alto, Emilio Sotola; Tenor, Nora Cobb; Soprano, Colleen Kilcoyne; alto and Marquise Anderson; bass.

After auditions students selected wasted no time to rehearse. As a group, rehearsals begin on Thursday prior to the concert and go all day Friday and Saturday, leading up to the concert

that Saturday night.

Although each musician is included in the group, preparing for All-State is quite an individual feat.

Junior Kaitlin Beck says, "You have your teachers and peers that are helping you out and learning it along side you, but it's definitely by yourself. Your performance and other aspects, such as tone quality affect it all."

The nerves felt before the curtain opens is clear. But the emotions people feel when finding out who has been selected is something else.

Beck recalls her feelings from and explains "it was an amazing experience to get to work with so many talented people and also an awesome director, Edith Copley."

She said she enjoyed the experience and hopes "to get to do the same thing next year."

Luckily, for Beck and all others interested, All-State will continue on for long years ahead.



PHOTO BY KATIE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

Several musicians were selected for All-State. Pictured (from left to right): Back row-Junior Je'Ronele McGhee, Sophomore Terrel Brown, Junior Jacob Wilson, Sara Dogham. Front Row-Seniors Emilio Sotola and Lea Farho, Juniors Kaitlin Beck and Elyssia Finch, Sophomore Dreizan Moore and Junior Jazmine Polk.

Public vs. Parochial Schools, Whats the Difference?

BY TABITHA PANAS

Central High School is one of the most diverse schools in Omaha. It has a uniqueness about it that is sensed from the moment you walk in the doors. Students come to Central from various middle schools or other high schools, both private and public. But what is the difference? Do private schools provide better education?

It seems sometimes that there is a silent competition between schools about the overall appearance of the building and other such things. Sophomore Katie Allen attended Holy Cross from preschool through eighth grade and said it was "not as nice" as far as the technology and actual building. She feels that the biggest difference between Central and Holy Cross is the amount of students.

With so many students at Central, some find it easy to fit into a group of friends that they can get along with. Some may find the number of students overwhelming. Does the number of students relate to the amount of drama?

Allen said that there is about the same amount of drama between Central and Holy Cross, but Mackenzie Anderson 10, feels that there is "less drama because there are more people" here at Central.

So it seems like it depends more on who you are associated with, rather than what school you go to. Anderson attended

St. Margaret Mary for her first eight years of grade school and overall liked it better than Central. She enjoyed doing sports after school because "your whole grade did them," she said.

There is one thing that sets many private schools aside and normally proves to be pretty controversial with high school students. Every student probably has had to write about it for an assessment or debate it in speech class, and that topic is the one school uniforms.

Shane Weiland, Central Junior, attended Our Lady of Lourdes from kindergarten through eighth grade. "We had to wear khaki pants and blue collared shirts," he said. Kids in public schools throw fits at the thought of wearing a uniform everyday. Weiland considered other high schools such as Gross but he "wanted something different." "I didn't want to be with the same people," he explained.

Weiland concludes that teachers were stricter at Our Lady of Lourdes but they also worked with the students more. Many students, like Weiland, feel that the teachers at private schools worked with the students more.

"If you weren't doing well, teachers would really pull you aside and help you," said Anderson. So can we rule out the images in our heads of strict nuns with rulers? Brendan Lehey 11, previously attended Davis Academy. "The standards to get

into the school were higher," he said, but he feels that each individual class just depended on the teacher.

Central Junior Julie Zukaitis, who previously attended Brownell Talbot, describes her relationships with teachers here at Central as "less personal." She feels that the number of students here plays a role in that. However, Zukaitis says that she "loves the building." With the tall ceilings, wood floors, and, of course, the courtyard, Central has a unique charm that most students enjoy.

Of course no matter what school you attend, there are always those small things you grow fond of. "You could find random hats everywhere at St. Cecilia's," says Junior David Monson who attended there for over nine thousand years. He explained that St. Cecilia's used to be a bomb shelter and feels that they "are behind on technology."

Behind or ahead, it all just depends on everyone's individual experience. Most students who previously attended private schools seem surprised at the number of students at Central. Does that mean that there are more students per class with fewer teachers, or that Central is just one big happy family?

Either way to most both private and public schools provide educations, but it depends on the student as to what they get out of it.

Central proves to be a tough competitor for IB program

BY SHALEIGH KARNIK

Central High School has always provided a vast curriculum and has offered a wide variety of academic opportunities. Only now Central has applied for a program that could open up a whole new world of possibilities for students.

Central is applying to become an IB World School and is a candidate school for both the International Baccalaureate Middle Years and Diploma Programmes. According to Cathy Andrus, International Baccalaureate/ AP and Dual Enrollment Coordinator, the application is in two parts and could take about two years to be completed. The candidacy does not guarantee that Central will be granted the needed authorization. The final approval will be given by the International Baccalaureate Organization.

The IB Diploma Program is designed to academically challenge students from ages 16-19 and prepare them for university and life beyond. The diploma program takes place over U.S. high school grades 11 and 12 and, if Central is authorized, will be available for the first time to the graduating class of 2014, or this year's freshman. The freshmen of the 2010 to 2011 school year will start IB their junior and will go through their senior year if Central is chosen.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) offers quality education to a worldwide community. There are more than 876,000 IB students at 3,072 schools in 139 countries. This is partly why the program was brought to Central.

Central wanted to become a part of IB because "it is known all over," says Andrus.

Freshman, Hallie Kilroy, is part of the IB program to come and strongly believes in it. "I think that this is really going to give me a leg up on the competition for college," said Kilroy, "when that time comes."

The IB Diploma Program has many requirements that will have to be followed by the students who take part. Each student will have to enroll and pass exams in at least one of each of the core subject areas including: English, a foreign language, mathematics, science, social science,

and creative arts or another elective. For this the students must pass either three Higher Level (HL) exams and three Standard Level (SL) exams or four HL and two SL.

IB students will also have to complete the Extended Essay, Creativity, Action, and Service component, and the Theory of Knowledge course and the requirements that go along with them.

The Theory of Knowledge course is in some ways what the program is all about. In the course the philosophy of learning is taught and is also interwoven into all of the subject areas. The Creativity Action Service component will deal with creating a well rounded student by going over artistic, physical, and voluntary aspects. Finally, the extended essay will provide a thesis like project where the student will work for a longer period of time and conduct in depth research on a topic that they choose. The topics will have to be approved and teachers will be available for help for the entirety of the project.

The International Baccalaureate was founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1968 as a non-profit educational organization. What started out as one program for international students has grown into three different programs for students age three through 19. When IB first started it was mostly for international private schools now over half of the IB World Schools are state schools, one that is authorized one or more of the IB programs.

"Right now it's been very difficult, especially in the sophomore level classes," said Kilroy, "but I'm managing."

Kilroy also believes that if possible next year there should be some type of program to help the incoming freshman with the change to IB.

"They should do some sort of 'big-brother, big-sister' type thing to make it easier," said Kilroy.

Both IB and Central have changed over the years and administrators hope that the IB program will bring Central even more change for the better. "It will bring a rigorous curriculum," said Andrus, "with some flavor from all around the world."

Academic Decathlon, AP World students visit Chicago



BY TABITHA PANAS

PHOTO COURTESY OF SCOTT WILSON

History teachers Victoria Deniston-Reed and Scott Wilson went on an adventure with what they said was, the largest group of students they have ever taken to Chicago last November. The trip was offered to students from their Academic Decathlon and AP World classes and 35 students signed up. They definitely did not expect that large of a turn out and they even had to buy a few extra tickets last minute.

Deniston-Reed and Wilson plan a trip themselves every year based on the theme of Academic Decathlon. The theme this year was the Great Depression. For the most part, the 35 students funded their own trip. However they did have a little help from a grant that paid for bus fares and admissions to certain museums.

The students woke up early to fly out to Chicago at about 7:30 am on Friday the fifth and arrived back at about 10:30 the following Sunday. While in Chicago, the group went on 9 different visits centered on history, art, and architecture. According to Deniston-Reed, Wilson scheduled the trip as tightly as the D-Day landing.

They visited the Chicago Mercantile Exchange (Chicago's stock market, originally founded in 1898 as the Chicago Butter and Egg Board), went on a river architecture cruise, saw the Chicago Institute of Art all on their first day. By the end of Saturday they had visited the Chicago History Museum, the Shedd Aquarium, and took a guided Architecture tour in downtown Chicago.

Their third day seems even more packed than the first two with a visit to the Frank Lloyd Wright studio, a tour of the University of Chicago, and a visit to the Cantigny estate. The Cantigny estate was inherited by Robert McCormick who ran the Chicago Tribune in the 1920's, was on the Chicago City Council, and was in World War II. Today the house in which he lived

and a war museum are on the grounds just outside of Chicago.

With so many things done and so many sights seen, it seems impossible for any of these tourists to come back without a piece of Chicago that they have fallen in love with. Wilson's personal favorite was the Frank Lloyd Wright studio but said "If you ask five different kids, you would get five different responses," he says.

Molly McVay was a senior on the trip and says her favorite part was the Chicago History Museum, which she compares to the Durham here in Omaha. "It's interesting to know the culture of a city and why it developed that way," said McVay. She enjoyed learning about the Great Chicago Fire of 1871, where the whole town of Chicago was burned down and had to be rebuilt, and the Chicago mercantile exchange. McVay felt that the theme of the Great Depression tied in well to their trip through the learning of these events.

Junior Harry Simmons said his favorite part was definitely the Chicago Art institute. He said the museum featured a lot of art from the Great Depression and it "was cool to see in real life." One thing Harry was surprised by was how often they used the subways.

When describing their modes of transportation, both Wilson and Reed ironically responded with something like "planes, trains, and ... automobiles... well, busses anyway," (referring to the 1987 American comedy.) Walking was another mode of transportation they frequently used. Junior Adam Lacroix expected the trip to be fun and educational but didn't expect all of the walking.

Besides getting a bit of tired tourist syndrome, the group seemed to have a great time; another successful trip planned by Deniston Reed and Wilson. Wilson gives hints of next year's trip. He is considering New Orleans or somewhere in the south, "but it's all in the air," he says.

Teacher featured in local paper for religious diversity opinion

BY MEKENZIE KERR

Gary Groff, head of the Social Studies department and World Religions teacher, recently voiced his opinion and views on the changing religions in Omaha.

Groff's article, "Midlands voices: Many resources in Omaha bolster religious diversity" discusses an essay written by Travis Vaughn that talks about the demographic changes happening in many cities across the United States, Omaha being one of them.

Vaughn's article sparked Groff's interest because he himself has seen a tremendous growth in the number of non-Christian religions in Omaha within the past decade. Therefore he was curious as to what Vaughn's own views were on the subject.

His article was published on Oct. 18 in the "Midland's Voices" column.

Groff's article discusses the importance of enriching the young people to overcome a fear of the "other" through

knowledge. As well as having 'more positive social contact and interfaith dialogue with the various religious communities' as they grow and become a 'more vibrant part' of the changing religious climate in our city.

This is not the first time that Groff has had letters to the editor published in the Omaha World Herald before. He has written several before, some that have been published, and some that have not.

Vaughn's article was a special piece of interest for Groff because of his constant involvement with religions around the area and personal involvement within Central and the Omaha community about religion.

Groff is not only actively involved in religion inside the walls of Central High School, he is also very involved in his community as well.

"This topic was of particular interest to me because I am active in the interfaith programs that we have here in Omaha,"

said Groff. "I have served on the Advisory Council of Project Interfaith for the past five years."

Groff tries to attend a wide variety of interfaith events in the metro area, and says he is fortunate enough to surround himself with several friends involved in the Hindi, Muslim, Jewish Baha'I and Sikh communities here.

"It is my belief that we all have a civic duty to be active participants in our community," said Groff.

He feels that no one, students included, should simply sit back and take from our community without giving something back. Especially when everyday students are given opportunities to get involve and educate themselves about the changing religious community.

Groff feels that if his article can encourage others in Omaha to join interfaith programs in Omaha and participate to create a city that respects and appreciates religious diversity, we will all benefit from their participation.

Band performs at Omaha Marching Invitational

BY MCKENZIE KERR

57 bands participated in the Nebraska State Bandmaster's Association this year, one of the many activities Central's own marching band, Eagle, performs in. Eagle participated alongside the other Omaha schools Benson, Burke, North and Northwest.

The contest held on Saturday, Oct. 23 was held in Omaha at Millard South High School, at the Buell Stadium for all Class AA bands and Seacrest Stadium in Lincoln for all Class A- D school bands.

The NBSA was founded in 1962 as a unincorporated educational program. The purpose of this program is to promote improvement for marching bands across the state of Nebraska in a format that is made up of a variety of educational philosophies.

NBSA gives each band the opportunity to determine its own level of competition for this contest. Each band can choose to participate in either a "festival" format that only ratings are given as awards, or to compete for "ratings, scores and placement" spots.

Central's philosophy is that music is a "life-long learning activity" that students choose to participate in "because they want to learn more about music" and "enjoy performing on their instruments." They do not just participate in the music area because they want to receive better scores than other bands around the state.

"We choose to enter in the "festival" format where we receive ratings from judges in six different captions," said Tom Cosby, assistant band director.

The ratings the bands are eligible to receive from the captions are averaged out and arrive at an overall rating. There are five rating options that the bands can be judged from: Superior (I), Excellent (II), Good (III), Fair (IV) and Poor (V).

The Central High School Eagle Marching Band did very well. The Eagle Marching Band received an Excellent (II) rating over all.

"The purpose for performing at this NSBA Marching Contest was to allow the band to share all of their hard work on their 2010 marching band show, "Africa: Ceremony, Song and Ritual," said Mr. Cosby, "with other band students and adults from the Omaha area that do not normally get to see and hear the band."

Central's marching band, Eagle, will continue to take part in about 10 performances over the course of the 2010-2011 school year at Central High School activities and within the Omaha Community.

African American History Club volunteers around community

BY SHALEIGH KARNIK

African American History Club not only gives opportunities for African American students at Central but they help out the community.

Each year the club participates in a food drive and contributes food and clothing to places as the Sienna Francis House, the Salvation Army, and the Open Door Mission. Also, in February, during African American History Month, the club does daily Black History profiles in the morning announcements and Black History trivia during homeroom.

Another purpose of this club is to give recommendations and help regarding scholarships and info on the subject as well. The advisor for the club is Rod Mullen, U.S. History and African American History teacher.

However the club "is not affiliated with the class," said Mullen.

Junior, Janessa Davis, enjoys taking part in the activities the club has to offer.

"I like that we do things throughout that school to make a difference in our society," said Davis.

Sophomore, Mecca Slaughter returned to the club this year because of the fun she had last year.

"It was really fun and enjoyable last year so I decided to come back this year," said Slaughter.

Slaughter says that "on a good day" around 15 people attend the meetings to learn more knowledge about African American History and to receive "good scholarship" opportunities.

According to Mullen, African American History Club has been around for a decade and was originally started because of a question that was asked to Ms. Brizendine and Mullen in 2000.

"students asked me and Ms. Brizendine why there was no clubs structured toward black students interest," said Mullen.

From there African American History Club was formed and still has success giving students great opportunities.

Lastly, the club has discussions of current and past events and guest speakers are invited to "enrich and encourage club members about their experiences" said Mullen.

"If you are interested in African American History or would like to help out the community, African American History Club is for you," says Mullen. The African American History club meets every other Wednesday in room 113 after school at 3 o'clock.

Bowling Club offers unique activity for students

BY SHALEIGH KARNIK

This year Central had reintroduced a club that hasn't been in the school for quite a while. Bowling club is a fun activity that anyone can do and is enjoyable for everyone.

Central has a wide variety of clubs, but not since the 90s has bowling club been a part of the extracurricular activities. Many schools in the Omaha Metro have clubs and teams and now Central has gotten the extra push needed to finally revive an old past time.

Math teacher James Jordan is new at Central this year and is an avid bowler and has bowled for around 23 years. Upon arrival, he noticed that unlike when he went to high school, there wasn't a bowling team and he decided to pursue one.

"We had a team when I was in high school and I was surprised Central didn't have one," said Jordan. "So, I thought I'd start one."

In Omaha there is an Omaha Metro High School Bowling League, but the team won't compete this year. However, Jordan plans to "have a competitive boys and girls team" next year.

Sophomore, Rebecca Burkhardt, says that she enjoys competing and is excited to be in the club.

"I like competing a lot," said Burkhardt.

In the club, students go bowling right after school for about two hours on Thursdays. In its first year, the club already has around 20 people who show up each week.

While bowling, Jordan helps out by sharing some extra tips and showing the students the basics of bowling.

"For example, bowling etiquette, how to use the marks,

and other useful information for beginning bowlers. For more experienced bowlers I try more of a coaching approach," said Jordan.

Usually a game of bowling is around \$3.50 plus shoe rental which can be around \$2. However, members of the bowling club have free shoe rental and \$1 games of bowling and since members usually bowl three games each week the total only comes out to be \$3.

Burkhardt that she is happy that bowling club has been brought to Central.

"I've bowled for along time and I have wanted to bowl for my high school," said Burkhardt.

Although some might not know whether to call bowling club a club or a sport, for now it is just considered a club. Jordan believes that it is really a sport and overall fun activity.

"Most of the time bowling is a leisure activity," said Jordan. "A game and pastime for family and friends to do together. But, when you look at a professional or semi-professional bowler and the amount of work, training and overall hours of bowling they put in then it becomes a sport."

At the end of the year the bowling team will have a pizza party including cosmic bowling and they have also been exchanging the idea of buying T-shirts to commemorate the year and fundraising might take place later on for that.

For more information Jordan is available before school on the fourth floor or in room 329 seventh through ninth hour. Also, he can be contacted at james.jordan@ops.org.



PHOTO BY DARIA SEATON/REGISTER

Senior, Darrien Howard has a casual conversation with friend and fellow senior Dominique White.

Volunteer receives presidential award

BY SHALEIGH KARNIK

Central senior, Darrien Howard, won an award in October of high distinction. She was honored with the Presidential Volunteer Award for the volunteer and community service she took part in two summers ago.

In October, Dr. Bigsby announced over the morning announcements that one of the students had won a special award. Most of the student body heard the announcement in their homeroom class except for the recipient of it.

Howard was not at school the day it was announced because of a surgery she had a few days earlier. "I got had gotten my tonsils out," said Howard. "so I wasn't at school" Despite not being at school to hear it, some of Howard's friends reported back to her about what she had missed.

When Howard found out that she received this honor she said she was "honored and happy."

However, Howard doesn't know who nominated her and had never even heard of the award before she won it.

The senior said that she has volunteered a few times including when she was chosen for a summer volunteering program. Howard was chosen two summers ago to take part in a volunteer program with United Way. That summer she helped out at the Solomon Girls Center in Omaha.

Howard had not only volunteered then but a few other times as well. Howard said she volunteered "a few times but not regularly".

Many choose to volunteer for the feeling they get when they have helped someone by volunteering and by doing community service. That is the same for Darrien.

Howard says that she likes helping people. "It makes me feel good," said Howard.

Students preform at Holland Arts Center

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

On Sunday, November 14 the Acapella choir, directed by Ms. Lyn Borna, preformed at the Holland Arts Center. The curtain opened at approximately 7pm with loads of cheering.

The choir arranged a total of four songs for the audience that night.

Preparing for something like this is no joke. Junior Hannah Emsick says it took them over a month to prepare and "really feels proud and accomplished by what they did and how they sounded."

Many say they were pumped to be performing at the Holland. "It was an honor to sing where so many talented people have preformed prior to us, and I was truly pleased in the

outcome." Says senior Henry Nunn.

The concert lasted a total of three hours and ended with a standing ovation, proving the true talent and high musical aptitude central's Acapella has.

Post concert the Acapella choir join in one another's company and celebrate their professional and successful performance such a prestige performing arts center by eating dinner out at the downtown venue of Spagetti Works.

Acapella students say they finished the night proud, professional, full and tired. But nothing will stop them for what's next to come.



PHOTO COURTESY OF KATIE SCARPELLO/REGISTER
Students preformed at the Holland Arts Center on November 14, 2010.

Latino Leaders' selling Enchiladas

BY SAM PARR

The Latino Leaders hosted an enchilada sale Nov. 13 to Nov. 15 to raise scholarship money for senior Latino Leaders.

The fundraiser brought in \$1,000. From the 1,400 enchiladas sold on Saturday alone, the group had a positive turnout.

According to Alejandra Soto, the club's sponsor, Susan Lara a former leader of the club began the fundraiser at Central eight years ago.

Enchiladas have not always been the food sold for the fundraiser, said Soto.

"They did enchiladas for several years, then we tried tamales for several years, and this year, we moved back to enchiladas," said Soto.

Students Attend FEA Conference

BY EMILY WHITHAM

Over 200 high school students from across the metro area attended the 2010 Future Educators conference at University of Nebraska at Omaha on Thursday. The group gathered at the Milo Bail student center as members of the Future Educators Association, an international organization which supports students who are interested in education-related careers.

FEA members began the morning with an activities fair hosted by various UNO student organizations. The fair offered participants a chance to be acquainted with faculty from the college's counseling center as well as music, speech pathology and science departments.

Students also attended their choice of four workshop-style breakout sessions. Topics included accommodating diversity in the classroom, careers in special education, and Edward Babe Gomez Elementary's dual-language education program.

The event also featured guest speaker Sarah Brown Wessling, who received the 2010 National Teacher of the Year award. Wessling is a 10th - 12th grade English teacher at Johnston High School in Johnston, Iowa. Wessling treated the audience to a short poetry reading and spoke about overcoming the challenges of being a first-year teacher.

Central's chapter of the FEA also plans to attend the organization's international conference in Atlanta Georgia, February 18-20, 2011. More information on the Future Educators Association can be obtained through Central Family and Consumer Sciences teacher Ann Pratt.

PSAT and National Merit Scholarship

BY MEKENZIE KERR

Juniors at Central High school were not only anticipating taking the PSAT on Oct. 16, but also being eligible at a chance for the Nation Merit Scholarship program.

The Nation Merit Scholarship Program, NSMP, is an academic competition for students to be recognized and honored for their hard work. It began in 1955 and has continued awarding and humbling students since then.

To qualify for the NSMP, high school students must take the required PSAT, which doubles as the screening of roughly 1.5 million entrants every year, according to the NMSP website. The test results help determine if the individuals meet requirements to participate in the program.

The process to scale down students that are eligible is a long haul.

About 50,000 of the 1.5 million students with the highest PSAT scores qualify for strictly

recognition in the program. After the following April, the fall test is given and high-scoring students from all of the 50 states are chosen and invited to give names of two colleges they would like to be referred to. In September, these students are notified as either a commended student or semifinalist.

As the process continues, in late September, about 34,000 of the 50,000 get letters of commendation as a form of recognition, though these students are not continued onto the competition for the NMS. These students are then eligible for the special scholarships sponsored by outside sources.

In early September the actual semifinalists, about 16,000, are told they have qualified. The semifinalists are chosen on a state representative basis, and are the top scoring students in each state.

To be considered for a NMS, the

semifinalists must continue onward to the finalist standing by meeting superior academic levels and other various requirements.

Then finally, by February, about 15,000 students are notified that they will be in the final standing.

Although a rough five to six months passes, the reward for winners is good for the long haul.

Winners of the Merit Scholarship are chosen based on abilities, skills and accomplishments - without bias of contenders' gender, race or religious preference.

The winners that receive the NMS get \$2,500 scholarships. All finalists compete for these single payment awards.

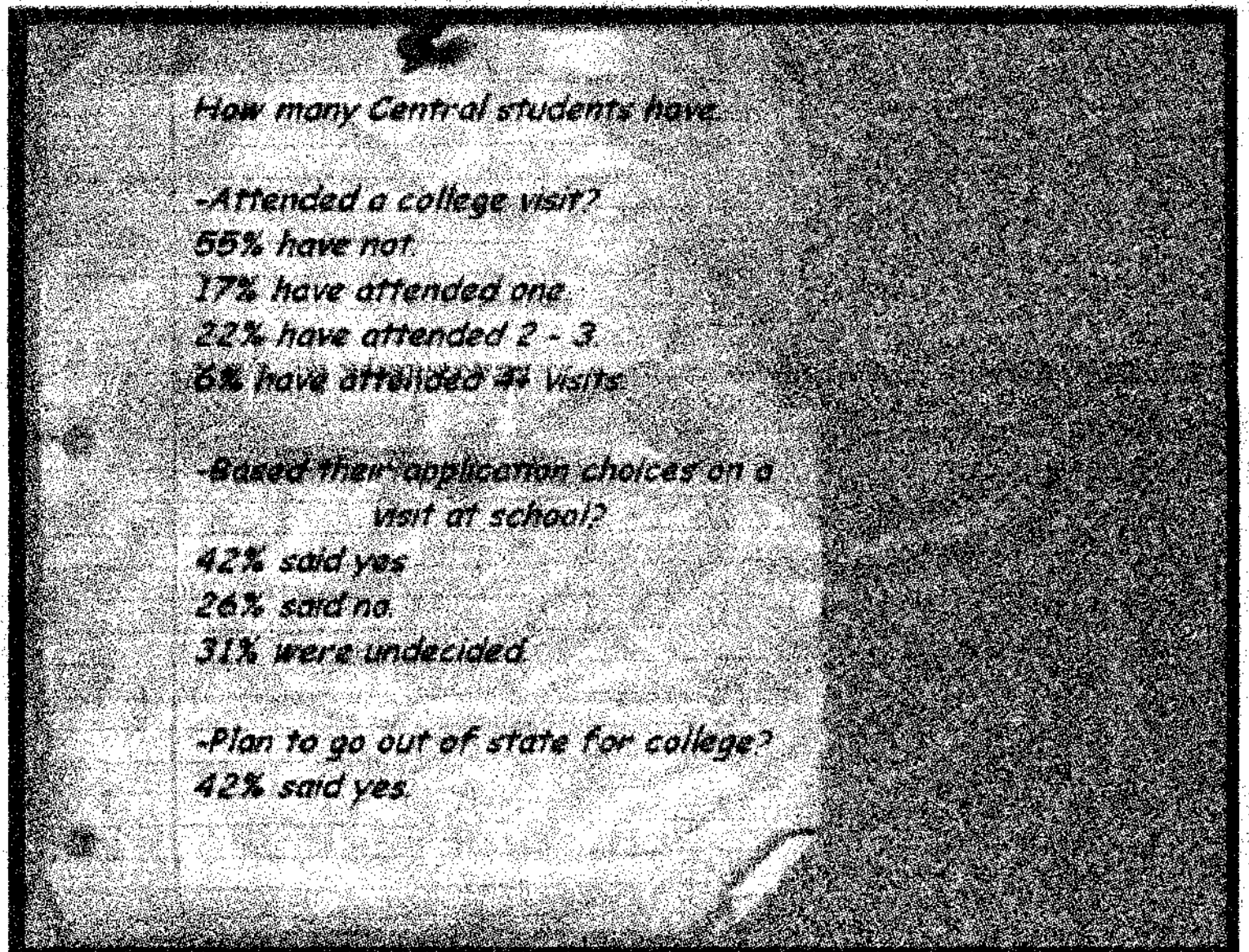
Until the time comes in about February, Central Juniors will continue the lengthy wait for their results.

Students take advantage of college visits

BY EMILY WHITHAM

Every year, nearly 100 colleges visit Central High School.

The goal is to expose students to a variety of colleges and experiences, including opportunities out of the state, according to advanced education counselor Angela Meyer. The Register surveyed 100 Central seniors about visiting colleges, and their plans for after graduation.



GRAPHIC BY EMILY WHITHAM/ REGISTER

Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender Month

BY TABITHA PANAS

Happy GLBT Month! Many people across the country celebrated last October as Gay-Lesbian-Bisexual-Transgender Month.

This new meaning to the month was started 14 years ago by Rodney Wilson, a Missouri high school teacher. Wilson picked October because national coming-out day had already become a well known and celebrated holiday on October 11.

However, GLBT Month is not just celebrated in the US. It is acknowledged in Canada, Scotland, The United Kingdom, and England. The first gay couple to be legally wed married in Denmark in 1989. While America celebrates it in October, European countries celebrate it in February.

In 1994, Wilson collaborated with representatives from the Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network, the Gay and Lesbian Library and Archives in Chicago, and other school teachers with the goal of public recognition and acceptance of all sexual orientations.

The next year in 1995, the National Education Association supported the idea of a Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender Month along with other established history months. Ever since, GLBT support has gained popularity. In 1996, the mayor of Chicago officially established October to celebrate gay pride.

Since the beginning of history, different sexual orientations have been accounted for. Unfortunately, these people have previously not been acknowledged or suppressed. In 1987 the state of Minnesota had laws against gay practices.

However, gay rights are not going away. Although things are not perfect in the GLBT community, they are still better than they have ever been.

Omaha has a GLBT sports league to promote athletics in a fun and safe environment.

The Citizens for Equal Protection group are also trying to better the community here in Omaha.



PHOTO COURTESY OF OUTLOOKINDIA.COM
A Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual Transgender rally is held on the National Mall in Washington D.C. on June 15 as part of a campaign for gay rights. President Obama recently began a referendum to abolish "Don't Ask Don't Tell" a military policy that prohibits gays and lesbians from openly serving in the military.

Aksarben Cinema opens

Aksarben Village now boasts a state of the art movie theatre with all true digital projection
PAGE 9

Need a little beauty advice?

From smooth feet to facial complexion we'll give you the advice you need to get there.
PAGE 11

REGISTRATION

The Register | Friday 12.17.10 | central.register@ops.org

11TH TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER THE OLDEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL FACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

Indie Musicians to watch

BY MEKENZIE KERR

Cloud Cult



PHOTO COURTESY / WESTERN SUN

Cloud Cult, hailing from Minneapolis, Minn., can be loosely categorized as a genre resembling an experimental indie sound.

Craig Minowa is the creator and brains behind the band that originally began in 1995 as a solo studio project. Minowa first released "The Shade Project", his first full length album. From here several small independent labels picked up on his music, encouraging him to perform live.

Minowa worked over the next four years on a brand new studio idea, that eventually grew to become Cloud Cult's first album, "Who Killed Puck?"

Since then, Cloud Cult has expanded the from Minowa with the additions of Arlen Peiffer, Sarah Young, Shawn Neary, Shannong Frid, Sarah Elhardt, Connie Minowa and Scott West.

The performances they put on are unique just like their music.

Cloud Cult has two professional painters, Connie Minowa and Scott West, on stage with them during all their live performances. The two paint pictures that are auctioned off at the end of their shows.

The sound listeners will hear emitting from their headphones when first engulfing themselves in Cloud Cult is not typical to the regular indie or folk sound, nor to any music genre in particular.

Cloud Cult optimizes beautiful vocals with violins, cellos and occasionally drums. The added instruments heightens the already upbeat music.

Cloud Cult's vocals are impressive and sweet, just like the energy put forth into their music.

Cloud Cult presents a new sound that is beyond enchanting.

Miike Snow



PHOTO COURTESY / NEVER ENOUGH NOTES

Miike Snow began as a simple Swedish indie pop band with its roots beginning in 2007.

Miike Snow boasts Christian Karlsson, Pontus Winberg and Andrew Wyatt.

Though Miike Snow originally started out as just a passion for music among friends, with nothing but small ideas and beginnings, their popularity began to grow.

Two tracks, "Animal" and "Plastic Jungle" were played in episodes of Gossip Girl, and others featured on MTV's, Buried Life.

Besides remixing tracks by names like Passion Pit, Peter Dinklage, Vampire Weekend and other numerous bands, they have also made a name for themselves with their own eclectic sound.

Miike Snow's music is an elegant mix of obscure beats that standing alone would just sound like static and white noise.

Many of Miike Snow's songs began with simple beats that grow and evolve into even more complex beats that are then layered and grow into a song.

Most songs like, "Animal", "Burial" and "Song For No One" are quick paced off-beat songs. Though "Silvia" presents a soft and beautiful side of their musical talent, that focuses on piano and vocals as the key.

Lead singer, Andrew Wyatt, possesses a very smooth voice with an outstanding range. The music itself is beautiful but the magic Wyatt's voice adds is a whole different level of music itself.

The mystical, yet completely off beats and awkward make-up of Miike Snow's music equals something untouchable.

Throw Me The Statue



PHOTO COURTESY / AUSTIN TOWN HALLS

Originating from Seattle, Wash., Throw Me The Statue is an indie-pop band slowly making its name.

Scott Reitherman fondly says that the project beginning as the name of a mix tape for a girl.

Several years after this, Reitherman would begin to make music with a new musical alias, then Throw Me The Statue would emerge onto the do-it-yourself label Baskerville Hill.

From 2005-2007 he and a friend started the label as a partner project that put out small amounts of good old homemade mixes. The two also began throwing show-parties for their collective group of strictly Seattle musician friends.

From there Reitherman decided to get together a group of people from Baskerville Hill labeling company to assist him with the live performances. Soon after local press started to pick-up word on Reitherman's performances.

In the Summer of 2007 TMTS released their debut album Moonbeams. Secretly Canadian Records, an Indiana-based company, heard about the music and immediately wanted to add TMTS to their high profile roster of bands.

From there they began a tour throughout North America and Europe, playing around 100 shows across 8 countries in 2009.

TMTS presents an indie-pop sound dripping with quirky beats and obscure vocals. The music is upbeat and ecstatic, while at the same time balancing a smooth sound in songs like, "Written in Heart Signs, Faintly."

The vocals stand-out in certain songs, being the clear point of the music. Other songs present a sound that overrides the vocal talent that the band displays.

Although still small, TMTS is rocketing its way into the indie music scene.

Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin



PHOTO COURTESY / BOISE WEEKLY

Boris Yeltsin was the first president of the Russian Federation. His name is also plastered at the end of indie pop band's name, Someone Still Loves You Boris Yeltsin.

Although SSLYBY comes from no where near Russia, but Springfield, Missouri.

SSLYBY presents four extraordinarily talented musicians Philip Dickey, Will Knauer, John Robert Cartwell and Jonathon James.

SSLYBY began with the three original members lead guitarist Knauer, drummer Dickey, and bassist Hembree, who all met in high school. It was thanks to a mutual friend that they formed their band.

Dickey was shopping with his mother one day, when he randomly came up with the band's name. He also wrote one of the first songs while at the local mall as well.

After self-producing their own album, Broom, they were soon signed to Polyvinyl Record Company.

Polyvinyl Record Company remastered and reissued, Broom, a few months after they had signed them onto their label.

Since joining onto this record label the group has produced three official studio albums, with the most recent album being Let it Sway.

Dickey, lead singer, has a mellifluous voice that is very laid back.

The music has a very pleasing sound that is upbeat in songs like Sink/Let It Sway and Oregon Girl.

Yet in the song House Fire they show their versatility with sound when they town down their typical upbeat-indie music making.

Overall, SSLYBY is an unbelievable indie band with a huge future and bursting talent.

Timothy Seth Avett



PHOTO COURTESY / FACEBOOK

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Cloud Cult presents a new sound that is beyond enchanting.

Best Coast



PHOTO COURTESY / INDIE SHUFFLE

Listening to Best Coast is like taking a trip back a few decades.

Bethany Cosentino, the band's songwriter and front woman, and multi-instrumentalist Bob Bruno formed Best Coast.

The band's original drummers were Jennifer Clavin (of Mika Miko and Cold Cave) then Adam Garcia. Their current drummer, Ali Koehler, often performed as their live drummer.

Before releasing an actual album, Best Coast let out many singles and EPs, like Making You Mine and Black Iris.

After these releases they produced the music video for "When I'm With You", one of their popular singles.

Best Coast's single, "Boyfriend" was dubbed Pitchfork Media's "best new track."

In July 2010 their debut, first full-length album was released, Crazy For You, on the Mexican Summer recording label.

Best Coast, hailing from Los Angeles, California presents a mixed sound of indie, garage, surf pop with a little blast from the past. All the sounds intermingle into the album Crazy For You.

Bruno, Koehler and Cosentino intermingle their talents and produce an extremely trippy yet endearing sort of music.

Most songs by Best Coast are upbeat like "Happy", "Crazy For You", and "Each and Everyday." The sound is a bit hectic and the vocals are occasionally drowned out by the drum and guitar. Even though it's quirky, it works for Best Coast.

The lyrics in all of Best Coast's songs paint the picture of summer romances, love and indecisive broken hearts. Yet they show the true talent of three amazing artists.

Sun Settings perform at Dundee's Sod House along with Dear Tomorrow, The Dads and solo artist Henry Nunn



PHOTO BY KATIE SCARPELLO/REGISTER
 Upper left: Henry Nunn (12) plays his third song of the set. Upper right: The sun setting's Matt Tillwick left, and Lance Carne right (11) play "To Gole" Bottom Left: The Dad's, Vince Franco and Alek Erickson perform their opening song. Hannah Emsick (11) in Dear Tomorrow performs "Winter Boquet"

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

It was a chilly October night as people began to come through the doors of the Dundee Sodhouse located on 50th and Cass. Much chattering is heard outside while the musicians help one another set up for their sets.

First up was an indie music group known as The Dads, which consists of Alek Erickson; bass and vocals, Alexandra Hotchkiss; keyboard, Marx Larson on drums, and Vince Franco; guitar and vocals. The band played a total of six songs, each were upbeat and unique in their own way.

To keep the show rolling Senior Henry Nunn went on as soon as the previous band finished.

Nunn started playing three years ago and began writing lyrics this past summer. His music creations are categorized as hard core techno, with each song having a different melody previous to it.

Nunn has had plenty of practice performing in front of other as he started chorus classes at Central his junior year, and it showed. Every song had the audience drawn to him and his voice.

Nunn says he hasn't done much internet advertisement, but soon he'll be able to be found on the9file.com.

Following Henry was a much newer band.

Dear Tomorrow, an all girl band has three Central students involved. Juniors Hannah Emsick; piano, guitar, and vocals, Sophie Hug; drums and bells and cello and vocals all share their talents with their smooth and more emotional indie songs.

Dear Tomorrow started up later this past summer, but shows only maturity, experience and spirit when they play.

Although this was their first show, the crowd sang along to most of the five songs they played. Currently the group has no advertisements besides word of mouth, but the members say this will soon change.

Last and certainly not least was the headlining band.

The Sun Settings consists of former and current central students. Junior Lance Carne; bass and back-up vocals, and central grads of 2010 Matthew Tillwick; guitar and vocals, Daniel Ellis; drums and Corey McDaniels; lead guitar.

The band came together the summer of 2008 and has been together all seasons in between. "It just started up while we were jamming at our friend Elijah's house," Tillwick says.

The guys of the band made it quite clear that their main goal with their music is to sound "the exact opposite of John

Mayer" and they couldn't have done a better job at it.

The guys put their music in a genre under metal, pop, Spanish flamenco, and classic rock with a little r&b mixed in.

It's quite clear they've been around signing along and dancing to the beat. There is no doubt they're all pleased with the Sun Settings rock atmosphere and catchy lyrics.

The Sun Settings prove they're a step ahead of the game as well. They've got many advertisements including music videos on YouTube and the9file.com. The Burp Lalocks website, an indie rock playlist, is starting a new record company and are putting the Sun Settings on their list of musicians to see.

Post concert the Sodhouse is similar to a scene of a High School house party and the guys discuss the things they've learned throughout their music. "When standing on the peak of creation, you have to jump through the ring of fire in order to melt the hearts of civilians," Tillwick said.

Besides having things learned, others have questions needed to be answered. Junior Lance Carne just wants to know, "Why do the cops always have to be called?"

Classic Christmas movies bring back the joy of the holidays

BY SHALEIGH KARNIK

Every year in December, Christmas songs play through heads and the vision of toys, delicious dinners, ornaments, and Santa float around in thoughts of many. However, to others the excitement of the playing of Classic Christmas movies on television takes over thoughts.

Most think of a couple of very special of movies when they hear Christmas such as "A Charlie Brown Christmas" or "It's a Wonderful Life". Others include "A Christmas Story", "A Christmas Carol", and "How the Grinch Stole Christmas".

The movies that people love for this time of the year all have a very similar meaning or theme. They all show how great family, love, and holiday spirit truly are. They make people remember the good times they have spent with family and friends in their life.

Movies are one thing that many people can love at the same time and can bring back many different memories. That's why so many people are brought together at this time of year to sit snuggled up with a bowl of popcorn and some friends and family.

Also, Christmas movies remind us that miracles can truly happen. In countless plots dreams come true and plenty of children remember the joy of Santa coming on Christmas morning through the chimney to drop of their toys under the tree.

Movies such as "Frosty the snowman" and "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer" not only replay the wonderful animation of the past but also that Christmas is as much for the adults as for the children. Grown-ups watch the movies with their children and reminisce their childhood and traditions from when they were growing up.

Movies that come out in theaters or even on television during the holidays also show that during the holidays it is not about what you get or the price tag on a gift but that the thought is what counts. For example, in "A Christmas Carol" the bahhumbug attitude is thought of negatively.

Christmas is a joyful time of year and is represented in many movies as well.

Many movies such as "The Polar Express" and "Miracle on 34th Street" taught both children and adults to believe in Santa and in the pure Christmas spirit.

Also, the movie "A Nightmare Before Christmas" shows the true joy and happiness of the whole idea of Christmas and the Holidays in general.

Christmas movies bring us together and help us remember the true meaning of Christmas. This time of year is known as "the best time of the year" and movies are definitely a part of that.

The many Christmas movies show us the true blessings of our lives and what each and every one of us should be glad to have with us every year and teaches us that we should not take advantage of the little things.

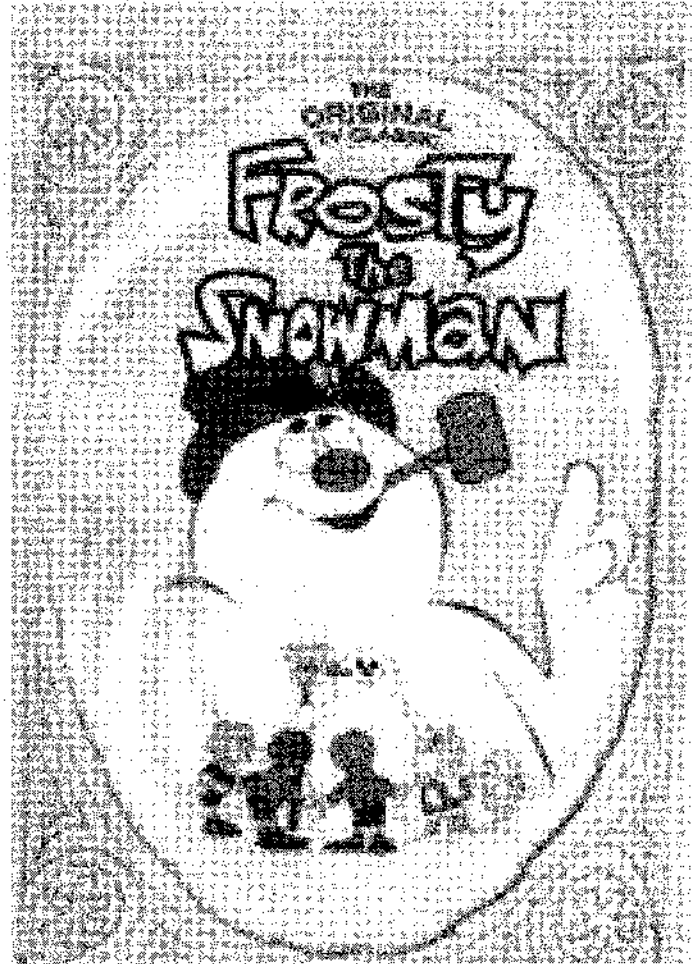


PHOTO COURTESY OF /THEMOVIEIB.ORG

Aksarben Village premiers new theatre



PHOTO BY MATTHEW VONDRASEK/REGISTER

BY MATTHEW VONDRASEK

For many Central students going to the movies is sometimes easier said than done. Most central students living in and around the midtown area quite frequently find themselves taking long drives out to Westroads Mall or up to A. V. Sorenson Parkway to find the nearest movie theatre. Thanks to the recently opened Aksarben Cinema students now have the luxury of attending a movie theatre near midtown.

Aksarben Cinema is perfectly placed in the recently built Aksarben Village Shopping Center at 65th and Central. Within one block of the theatre one can find a Godfather's Pizza, Juice Stop, Jones Brothers Cupcakes, Wholner's Grocery & Deli and various other shops.

Opened Dec. 12th Aksarben Cinema features ten theatres with true digital projection. That means better picture quality,

3D capability in every theatre and not having to wait for an employee to start your movie on the projector. Every theatre is controlled from a neon blue room visible near the entrance to the cinema.

As with most theatres, there always seems to be a line, but as you enter the lobby you'll notice three self service booths in addition to the five with attendants. The cinema also offers a rewards program where you can earn points and spend them on popcorn or other concessions. Joining the program is free and you can earn twenty points just for signing up.

When you walk into the theatre the first thing you'll notice is the leather seats. Yep, that's right, leather and every seat has plenty of space so your not sharing the seat with the person next to you. There's also plenty of foot room, every isle boasts more

than three feet of foot pace. With stadium style seating there's no need to worry about seeing over the person in front of you. When the movie starts you'll notice the screen widening to accompany movies displayed in wide screen.

The Cinema rents out individual theatres for private parties and other business events where the screen can be used to show videos or power point presentations. There are also event rooms that can hold a few dozen people available to rent.

One neat aspect of the theatre is that all the entrances to the various theatres are located in a circular area that surrounds the concession stands and full service bar.

So if your looking to see a movie this weekend and you don't want to drive all the way out to west Omaha, try Aksarben Cinema. Most likely, you'll have a great time.

Anime Nebraskon convention held at Holiday Inn

BY EMILY WHITHAM

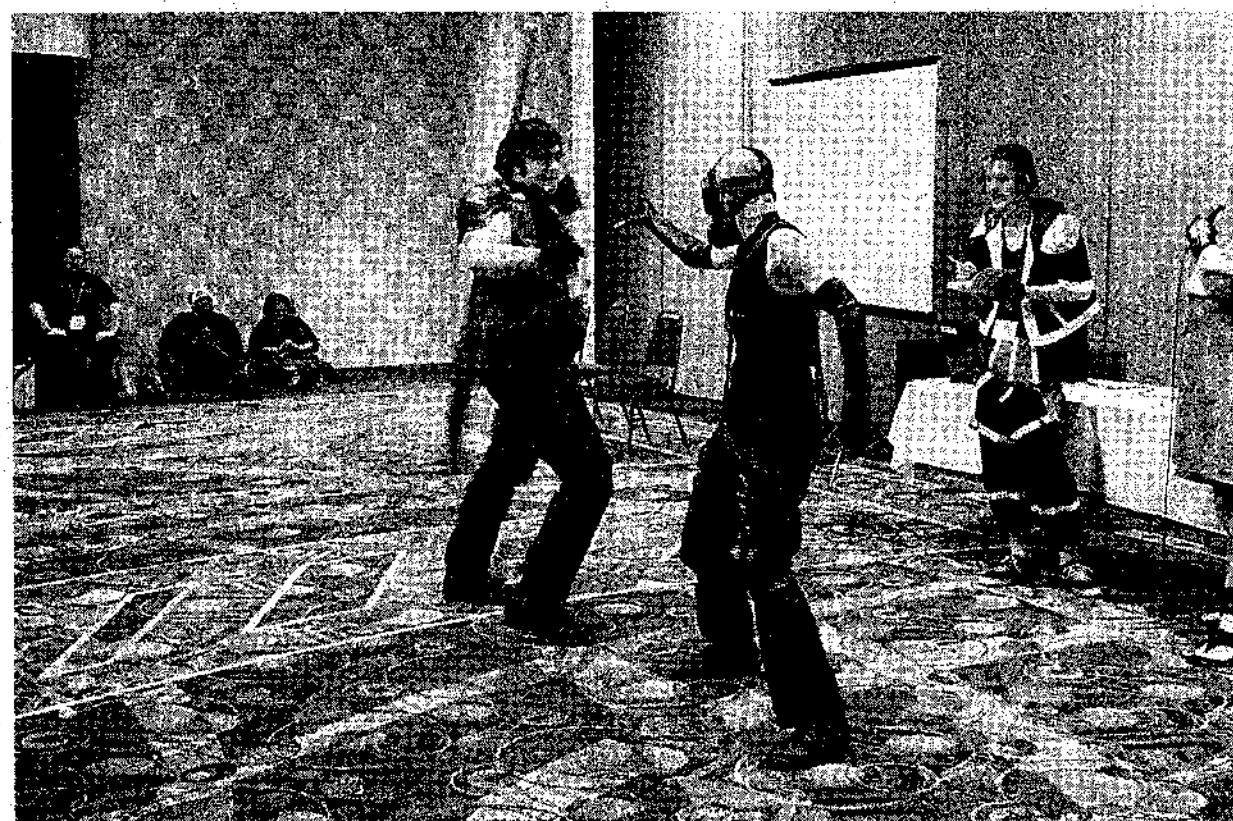


PHOTO BY EMILY WHITHAM/ REGISTER

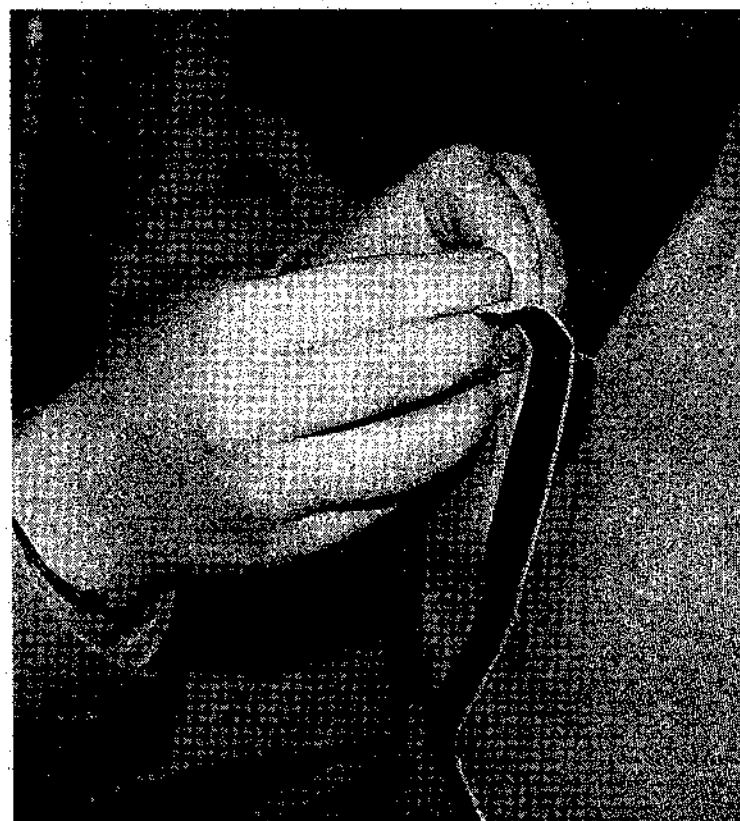


PHOTO BY EMILY WHITHAM/ REGISTER

Imagine throwing a costume party with 1,600 of your closest friends. Then add comic book artists, a few dozen strobe lights, a roomful of merchants who sell everything from ice-cold Japanese sodas and hand knit hats, to action figures with three hundred dollar price tags, and you'll find yourself at Anime Nebraskon.

Anime Nebraskon is an annual Japanese anime and fan-culture convention, held at the Coco-Key Water Resort Hotel in Omaha, Neb. During the first weekend in November, over a thousand Japanese culture fans, or "otaku", gathered at the convention to celebrate their shared interests.

For otaku like Central senior Ambur Hirschman the three-day-long, nonstop event was celebration of a shared passion. "I came here for the anime, obviously, with my boyfriend because we're nerds," said Hirschman. "Because you get to meet new people and talk about what you love --the stories and Japanese culture."

Nebraskon is a virtual Woodstock of graphic novels, animation, video games and live-action role-playing. And don't

forget the costumes: many convention-goers arrived in full cosplay - the act of dressing up as, and occasionally behaving like, one's favorite character.

The event hosted an onstage costume contest, which boasted prizes for the best-dressed characters, as well as a dating auction and "cosplay combat", a role-playing battle game for incognito attendees.

For otaku like Central senior Ambur Hirschman the three-day-long, nonstop event was about connecting over a shared passion. "I came here for the anime, obviously, with my boyfriend because we're nerds," said Hirschman. "Because you get to meet new people and talk about what you love --the stories and Japanese culture."

Nebraskon also featured a large dealer showroom, filled with imported goodies from around the world. Eager shoppers browsed through tomes of manga --Japanese graphic novels-- as well as action figures, clothing and handmade jewelry, postcards and nearly any other imaginable piece of merchandise featuring iconic characters.

Although the shopping area was constantly packed with hustle and bustle of business transactions, the convention was about something bigger than buying quirky import goods or winning prizes onstage.

As Central senior and convention veteran Alyssa Billie will tell you, the event offers the opportunity to connect with others and to express oneself. "Everyone is so supportive --they contribute to the panels, they do the dances, they dress up as anything they want," she said.

In the early hours of the morning, Billie and other convention-goers were still partying otaku-style. A techno remix of the classic Super Mario Brothers theme song blared over speakers in a hotel conference-room-turned-rave. Cosplay-clad dancers twirled together below the strobe lights, confidence gained through a unifying zeal for Japanese culture.

"The point of this whole convention is expressing yourself and sharing a common interest," said Billie, "Coming here is just a way of being yourself by being other people."

Teen wizard awes loyal fan-base

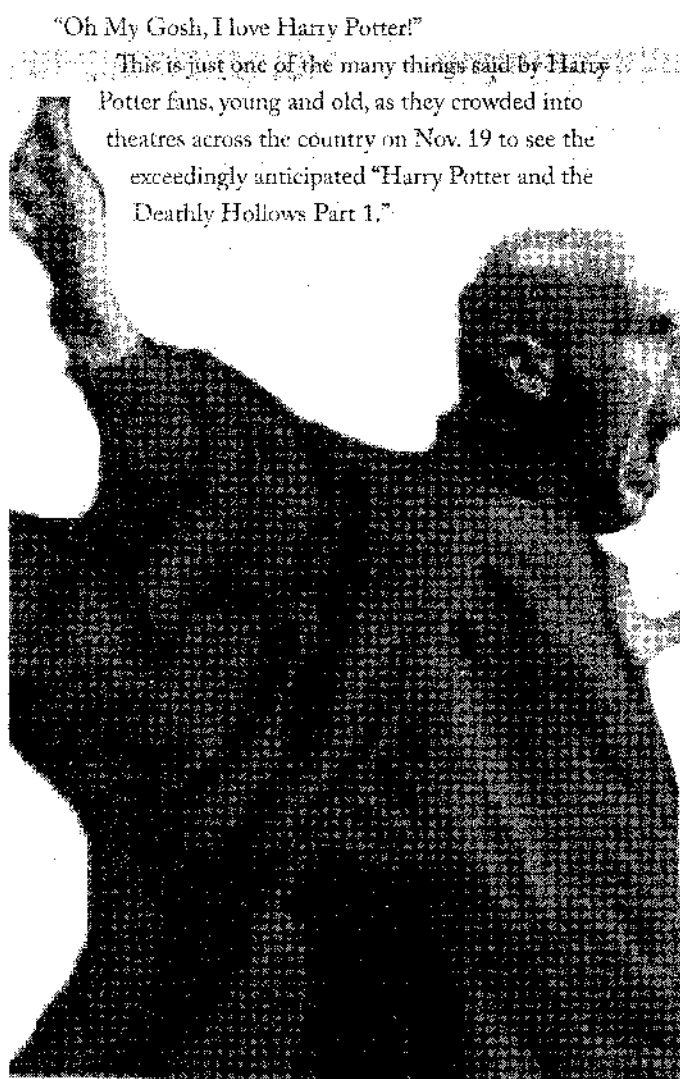
Harry Potter has been in harms way from the time he was born until the time he stepped foot in Hogwarts. Time and time again, he faces the most notorious and dangerous wizard that all fear to speak, but his journey is coming to an end. Will he prosper, or is this the end for the famous, Harry Potter?



PHOTOS COURTESY OF IMBD

Deathly Hollows leaves fans eager for last edition

BY DARIA SEATON



The series has followed the immensely popular Harry Potter fantasy series written by J. K. Rowling, who now resides in Scotland.

Although J. K. Rowling wrote the books and has produced two of the movies in the series, David Yates directed the most recent film while Steve Kloves wrote the screenplay version of the book.

For six years, Harry Potter, played by Daniel Radcliff, 21, Hermione Granger, played by Emma Watson, 20 and Ronald Weasley, played by Rupert Grint, 21, have been facing evil

and putting their lives on the line for the school they love and people they care about.

They are now forced to face the fact that the most evil sorcerer alive is back and more determined than ever to take over the wizarding world and turn everyone evil. It doesn't help that he has already taken over the ministry of magic and in no shape or form is ready to give it up.

So, how many people have been baffled by the previews of a movie, got super excited to see it and were in total dismay about how bad and fake the acting of the movie was? Yeah, I thought so. Well, "Deathly Hollows" isn't "that" movie. They always do a great job of making their emotions of jealousy (Hermione and Ron), wrath (Harry and Voldemort), and lust (have to see the movie to figure out that part) so very real and believable. You would think this isn't just acting to these people.

Maybe a little behind the scenes drama? Or just really good acting? I'll go with acting for the sake of the movie.

Acting wasn't the only thing that stood out in the movie. Now, never once have I questioned if they use a green screen for their special effects or backgrounds. It's nothing like when you're watching a cheesy show on television and someone is driving the car and it's moving from side to side but clearly they're in front of a screen.

It's more like when they are flying and you wonder how high off the ground they are and you wish you were with them right at that moment just to see how they do it.

Of course, brooms can't fly and neither can a motorcycle, but if I were young or gullible then I might actually believe that you could fly on things other than planes and helicopters.

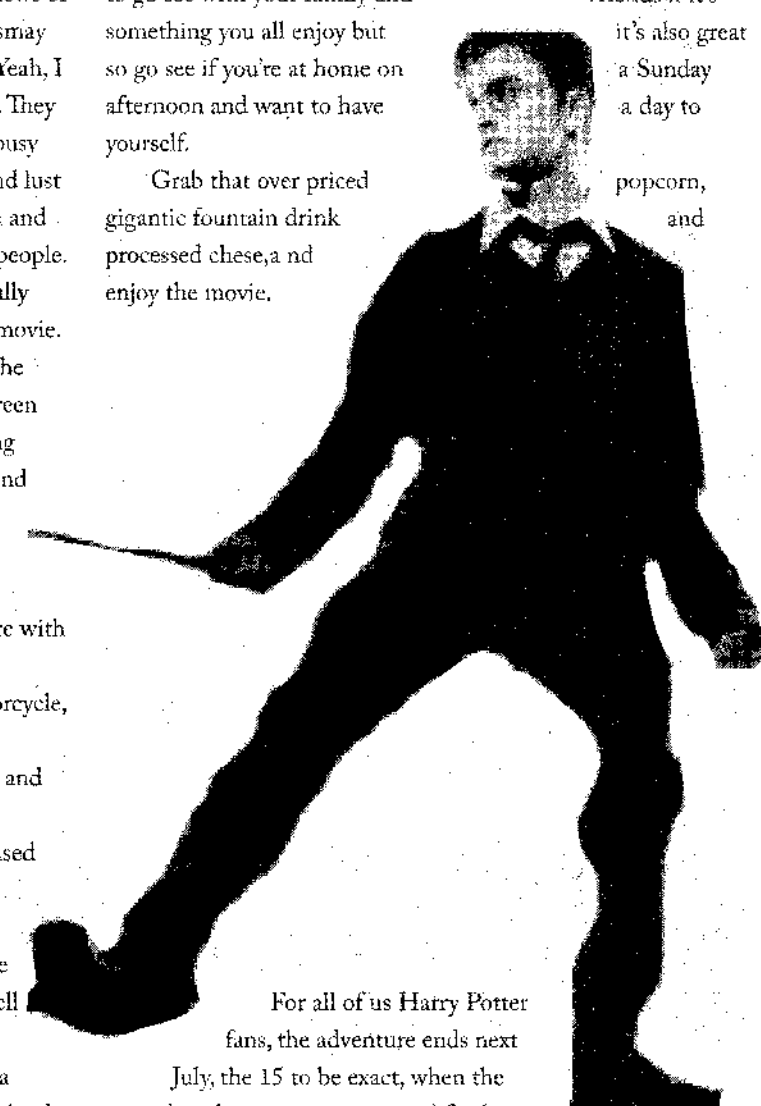
Contrary to the last movie, "Deathly Hollows" surprised me. When "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince" was released, anticipation was high, but disappointment overwhelmed me. I had always loved the movies but quite honestly, that one hadn't snick with me. I couldn't even tell you the plot of the movie off the top of my head.

Of course, when I walked into the theatre there was a little questioning going on. Would this be as boring and bland as the last movie? Or will it be full of adventure and actions like all of the others?

To my content the movie was great and even more than I had expected. It hit all the right notes that I needed. It left me in suspense when wondering how Harry would destroy the horcruxes, on the edge of my seat during the captivation at Voldemort's house, and just a hint of grief when America's favorite house elf died.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hollows" is a great movie to go see with your family and something you all enjoy but so go see if you're at home on a Sunday afternoon and want to have yourself.

Grab that over priced gigantic fountain drink processed cheese, and enjoy the movie.



For all of us Harry Potter fans, the adventure ends next July, the 15 to be exact, when the second to the two part series and final movie is released.

Over the years, both the Harry Potter books and movies have dominated the box offices with their weekend openers and book sales. Just how much money has the wizarding classic made since 2001?



Students embrace winter season with style

BY TABITHA PANAS

It's time to break out those cute little cardigans and grab that hat and gloves as you run out the door because winter is soon around the corner. Central is known for being such a diverse school in so many ways, including their fashion. We've all seen some crazy winter styles, huge coats and obnoxious hats and gloves, but what are Central students going to wear this season?

The fall/winter season "makes me excited to break out my neon pink winter snowsuit," says Junior David Monson. The crossroads mall and "502 Zone" are among some of his favorite places to shop. His favorite things to wear are turtle necks and South Pole jackets, which are just "too hot for summer," he explains.

Many of us look forward to digging out last year's cute winter coat, gloves, and scarves, or just shopping for new ones. Junior Deiphine Roussel loves doing both and can't wait to wear warm boots and tights every day. She enjoys shopping at "Goodwill, because they have good bargains on really cute clothes," she says, "and Urban Outfitters too because they have not good bargains on really cute clothes."

Junior Brendan Leyhy enjoys shopping on the internet but doesn't always like the prices. "I like that I can find anything on the internet,"

he says. There are so many places to get clothes; in the cyber world and right here in Omaha. Junior Katie Sampson gets a lot of her clothes as hand me downs and from underground places. "Target always has good cheap stuff too," she says. Like many students, Katie says she is not going to change her style too much for the fall season.

But what is going to be in this season? CBS news did a fall fashion preview story featuring celebrities, such as Jennifer Lopez and Khloe Kardashian, in fur collared coats and animal prints. Lace is number five on about.com's top 10 most popular fall fashions, which has been seen a lot on girls lately.

Sampson said she feels like "bomber jackets should be big." She also thinks that pastel colored tights will make a comeback this season. Fitted jackets were the number one on the list of top 10 most popular fall fashions so it sounds like Katie knows her fashion. "Hoodies are always a good bet," says Leyhy. Brendan also says he feels like "kids will dye their hair darker for winter."

Most of these seem like pretty good predictions. But if nothing else, wearing comfy warm winter clothes is probably a good overall prediction for what Central students will put on their bodies this season.



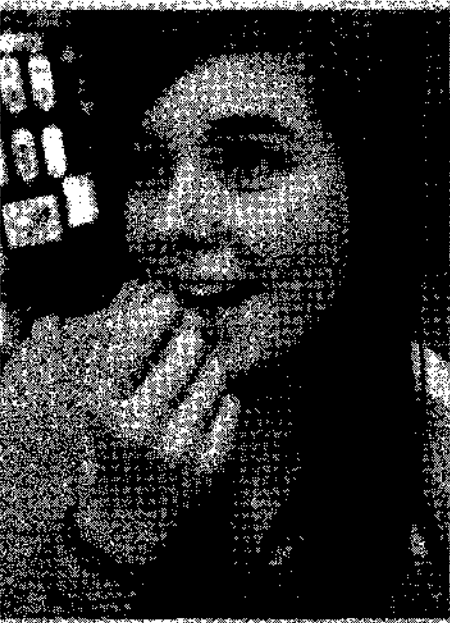
PHOTO BY TABITHA PANAS/REGISTER
Sophomore Noah Kohll sporting his leather jacket.

Quick beautified winter fix-ups

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

It's happened. The leaves have fallen and the temperature continues to decline.

With the change of the weather, usually symptoms arrive. Dry skin, chapped lips, damaged hair, etc. Whether you've got just one or all of the above, help is needed and with the prices of winter necessities being as high as they are, something inexpensive and reliable is perfect. Well, here are some tips for unique ways to maintain your natural beauty and charm:



Peppermint Delight lip balm recipe

Materials Needed:

- 1 oz. Beeswax
- 3 oz. Shea Butter
- 5 oz. Cocoa Butter
- 1 oz. Sweet Almond Butter
- 25 oz. Lanolin
- 25 oz. Glycerin
- 2oz Olive Oil
- Fill a canister (to hold the lip balm)

Steps to Use:

1. Put these in the Pyrex glass measuring cup and melt in the microwave on high in intervals of 30 seconds, stirring between each interval. Once melted entirely but not boiling add 10 drops of peppermint essential oil and 25 tsp of Vitamin E.
2. Stir together.

*Recipe from Seventeen magazine



Face Masks:

For Oily Skin:

1. Take a fresh juice of any fruit (orange, sweet lime, watermelon or papaya) and apply on the face as a mask.
2. Mix a tsp of honey with 1 egg white and apply thickly on face and the neck. Leave for 10 minutes and wash off.
3. Mix 2 tsp of papaya pulp with 10 drops of lemon juice and leave it for 20 minutes and then rinse well.

For Dry Skin:

1. Peel one banana.
2. Place half of it in a bowl. (You can eat the other half.)
3. Mash the banana with a fork. Add four tablespoons of plain yogurt to the banana, and stir the mixture until smooth.
4. Apply to your face and leave on for ten to fifteen, then rinse off with warm water.

*Recipe from About.com



Smooth Skin:

Everyone wants to have smooth skin and Beautiful Feet!

1. Take 1 cup Lemon Juice, Chamomile (for smell), 2 tablespoons (or less) olive oil, 1/4 cup of milk and water.
2. You can make a wash that leaves skin refreshed and fragrant (the amount of water does not matter).
3. If you do not like the Sinnamon smell you can replace it with another spice, perhaps of flower petals such as roses.
4. After you make it you can put it in a tub where you can soak your feet or body.
5. Next dry your feet or rinse them with water and a MILD soap.

After a few weeks of doing this your skin will be silky smooth.



Skin Sauna:

A good deep cleansing treat is to give your face a sauna. This is especially good for congested skin.

1. You need to fill a bowl with near boiling water.
2. Add four drops of each of the essential oils recommended for your skin type.
- NORMAL: Mandarin and Lavender.
- OILY: Lemon and Eucalyptus.
- DRY: Rose and Carnation.
3. Place a towel over your head and hold it over the bowl from a distance of about 30cm for a period of around two minutes. This opens the pores and prepares it for a face mask.

Remember: You should not use a face sauna if you have sensitive skin, are pregnant or suffer from asthma.

PHOTOS BY KATIE SCARPELLO/REGISTER



Sudoku: Test your knowledge

Expand your intellect and problem solving skills with the following.

Central's enrichment math classes donated sudoku for the student body's entertainment.

1	7	4		5			
		2				1	9
				9	3		
9				3	5		4
			6		2		
5	7				8		
	8			7			
		1			7	4	

8	2		6				9	
1			8		3		6	2
3								
	3				9	5	1	
	8	2	4				3	
								6
4	7		9	5				1
	6				1		8	4

Omaha's first semi-pro team

The Nighthawks are leaving their legacy on the city as they acquire a win their first game.

SPORTS

The Register | Friday 12/17/10 | central.register@ops.org

THE REGISTER/BEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER THE OLDEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI NATIONAL FACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

Enter: Winter sports

Wrestling

Swimming

Ranked 5th
in State

Ranked
2nd in
State

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY TABITHA PANAS/REGISTER

Basketball

The basketball season has started and the boys and girls teams have been playing at home and away as they compete with teams from across the metro.

The Varsity boys coached by Eric Behrens has lead a 3-1 record so far this season with wins against Omaha South, Omaha Benson and Bellevue East. The Varsity boys lost by a mere two points against Millard South in the Omaha Public Schools Tournament on Dec. 4th.

The Varsity girls team coached by Tom Lee, has lead a 3-1 season so far with Wins against Omaha South, Benson and Burke with one loss against Bellevue East at Bellevue East.

The girls junior varsity team coached by Jodi Nielsen has 2-0 record with wins against Bellevue East and Lincoln High.

girls soccer

Varsity, Junior Varsity and Indoor soccer have all recently started up for the upcoming season beginning in March.

Varsity coach, Jason Page, hopes the teams will get as much experience as possible, starting with the leagues they have been practicing in and with over the Summer and Fall.

The girls attended camps to sharpen their soccer skills and help them collaborate their skills together.

The girls' varsity soccer team's first match will be against Mercy High School on Saturday, March 19.

boys baseball

The boy's baseball season will be under way in a couple of months. In the mean time they are preparing by an hour of conditioning each day. They have been conditioning every morning and evening after school.

In the morning at 6:00 the sophomore through seniors condition and from 3:00 to 4:00 it is the freshman. Conditioning is on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Coach Neel runs the freshman condition while Coach Russell runs the morning time. Conditioning involves a lot of hard work and motivation.

Some of things involved are running, stairs and squats along with a wide variety of other workouts. The conditioning will continue until the beginning of practice ends.

As the months go on the players continue to prepare for what is to come in the future. Everyone keeps up their hard work as the season gets closer and closer.

Power Lifting

In past years, Central's Power lifting team has been something great to talk about because of the awards they've won. This year will be no different with many more lifters added to the team.

The team began training approximately three weeks ago and continues to train for the upcoming season every day. Although the team already started to train, the season does not officially start until January 29th, with a meet at Souxfalls O'gorman. The meet will be against Souxfalls O'gorman along with around six other schools.

Coach Baker explains how he is extremely excited about the upcoming season and will be, "very surprised if girls do not win state this year due to eight females on the team."

Omaha Royals change name to Storm Chasers

BY CONTRIBUTING STUDENT JOURNALIST SAMUEL BENNETT

The Omaha Royals are now the Omaha Storm Chasers. The announcement was made at the Embassy Suites in La Vista, during a reception on November 15.

The reception included the unveiling of the new team name, the name of their new stadium, which will be called Werner Park, and the unveiling of the new team uniforms and mascots.

"We did a lot of research on naming the team," said team president Alan Stein. "We decided the name would be in one of three areas: transportation, agriculture, philanthropy or weather."

The process of coming with a new name, according to team vice president and general manager Martie Cordaro, started a year and a half ago. The team had a period in September and October in which they took suggestions for a new team name. Fans were allowed to vote on the names they liked until early November.

"There were some bad ones that got a lot of votes that we wouldn't let win," said Stein. "But Storm Chasers was the most popular of the ones that we liked."

There was also some speculation that the name of location would be changed from "Omaha" to "La Vista" or "Sarpy".

"That was long speculation," said Cordaro. "We had actually announced a long time ago that we wouldn't change that."

The Storm Chasers, who have 9 different logos, hired Plan B Branding, a La Mesa, Calif., based company, to create the logos and mascots.

"The first step, when we do work for a team, is research," said Jason Klein, a partner with Plan B Branding. Klein said that he and his business partner always start their research by travelling

to the city in which the team they are doing work for is based and learn about the community.

The logos all incorporate the new team colors, which are blue, black, gold and red.

"The logos all are based on the same thing," said Klein. "But we like to change it a little because different people like different things."

The Storm Chasers have three mascots, including two new ones, plus their main mascot from their days as the Royals, Casey. Klein said that you have to "use your imagination a lot" when coming up with mascots.

The two new mascots are Stormy, a fun-looking character with a weather vane on his cap, and Vortex, a tornado-like inflatable mascot. An image of Vortex is one of the team logos.

Werner Park is the new name of what was formerly known as Sarpy Ballpark. The park, which is located at 126th and Highway 370, is currently under construction. According to reports, the gift shop at the new park will be called "The Storm Shelter."

The team will also be reportedly more family oriented. This showed at the receptions as there were bounce houses, a clown, and the mascots roaming around to entertain children.

"It is said that the Major Leagues are the business of baseball and that the Minors are the business of entertainment," said Klein. "We thought Stormy is a fun thing that would be popular with kids."

Opening day at Werner Park for the Omaha Storm Chasers is April 15, 2011.

Parkour offers gymnastic experience for students

BY EMILY WHITHAM

Central senior Malcolm Domon finds traditional ways of getting around -like walking or driving - a little limiting. To free himself from those limits, Domon became a "traceur", a person who practices the dare-devilish sport known as parkour.

Parkour involves many elements of gymnastics, such as jumps, flips and vaults. The term comes from the French phrase "parcours du combattant", which is a type of obstacle course training used in the military. Appropriately, "parkour" now defines the sport of overcoming obstacles in one's environment.

Parkour is usually practiced outdoors, in urban or rugged surroundings. Domon describes it as "the art of movement", adding that the general idea is "to get from point A to point B as quickly as possible."

It's an art that was born of French physical educator George Hébert's philosophies decades ago, and later honed by stunt man David Belle, whose work can be seen in movies such as "The Hitman" and "Prisoners of the Sun."

But, according to Domon, young American actors draw much of their inspiration from more modern forms of media: television advertisements and Internet sites. "I first saw it in a TV commercial" he said, "then I looked it up on Youtube. It just seemed interesting."

For Domon, the internet was his only teacher in the art of parkour. Online videos were his resource for learning the basic techniques of movement. From these, he built his own style.

Now a traceur of two years, Domon founded the group, Freedom Through Motion, to create a place for fellow parkour to learn and improve their skills together.

Freedom Through Motion meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:30 p.m. in the Central High gymnasium, or occasionally

outside of the school, if weather permits. During the meetings, the group practices parkour warm-ups, conditioning, and vaults.

Although eager to teach others the principles of parkour, Domon also emphasizes the importance of safety. "I like to teach technique so they don't end up getting hurt," he said, "So they can learn to do it, and do it right."

The challenges of staying in shape and keeping good form are essential for a traceur to conquer. Fortunately for Domon, who will enter job training with the United States Army after graduating this spring, the physical strain of parkour is part of its pleasure.

"It's the adrenaline rush. I just like the feeling it gives me - being up in the air like that is amazing," he said, "Not everyone gets to experience that feeling."



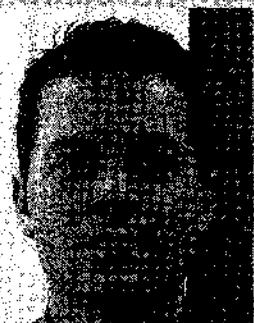
PHOTO BY DARIA SEATON/REGISTER

SPORTS Q & A

As the end of fall season gears up, take a look at coaches' new aspirations and expectations.

Q: What do you hope to accomplish this season?

Q: How will you reach your goals this season?



A: "If the players put the team before themselves and we improve throughout the season we will have a chance to accomplish our goal - a Nebraska state championship."

-Coach Eric Behrens



A: "I hope to have my stress level lowered, but seeing how that is going to be impossible, a winning record will do."

-Coach Holling



A: "We want to show improvement each time we are on the mat."

-Coach Jimmy Foster



A: "The team will reach their goals this year by working hard."

-Coach Peter Pham

2010 Winter Sports Key Players



Sport: Basketball
Name: Calvin McCoy
Grade: Senior
Coach: Eric Behrens
Position: Shooting Guard
Other Key Player: Dominique McKinzie



Sport: Swimming
Name: Sean Froemming
Grade: 10
Coach: Ashley Barna
Stroke: Butterfly & Free style
Other Key Player: Vinesse



Sport: Wrestling
Name: Ronald Wells
Grade: 10
Coach: Jimmie Foster
Other Key Player: Tyrell Galloway

PHOTOS BY DARIA SEATON/REGISTER

SPORTS CALENDAR

December

16 Boys Basketball game vs Prep @ Home

18 Wrestling Ralston invite(Away)

18 Girls Basketball game vs Millard North @ Home

January

7 Girls Basketball @ Bryan

8 Boys Basketball Papio-La Vista/ South @ Home

18 Boys and Girls Swim Meet @ Bellevue east

Omaha hosts UFL championship game

BY DARIA SEATON

Although Omaha is known for having one of the top zoos in the world, the Henry Doorly, and being home to the College World Series, the 2010 UFL Championship recently brought many new tourists to the Midwest.

Back in October, UFL Commissioner Michael Huyghe called Omaha "the perfect franchise" and said "they've earned it," according to Billy Kirk, a UFL news press writer.

Many factors were taken into consideration on deciding who would host the UFL Championship, which was held at Rosenblatt Stadium on Nov. 27.

Some early concerns were the attendance for Nighthawk home games, fan support, and the atmosphere in the home stadium, according to the UFL press on the UFL Web site. However, Omaha sold out their first two games prompting a

closer look by UFL officials.

Any of the six teams could have been chosen and all were considered, but in the end Omaha was the last team standing, bringing many new tourists to the Midwest.

The championship game was special to many Omaha natives as it was the last game played at the historic Rosenblatt before it was torn down.

UFL, a semi-professional football league, has been around for two years. Las Vegas Locomotives have taken the championship both years. This was the first year Omaha had a team in the league.

With the championship being in Omaha, it was expected to bring in around \$5 million for the Omaha region. Since then, locals can be seen wearing sweatshirts and T-shirts with the Nighthawk logo written across it.

Athletes recognized and honored at annual fall sports banquet

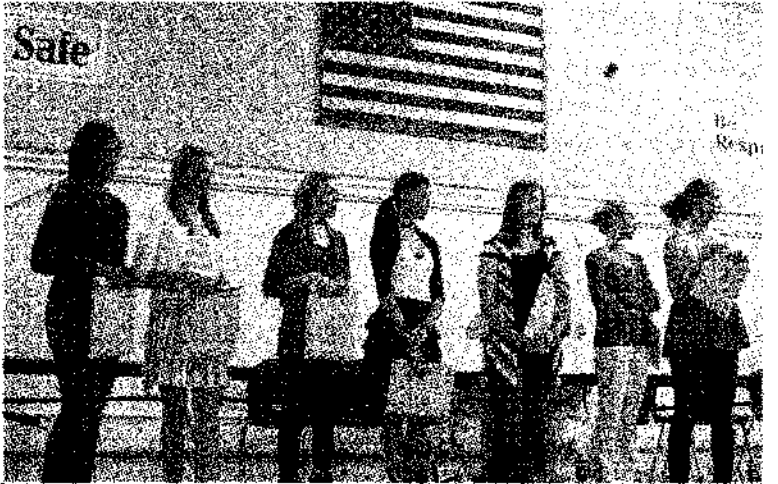


PHOTO BY TABITHA PANAS/REGISTER

BY TABITHA PANAS

It's a celebration of their success, a recognition of their accomplishments, and a thank you for all of their efforts. Many coaches and players were recognized at the Fall Sports Banquet at 6:00 on Nov. 9 in the Central Cafeteria. Members from the volleyball squad, boys and girls cross country, softball, and boys tennis attended to say their final goodbye to the season.

This banquet was very meaningful to some athletes, including senior Isaac Thomas. "It is the last four years of my life culminating all into this one moment," he said. Thomas was on varsity tennis and says that this final commemorating event was "sad, but we look back fondly on our experience, the lifelong friends we made, and the great opponents we beat."

Many athletes would describe the ending of a season as bitter sweet. With leaving your teammates and moving on being the bitter, the awards and celebration of success are the sweet. Tuesday's banquet was a focus on the sweet. Mr. Williams, Central High athletic director felt that overall "the teams played hard and got better." He sent out a special thanks to Mr. Nielson and Mr. Smith for

devoting their time and helping the games run smoothly.

Senior Enrique Perdomo was happy to be at the banquet. "It sums up all the sweat and hard work put into a season," he said. He was awarded a letter and admitted into Central High's Letterman club, along with several other boys from cross country. "It is just a tangible object to symbolize all the hard work and time put into the season," he says about his letter.

Girls Golfer, Katie Brock 11, said that this banquet was not a sad time for her. "It gets a good light on smaller sports," she said. She said that girls golf had a difficult season but they still maintained the title of top OPS school.

Others like Senior Brittany Prescott, had mixed feelings. "It's really sad because now it's truly over," she said. Prescott has played volleyball at Central since her freshman year and plans to play for Graceland University next year. However, she feels that Central volleyball, with four strong freshmen, will be successful in the next couple of

Brittany Prescott signs to Graceland University

BY TABITHA PANAS

Brittany Prescott "could very well be our best setter ever," says Varsity Volleyball Coach Jodi Brown. Prescott had been signed to Graceland University earlier this year with a volleyball scholarship. While at Central, she broke countless records including assists per game, assists per season, and career assists.

It is natural for athletes to feel excited and nervous at this point like Prescott does at this point. "It's a big step," she says. Prescott is going to major in athletic training while at Graceland as well.

With being a student athlete comes a lot of responsibilities. Prescott will train all year round not only for volleyball season, but for her major too. However, she feels confident that it will all go well. She views volleyball as "a release from academics," rather than another responsibility. And as the saying goes- if you do what you love, you will never work a day in your life.

Prescott has always been a hard worker on the volleyball court. She was a leader in practice and in games. Coach Brown said she always gave

110 percent, "whether it was a drill in practice, or a game point in a match." These qualities are essential for the college athlete.

Her skills combined with her great leadership qualities will most likely lead Prescott to contribute and play right away at Graceland. "I absolutely always know she had the ability (to compete at the university level)" Coach Brown said, "from day one freshman year." Quite a few other colleges contacted Prescott but she said that they just didn't seem like the right fit.

In the spring Prescott will start her work out program with Graceland and start club volleyball with Nebraska Impact. She also plans to participate in intramural volleyball during her off season at Graceland.

Prescott feels that her coaches Bryan Clauson, Jodi Brown, and her club coaches have all helped her a lot in preparing to play volleyball at the college level.

When asked who helped her the most, her first response was her mother. "She has always encouraged me to do my best," says Prescott.

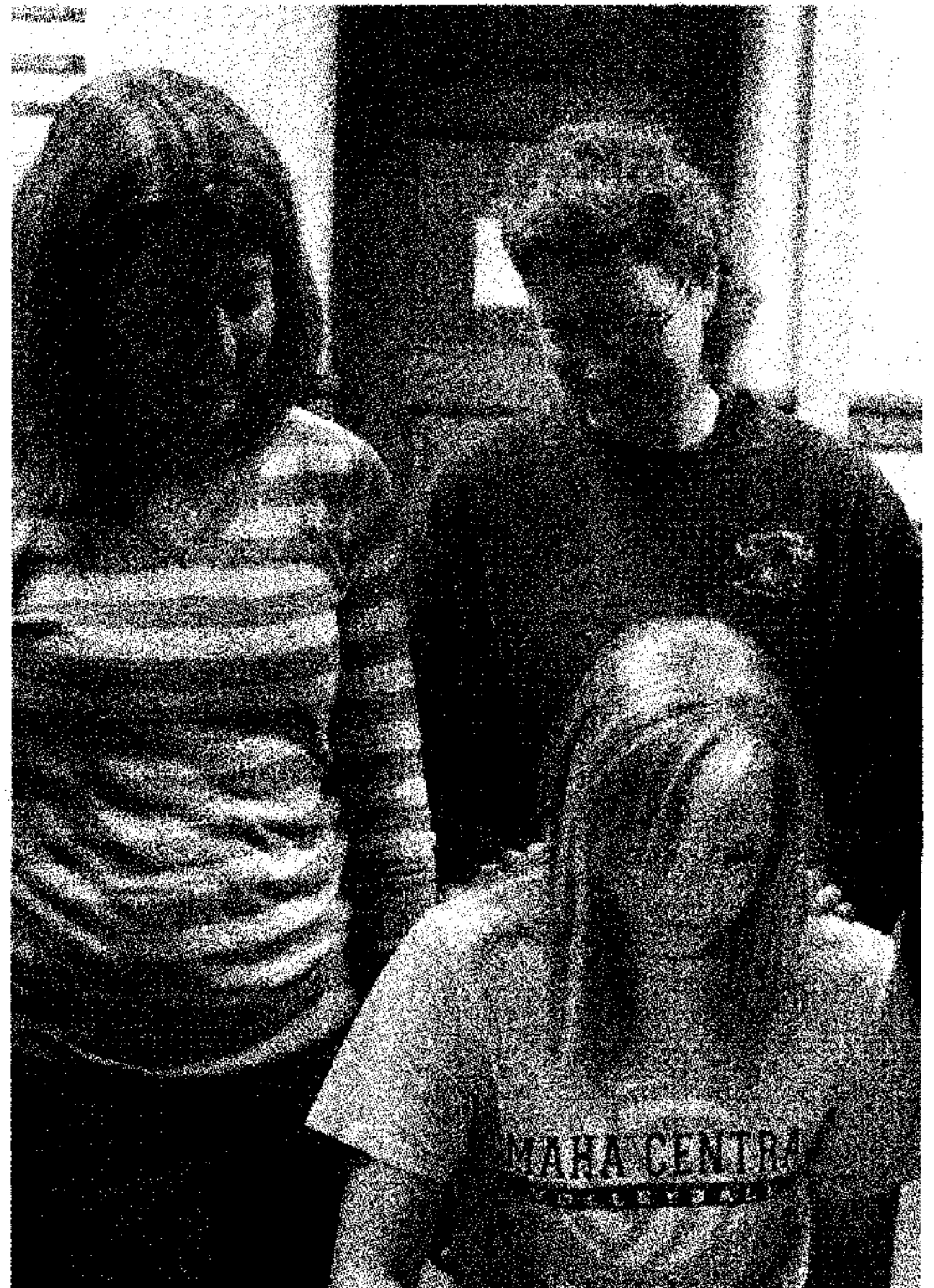


PHOTO BY DARIA SEATON/REGISTER

O-Book Update

Letters will go out students will be notified regarding senior pictures that do not follow guidelines

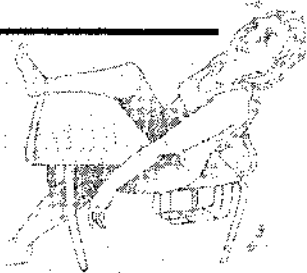
Yearbooks will cost \$50 after the December 17th deadline

Order online at JostensYearbook.com.

Why are student desks so uncomfortable?

It seems like the newer desks get the more uncomfortable they become.

PAGE 19



That's alot of pink.

Columnist discusses the use of pink for breast cancer awareness month and debates the use of other colors.

PAGE 16



"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or of the right of the people to peaceably assemble; and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

First Amendment of the United States, ratified Dec. 15, 1791

OPINION

11 TIME NSPA/JEA BEST-OF-SHOW WINNER

THE OLDEST HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI

NATIONAL PACEMAKER AWARD WINNER

Preparing for the future is not easy

BY DARIA SEATON

For 12 years we've toiled maintaining good grades, building up skills for the future, and being a regular kid without failing.

Yes, I am talking to my fellow 2011 graduates on this one, and all of you should understand where I'm coming from. We've worked so hard to build the foundation for our futures and now we're ready for fun, but is it really fun, or more work?

Senior year offers so many things to look forward to: football games, basketball games, tailgate parties, senior dance, senior prom and ...college? Yes,

COLUMN
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the columnist

I said it, college. The truth is, even though there are many experiences we have to look forward to during our last year in high school, we have many responsibilities to start the next chapter in our lives, and it is not always easy.

With college essays, frantically running around getting teacher recommendations, doing your best on the ACT, and applying for scholarships, when do you have time to for fun? So many times I see seniors on Facebook saying they have so much homework, on top of everything in life there just isn't enough time in the day to get it all finished. No matter what though we do what we can because there is one common goal, to graduate!

Any current senior, or previous graduate could co-sign the fact that senior year is by far the most stressful, eventful, and emotional year that you go through in your entire life.

No matter what, we all must make the best of our last year in high school, because now, there is no turning back. There's nothing worse than to be looking back one day and say "I wish I would have done that while I was in high school."

Courtyard vs. Cafeteria

BY SHALEIGH KARNIK

Everyday Central students have to choose between eating lunch in the cafeteria or the courtyard.

However, I don't understand the big deal between choosing one or the other. In both the courtyard and the cafeteria students enter, get their lunch, and converse with friends.

Throughout all time people have had to make hard choices but where to eat does not seem like it would be that hard to decide. In both places students are given the opportunity to give off some steam and take a break from the stresses of everyday schooling. Students can study, eat, and just overall relax.

One downfall to the cafeteria however that is very evident is the fact that the school store is in the courtyard. If anyone were to need to buy school supplies or anything else during the school day they would be out of luck.

There is one downfall to the courtyard though as well. Some have said that the food in the cafeteria is prepared right there, which makes it fresh and to some better than in the courtyard.

Also, students have brought to my attention that the courtyard has more appeal than the cafeteria.

The high ceilings

school lunch cooking or sitting around are what one will find every day.

Although some use lunch as a time to eat and talk to their peers it is also a great time to catch up on some reading, homework, or studying and both places are a great setting for it.

One major similarity is the purple chairs and the amount of tables in rows. However the major difference that I can see between the two is the shape of the tables.

No matter what, students will always have their own preference. There is never any lack of students in either one so it is not as if more prefer one place or the other.

In both the cafeteria and the courtyard,

places and mix it up and meet new people in different situations but going into a different lunchroom is the best opportunity. Students' peers are sitting just waiting to be able to learn either your name and or anything about you.

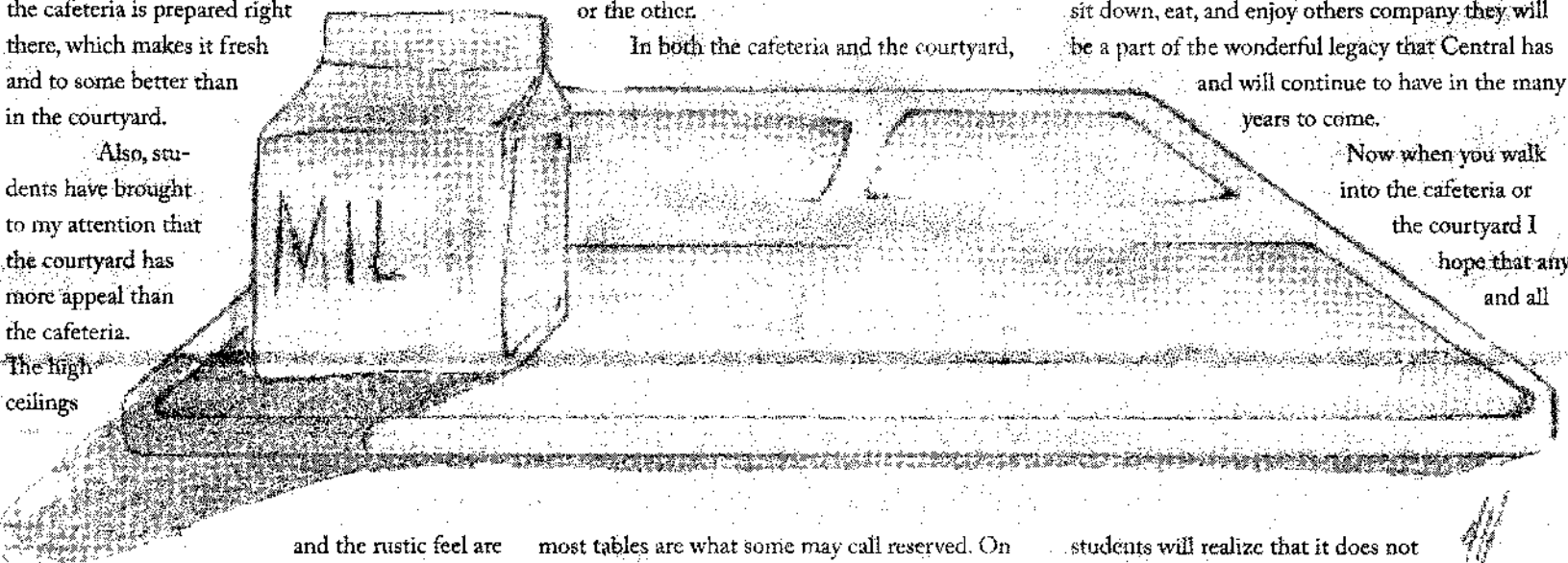
Central students are very different than other high school students in the area. Mostly because we have multiple places to choose from to eat.

Central is very unique throughout the many parts of the structure of the school and the courtyard and cafeteria definitely have a story behind them.

The courtyard used to not have a roof and was uncovered until the 1980's and the cafeteria used to be a gym in the school. Both places are unique parts of Omaha Central High School's history and will be remembered for a very long time as a trademark of the school.

So no matter where a student chooses to sit down, eat, and enjoy others company they will be a part of the wonderful legacy that Central has and will continue to have in the many years to come.

Now when you walk into the cafeteria or the courtyard I hope that any and all



and the rustic feel are interesting to the eye and are a nice way to spend the one period a day students get free time.

Although the two lunchrooms have differences they also have some similarities. The main similarity is the fact that they are both places to eat and they are also loud and filled with students mingling with each other.

No matter where you choose to sit one will always have to deal with the inevitable. Long lines, rowdy teenagers, and the sweet smell of the

most tables are what some may call reserved. On the first day of school most students return to the place they enjoy the most and "claim" their territory at a certain table with certain people. Each day students stay where they have been and don't trade or switch very often.

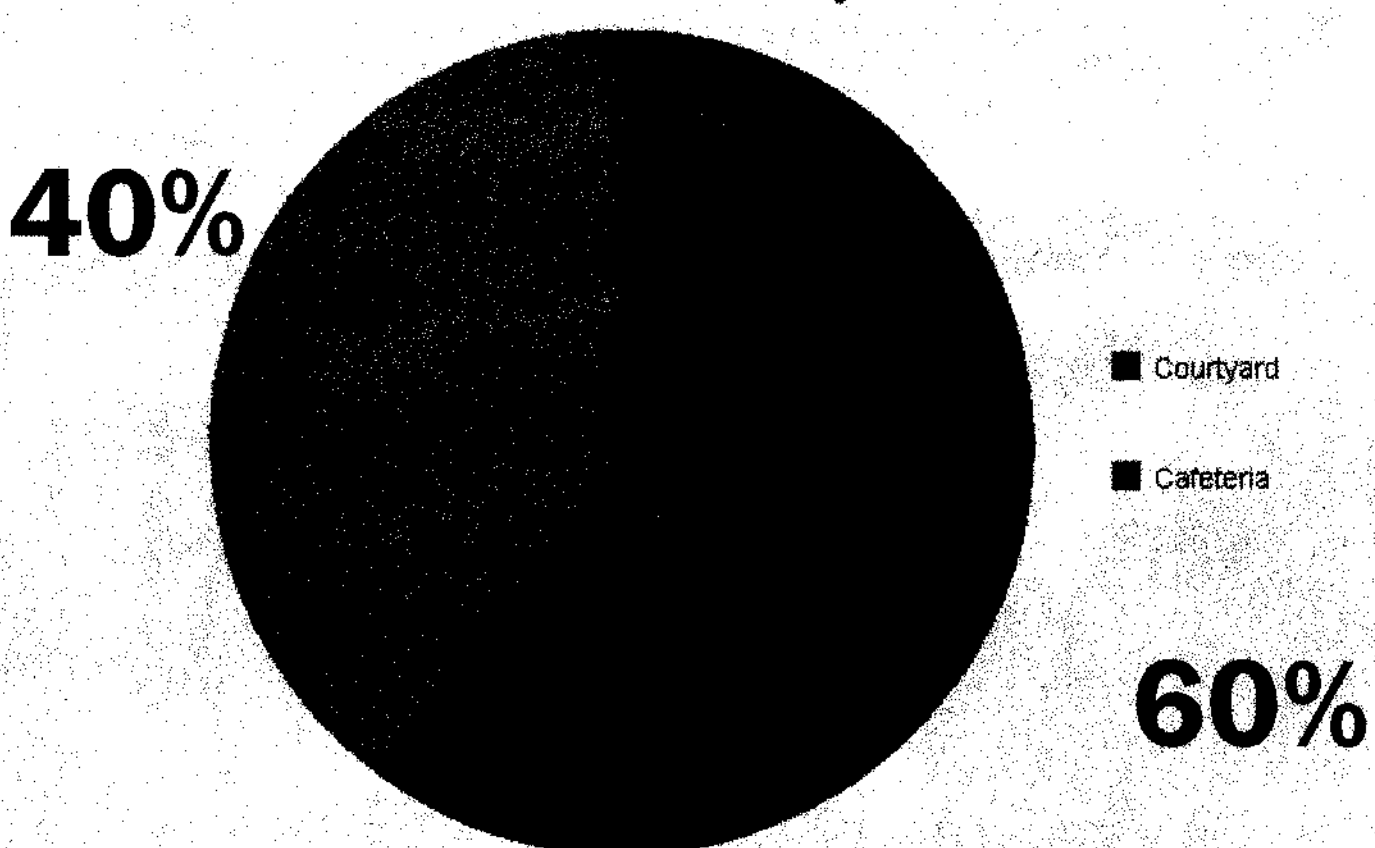
Almost all the time no one switches between the courtyard and the cafeteria as well. It might sometimes be thought of as unmarked territory. However, no one should be afraid to switch it up every now and then.

People don't usually like to enter new

students will realize that it does not matter what the lunchroom looks like or how exactly the food tastes but what happens in the room and the good times students have.

I now hope that people will just enjoy the free period each and every student gets and that students will look differently at Central and be happy that they do get a choice between lunchrooms that both have a unique look and history and that they will be a part of a Central tradition.

Percent Students Choosing Lunchroom



10-11 Register

The Omaha Central High School Register seeks to inform its readers accurately as to items of interest and importance.

The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all its proceedings.

The Register is a member of the National Scholastic Press Association (NSPA), the Nebraska High School Press Association (NHSPA), the Journalism Education Association (JEA), Quill and Scroll and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA).

The Register is a 10-time Best-in-Show

winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in Philadelphia, San Francisco, Boston, Phoenix, Dallas, Washington, D.C., Seattle and Chicago.

The Register staff was also responsible for the publication of the EDGE feature magazine, which also won a first place Best-in-Show award for specialty publications.

The Register has won multiple NSPA Pacemakers.

The Pacemaker is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism.

It has also won many Cornhusker awards

from NHSPA.

It has been awarded Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA for its overall work.

Unsigned editorials are the opinion of the Register staff and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central High School or its faculty.

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If there is no one available, please leave a message. A staff member will call you back as soon as possible.

Most do not appreciate amenities provided by Omaha

BY TABITHA PANAS

You don't know what you got till it's gone. This applies to so many things, including the adorable little city in which we dwell, Omaha Nebraska.

Many people do not appreciate this city. I hear students at Central all the time talking about how they can't wait to get out of this town.

Many complain that it is too small and boring. But where do they want to go? Lincoln? Des Moines? If you are going to pack up and move out of Omaha you better make sure your car has a full tank of gas because you are not going to reach any bigger better civilizations until you hit either Denver Colorado to the East or Chicago Illinois in the West, and in my opinion, they still don't have anything on Omaha.

According to the 2009 United States Census Bureau, Omaha has a population of 454,731, which is almost half a million. Now, Omaha is no New York City, but it is still bigger than Miami, St. Louis, and New Orleans. I feel

like that is a comfy size.

Even still, I'm sure if you walk up to any random stranger across the US and started talking about Miami, they would think Florida, however I'm not so sure all of them would make the same link between Omaha and Nebraska. I feel that this is because Omaha is surrounded by more sparsely populated areas. So if you are going to hate, hate on Omaha's surrounding Midwest, **COLUMN** not Omaha!

And **COLUMN** believe it or not **The OPINION of the columnist** tourism plays a big role in Omaha's economy. If this city was so boring, then why did the United States Council of Mayors list it as 70 out of the top 100 cities in the US for tourism in 2002?

For those who don't know what to do with themselves in Omaha, I have a long list suggestions. This list includes going to the Qwest Center or the Orpheum theatre down town. Popular comedian Daniel Tosh from Comedy Central's "Tosh.0" visited the

Orpheum Theater recently on Nov. 15.

Watching the College World Series or visiting the Henry Dorly Zoo are other great activities original to Omaha. You could eat the finest stake at a five star restaurant or grab a burger at any local burger joint. Yahoo!Travel says "You'll find more restaurants per capita in Omaha than in any other U.S. city."

And don't forget about the music scene either. Omaha attracts many popular artists while featuring many local musicians as well. The Qwest Center holds many concerts along with the Holland Center, and the Orpheum theatre.

The Slowdown, the Waiting Room, and Sokol Auditorium feature many punk and indie rock bands. Local Musician Connor Oberst, best known in his band bright eyes, founded Sattle Creek Records.

Omaha is filled with opportunities. There really is so much to do and so much to see in Omaha. So if you find yourself bored with it, just walk outside!

Lunches are too small

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

It's 12:30 and you can feel your stomach begin to gnaw its way through your muscles. You can hear it yelling, "Feed me... feed me."

You're literally dying for something to eat.

Luckily you're on your way to the Courtyard for lunch. But wait, you look down at the tray of \$1.65 worth of food, pondering what's missing. Oh yeah, that's the lunch part of the tray.

Everyone knows school lunches aren't the best things we're given in school, but as years pass, our health well-being grows worse.

I remember in elementary school the lunches being so well proportioned. Given, I, and my stomach were smaller back then, but my tray at least always had an entrée, potato, vegetable and fruit. Middle school days were continuously the same; when at times we were even awarded cake. As high school came around the corner, I got excited to have the different options my sister once spoke about. Well, my sister was wrong. For the three years I've been here at Central, I think I've been full from a school lunch once. Call me crazy but, is a cheese stick really supposed to not only fill us up, but also build our strength for the day? I'd think not.

According to Jamie Oliver of Jamie Oliver's food revolution, schools are supposed to have two servings of bread, one serving of fruit and vegetables and two servings of protein. I'd like to know where all of this is everyday at lunch. Chicken nuggets; protein? That's questionable considering it's a carcass of a chicken and not actually the meat. Pizza; now here is some bread, dairy and protein. But, what is one slice of pizza going to do for a growing teenager? Nothing.

Few students have said they're a supporter of the school lunch sizes, but some believe that since we have the option of getting hot cheddar, cookies or a cinnamon-roll during lunch hours that makes

Pink for breast cancer good, what about other cancers?

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

October is a month of many things.

The leaves change, the spookiest day of the year nears, and you begin to notice lots of...pink.

For those who didn't know, clothing, accessories and advertisements are covered in this usually peppy color because October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

While seeing all these advertisements and fundraisers for breast cancer, it really got me thinking. Why do I only hear about this certain type of cancer?

When I say this I don't mean during October because, obviously Breast Cancer has what some might say, "dibs" on that month, but what about the other 11 months out of the year, and what about all the other types of cancer?

It seems as if society has begun to completely ignore all the other very serious types of cancer out there.

Colorectal Cancer, for example, has recently caught my re-searching eye ever since my dad was diagnosed.

Since then, I've noticed many little things about cancer. I've researched not only Colorectal, but lung, brain, liver, etc. and I've found there are so many cancers that are not advertised as much as they should.

So why is there no 'Colorectal Cancer Awareness Month'? Most people I've ever spoken to about the matter haven't had a

clue to what it was.

I'm sure most people would think Breast Cancer is highly advertised because it's the most dangerous or most common.

This is completely untrue. Yes, Breast Cancer is deadly. But so are all the others. According to the National Cancer Society, Breast Cancer is quite common, but is also one of the easier diseases to get rid of and can be quickly treated by having a mastectomy.

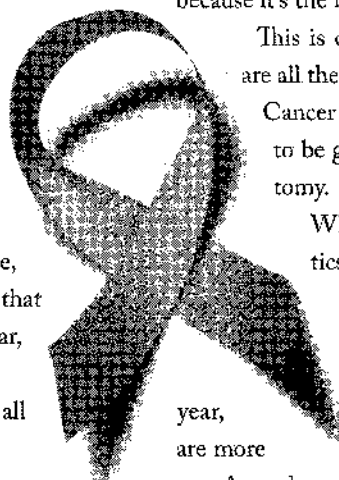
When comparing Colorectal and Breast Cancer, the statistics pop out at you.

In the United States, Breast Cancer kills around 5,000 people each year, while Colorectal Cancer brings in a whopping number of around 1,000,000 deaths each year and that's not all. There are many other cancers that life threatening to the body than just the breast.

According to The Beverly Fund, lung cancer is the leading cancer in both men and women in the United States and causes more deaths than colon, breast and prostate cancer combined.

Now think about how much you see someone wearing a white ribbon around school. It's not often is it?

With all the other categories of cancer, each has their own ribbon color just as Breast has pink. So let me just say... let us see more colors.



COLUMN
The OPINION of
the columnist

Bullying gone on far too long, society recognizing its consequences

BY SAM PARR

I have seen the act of bullying many times before. For example, one time a young man was getting made fun of for the clothes he was wearing and how they smelled. Every time, the same thing happens: one kid ends up getting hurt and the other leaves with a smile on his face. Each time I've had to make the choice of either helping or walking away, and most of those times I made the wrong decision of ignoring the fact and thinking too much about myself. In the end, I walked away. After looking at the hard to miss facts, I have completely changed my mind.

If something can't be fixed, don't try. This is one way people might look at things, but in this case, it does need to be taken care of. Bullying, in other words, needs to be put to an end.

Over the last couple years bullying has gotten worse. Sometimes or more often between 15 and 25 percent of kids are bullied, according to the Department of Health and Human Services. This is just one reason something needs to be done to end this ongoing problem.

To me bullying started because the authorities weren't crack-

ing down on an obvious problem in schools. Bullying has been a repeated thing for years now. Every seven minutes someone is a victim of bullying and 85 percent of that time there is no intervention following it according to the U.S Justice Department.

Take a look at the consequences: one out five kids admit to being bullies according to the American Justice Department. For example, ABC News reported on Eric Mohat, 17, of Ohio, who after constant bullying, got tired of it and shot himself. The parents would go on to file a lawsuit against the school. Most of the bullying took place in math class leading parents to also accuse teachers of not protecting their child. This is just one of the brutal incidents resulting from bullying.

In another case, a young teenage girl took her own life because of nonstop bullying from students at a Massachusetts High School. In this case, the young girl was tormented for dating an older football player. According to The Guardian newspaper, the nine bullies that were involved all faced charges that led to jail time.

It's ridiculous to think that there are teenagers being sent to jail for making such a bad decision and losing parts of their lives. The authorities need to find a way to end it, and fast.

Nobody wants to see a young man or woman take his/her life when there is still a lot to live for. Now, will bullying stop? Probably not, but can we try? Heck yes. All we can do now is wait. Wait until somebody takes charge.

In any case bullying is a serious issue throughout all fifty state's schools. It needs to stop. Nobody is safe from bullying no matter who the person is.

It doesn't matter what illness or disability they may have. Everybody is the same in the world and should be treated and respected like anybody else on the planet. This how I have always felt and it will never change. I just hope something will be done soon, to stop this nonstop problem.

After looking at all the times I have turned down helping a victim of bullying, I now regret it. I now not only think about my safety, but others, also.

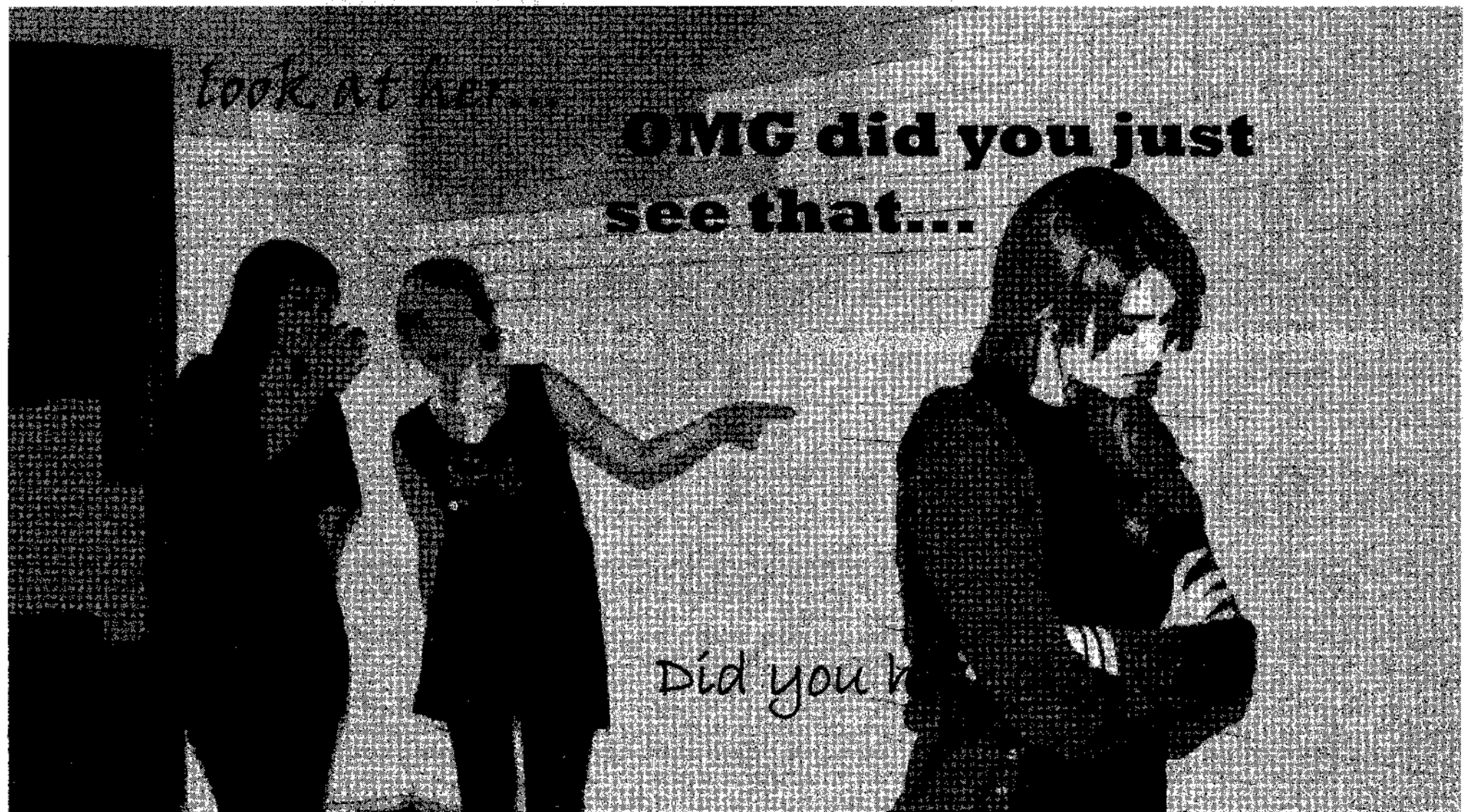


PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MATT VONDRASEK/REGISTER

Students help out by "Going Green"

BY MEKENZIE KERR

It can be seen everywhere from fashion, food, housing and even lifestyle. "Going Green" is a term being used constantly this century.

Due to the rise in the global warming scare and intense climate change theories, the movement has had lots of publicity.

The "going green" movement is also known as environmentalism. Environmentalism is defined as a "political and ethical movement that seeks to improve and protect the quality of the natural environment through changes to environmentally harmful human activities," according to Britannica Online Encyclopedia.

The changes can be made "through the adoption of forms of political, economic, and social organization," states the Web site.

Although the recent rise in the use of the term "going green" has influenced the lifestyles of many, its roots go back to the 1800's.

According to WebEcoist, the green movement has evolved quite substantially to become what it is today.

It all began with Rachel Carson's revolutionizing book, "Silent Spring," along with the legislative fervor of the 1970's. "Silent Spring" discussed the harms of using pesticides on the environment.

Environmentalism has its beginning steps within the intellectual ideas of the 1830's and 1840's.

The official "environmental movement" has been threaded through the fabric of American Philosophy for years.

One of the first acts that popularized environmentalism and the use of conservation was

done by past president Teddy Roosevelt. He began the National Park service in 1916, with hopes to preserve the United State's natural landmarks for centuries to come.

However "going green" doesn't require one to be a tree-hugging activist or a fanatic about organics and recycling, like the stereotypical mind's view may provoke.

"Going green" can be done in many different ways and very simply as well.

One can save money and energy by simply washing their clothes in cold water as opposed to warm or hot. Just by washing clothes in cold water, it saves as much as 85% of the energy used to heat up the water.

Just by buying a water bottle many plastic bottles can be saved. Consider all the water bottles used up a day by people, if a permanent, reusable water bottle is purchased, it saves quite a bit of plastic.

Other, more dramatic ways to "go green" involve diet changes, like eating less meat.

Senior, Haley Burns, is a vegan in order to help the environment.

"Meat creates so much waste," says Burns, "the amount of chemicals and carbns put into the air by the meat and milk being produced is horrible."

Burns also notes that feeding the animals so much grain is a waste of food that could be fed to help world hunger. As well as raising cows puts off a lot of methane that harms our environment.

Sophomore, Ryan Brehm, pitches into the "green movement" by simply recycling.

"I want to keep trees around to because I like to climb," said Brehm.

Whether starting out small or taking preliminary big steps in the process of changing a lifestyle to "go green", every small step impacts the environment.

Students ponder open campus lunches

BY MEKENZIE KERR

High schools seems to be the epitome of making our own decisions and grasping freedom as it finally comes into our hands...except when it comes to lunch.

Eating school lunch itself isn't too appetizing or appealing. Eating in school is a whole different story.

Other schools, such as Lincoln North Star, offer the more interesting option of open campus lunch for Seniors.

Regardless of the grade of the students, open campus lunch is a definite plus for the students.

The option of open campus lunch is a delicious opportunity to choose food of our choice and to eat it where we please.

Eating in school limits students to sitting in either the courtyard or cafeteria, eating greasy school food, and being stuck inside of school for yet another period that is often

looked at as a "free" or "resting" period.

The process of creating a full-proof system for a smooth open campus lunch system does seem like an almost impossible task.

Though students may be extremely fond of the idea, it would also create a huge hassle for teachers and other faculty members.

The first problem of open campus lunch is the rise in skipping students.

If students are openly permitted to leave campus to go and eat wherever they want, they will most likely also feel the ability to manipulate the freedom.

The amount of students that skip out on regular classes and electives already, seems like it is fairly high. Thus running the risk of losing more students seems like on that is

too high.

Teachers would also have a lot more of a strain put on them if lunch was made open campus.

During lunch teachers already are under the pressure of watching students, maintaining some sort of peace, all while solving other problems that may arise in the lunch rooms.

Limiting open campus to upperclassmen only may control the potential problem of skipping students.

Although there are responsible enough underclassmen to handle the opportunity, there would be more mature upperclassmen.

Overall, the idea of having an open campus lunch option is fun to entertain and consider.

Though the risks and stress that it would put on the school staff is too high to put an open campus system in place.

Students seem to be finding homework less valueable

BY SAM PARR

Does homework really matter anymore? And if it does, it sure hasn't been shown.

Now that the new standard based grading system is up and running in the OPS schools district. Everything has been changed such as, how much homework factors into a student's grade.

Homework is now only worth 5 percent of a student's total grade. So is it even worth doing? To most students it seems not.

It seems like the new grading system has changed the importance of homework. Still there are two sides to it.

Although I am one of those people who think homework should be worth more of a student's grade, according to Dr. Ed Bennett, it depends on the teachers.

It seems like the teachers can make homework seem more important. Bennett has three points of advice for that: autonomy, the freedom to make your own decisions; mastery,

to master one thing before moving on and purpose, to keep reinforcing why you are doing something. These are things that teachers can try to do to help.

Central is planning to change how the grading is going to work. They are going to make teachers make a practice, formative, and summative folder. This will hopefully help make things easier. Out of all of those, summative is the most important. Maybe this will help make homework seem more important.

Bennett also stated that he has seen a huge improvement since the new grading system was introduced. When Bennett first came to Central there were 884 students on the honor roll. Now this year with the first year of standard based grading, an astounding 981 were on the first quarter honor roll.

According to Bennett the new grading system is more fair. Bennett listed a great list of

examples of this.

For one, if a student was to get all five's, but one zero with the old grading system you would have a C because of the one zero would be counted against you. Now because of standard based grading, that same student would have an A because the system took the zero in to account and didn't count it.

To me the new grading system has its ups and downs. It can improve and stay the same in many ways.

The grading has a long way to go but it is on it's on its way. It is a work in progress and has improved the grading system in many ways. Although it has also been a problem especially with students not doing homework.

Bennett said "sure if kids don't think it's going to count," regarding students not skipping a night of practice, the new name for homework.

One student, freshman Ryan Goding,

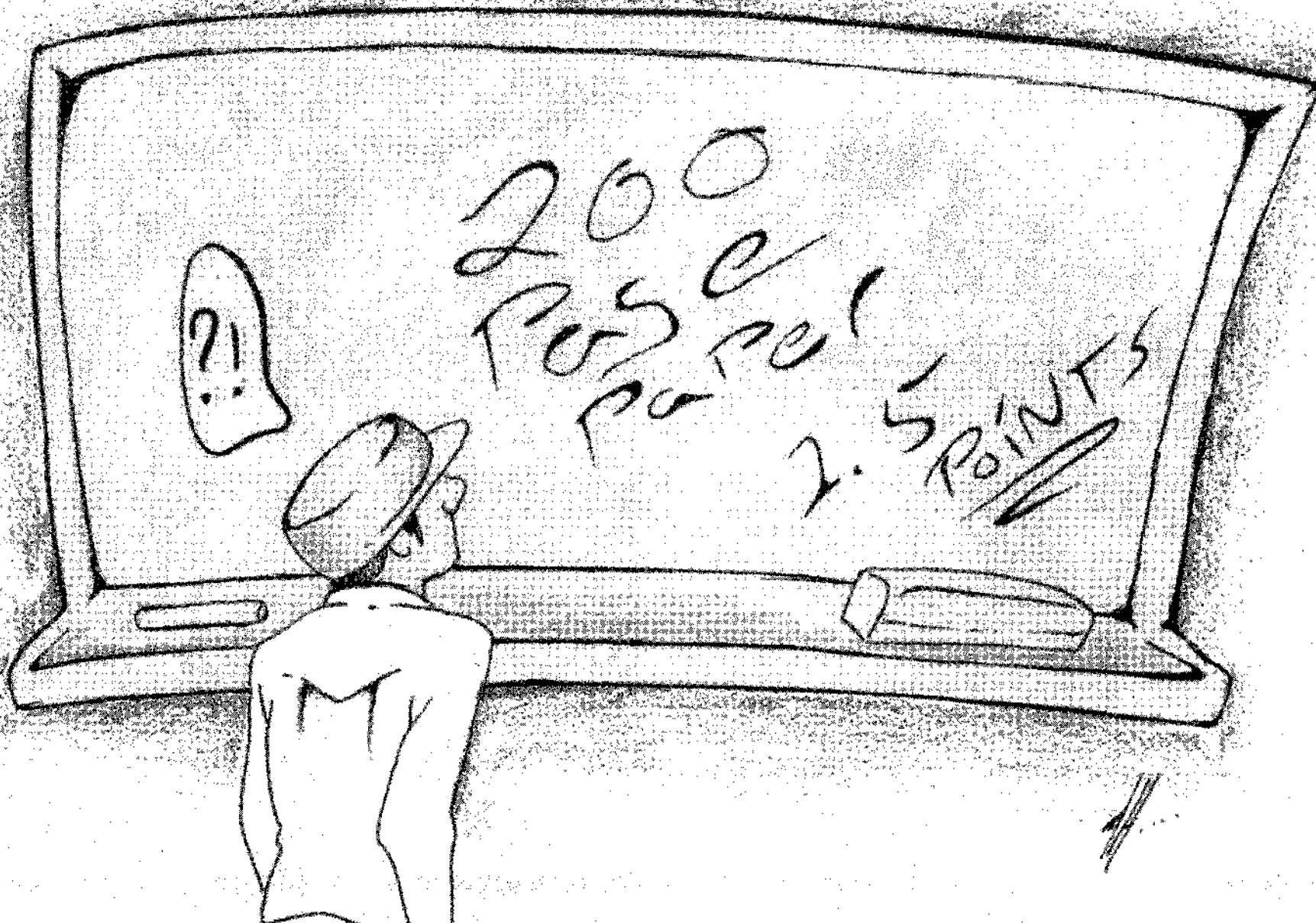
thinks everyone involved should have taken time to understand the program before implementing it.

"I think it is a great idea," Goding said, "but it was implemented before the teachers and students could figure out how the grading system works."

Goding went to say overall students are confused and "we don't know what is going on."

The grading system may be confusing, but it also has made grading more fair to students especially since it won't change and it's here to stay. Bennett assured that nothing is going to change anytime soon. This might give the grading system time to evolve until it is perfect.

As the year moves forward, students and teachers continue to try to understand the new grading system. As hard as it may be we'll all get the hang of it soon enough. Hopefully, by next year everything will be back to normal.



CARTOON BY ANITA HODGE/REGISTER

Leggings worn by students at times inappropriate

BY EMILY WHITHAM

Everyone jokes about that nightmare where you accidentally show up at school wearing only your underwear. Except, surprise! It is now quite a reality in the hallways of Central every single day. Many young ladies these days wear leggings as if they were pants (sorry to pin it all on the girls, but I've yet to see a boy parading around school in them).

To state it quite clearly, leggings are not pants. According to the American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, pants are "a usually loose-fitting outer garment for the lower part of the body, having individual leg portions that reach typically to the ankle, but sometimes to any of various other points from the upper leg down."

Leggings do not fit this definition.

In case you're not familiar, leggings are clingy leg coverings made of paper-thin spandex material, arguably synonymous with tights. Similar articles of clothing have been around for thousands of years: kings and

queens wore them under dresses and overcoats. Revolutionary war soldiers wore them below breeches. Batman and Robin wore them beneath those queer little "Speedo-esque" pieces when they fought crime.

Girls today seem to think these leg accessories should come out from under the other garments. Many high school students can be seen wearing them as if they were pants, without covering up with a skirt or a pair of shorts.

The problem is that leggings are tight—so tight, in fact, that they cling like a second skin to every inch of the wearer's body, leaving them just about as exposed as if they were to come to school in only their underpants. The thinness of the material only emphasizes the illusion of near-nakedness: when stretched tight, spandex can look almost sheer.

For the time being, I am going to ignore the fact that wearing leggings as pants is a

fashion blunder. As with all denounced fashion blunders, there would be someone to argue in favor of it.

But within the confines of school hallways, I question how these skin-tight (and practically see-through) undergarments aren't waving the saucy red flag of a dress code violation. As high schoolers, we all have to sign off on our student handbooks. We are supposed to be familiar with the guidelines for appropriate dress contained within the handbooks, and generally, most of us comply with them with the exception of perhaps an occasional suggestion by an administrator.

Recently, a friend of mine came to school wearing a blouse which revealed a bit of her shoulders. As she was walking to her locker, an administrator stopped her and requested that my friend cover up her shoulders with a sweater, because her blouse was too revealing

(keep in mind that this blouse didn't show one bit of cleavage—it was all about the shoulders). While she didn't mind covering up the garment in question, her situation baffled me when compared to the phenomenon of "leggings-as-pants." Apparently, a blouse which exposes the shoulder is revealing, risqué, and/or offensive because it shows skin, albeit it actually exposes less of the body than a lone pair of leggings does.

To all of the girls who regularly wear leggings as pants, I'd just like to say this: holy Toledo, you're not in super hero garb, please cover up your behind in those spandex tights.

Even if Batman himself were to run around school exposed like that, administration ought to tell him to put on some not-so-skin-tight clothing.

Super-clingy, sheer spandex is more than a little inappropriate on certain parts of the human body, and not everyone wants to see that.

Commercials negatively persuade viewers

BY SHALEIGH KARNIK

Commercials play every day and teenagers watch them and think nothing of it, but do they really have an effect on the teenagers?

In many ways, I believe that teenagers are being somewhat tricked into believing something, but they don't even know that they are being played.

The television has been said, many times, to have an influence on people not only from the shows, but advertisements as well.

Commercials often times show either good choices or bad choices of a product or idea. The whole purpose is to get someone to think that the product or idea is better than another from the competition.

It is also to get a viewer to think that what the advertiser is trying to sell is what is popular or is what looks and is the best.

I believe that advertisers should always have a right to show a sale or something that is going on at a store or business, but some commercials push the limit.

A commercial should not trick the viewer; it should simply show the facts and not an opinion.

Some commercials push a certain lifestyle for children and teens. Most of the time that lifestyle is "perfect," "almost perfect," or "has troubles, but always turns out right in the end."

Advertisement helps pay for many stations broadcasts, but when will the money stop mattering and the values shown in the commercials start to change for the better.

Nowadays commercials show a product or idea in the best light, but why aren't they showing the truth about the product?

Why don't they put out the troubles it has or what might go wrong? No matter what, they always make the advertisement seem like it will be what the viewer has always wanted.

All the time teenagers want the newest cell phone or product because of the supposed upgrades and better quality, but sometimes I think that the upgrade or new perk is not always what it seemed to be at first.

Teenagers and children don't care if the device might break or not work in a short

amount of time as long as they can have it at the time.

COLUMN
The OPINION of
the columnist

Advertisers know this, and don't always show teens the truth or what is really important.

All the advertisers care about is getting the teens' attention and showing

I believe that advertisers should always have a right to show a sale or something that is going on

at a store or business but some commercials push the limit.

into spending the small amount of money they have on something they don't know that much about.

Also commercials and advertisements show something for people to do. They influence people to act a certain way or be a certain person because that is what will be what everyone else will want.

In reality, advertisers know what people

want and all that is a little fantasy of what really could be.

It would not be so bad if commercials just said what they needed to say and then finished, but nowadays advertisers persuade with everything. They put stereotypes in almost every one of their commercials and make one thing or another look more appealing than something else.

The first advertisements were thought to be made by the ancient Egyptians, were written on cave walls and were used to sell fruits and vegetables.

I bet that the Egyptians never would have thought that sex, drugs, and violence would be on a television today.

For so many years technology has been a gift and now it is a commonality. Advertisements have always been a tool and now they are one of the only things that keep customers and everyday people coming to stores, businesses and companies.

When anyone watches television, now they do not think anything of them. However, I think it is important that people from now on, students especially, should watch commercials and really think about what advertisers are trying to put across and what they really want you to buy into.

Heavy backpacks don't have to hurt

BY SHALEIGH KARNIK

The day to day actions of high school students never really change. Picking up and lugging around huge backpacks. For Central students, most have large, heavy backpacks full of learning materials including me.

My backpack has everything that I need for a day at school, which is a lot. I am always prepared, but at what cost? Backpacks are heavy and carrying that much of a load everyday can start to really do damage to a

person's back, especially teenagers. If a teen receives damage to their back now, it could bother them all their lives. So, what can we do to prevent this?

According to Cbsnews.com, too much weight in students' backpacks can cause scoliosis and chronic neck and shoulder pain. CBS also warns a child's

backpack should not be more than 10 to 20 percent of their body weight, otherwise there could be lasting damage.

However, there are many ways to prevent this damage and pain. Though Central students are allowed to carry backpacks around to their classes, it is not always necessary to put all books and materials in at one time. It doesn't

hurt to carry a couple books or a notebook or two. In turn, this can tremendously help to lighten the load.

Another thing that can help is to carry the bag with both shoulder straps and not just one. It can prevent leaning, bending over, and aches from incorrect weight displacement. It is, also, best to stay away from messenger bags and only get backpacks that have two shoulder straps. Backpacks that have wide and

padded shoulder straps that are adjustable can lift the bag higher and relieve lower back pain and neck aches.

Finally, bigger isn't always better. A bigger bag encourages more in the bag making it too heavy, overall. Always have the bag hanging higher than waist level to avoid pull on shoulder and neck.

Backpacks are heavy, but they don't always have to be. If students take the time to just put books and other materials in their locker in between classes it could save them from a lifetime of back, neck and shoulder pain.

I know from experience that taking out extra stuff from my backpack has very much helped me.



ILLUSTRATION COURTESY OF STORAGEEFFECT.MEDIA

MIDWEST PHOTO PRO

4314 Leavenworth St
315-4349

Holiday,
Family
STYLE
AT
MIDTOWN'S
STUDIO

Dirty dancing 'stops the music' at metro area homecomings

BY EMILY WHITHAM

In the 1920s, it was all about the jitterbug and the Charleston. The 50's knew how to Madison; the 70's were sick with disco fever. Even the 80's ushered in break dancing. But the most widespread dance craze among young people of this generation may go down in history for "stopping the music."

The dance style known as "grinding" attracted quite a bit of attention during the season of high school homecoming dances. Unfortunately, for some eager dancers at metro area schools, it grabbed the attention of administration as well. Grinding, which is performed when two or more dancers rub up against one another to a fast beat, was deemed indecent by school officials in districts across the area.

Ralston's homecoming dance was disbanded an hour early after students failed to comply with warnings to stop grinding. Lincoln Public Schools enacted a district-wide ban on the style of dance and released a set of guidelines for appropriate dancing, threatening to send students home or shut the dance down early if they weren't adhered to. Millard and Omaha Public Schools dealt with the issue on a school-by-school basis.

While Central didn't have any apparent problems at homecoming, measures to "prevent" dirty dancing hindered Millard North's soiree, which I had the pleasure of attending with a friend of mine. Millard North's auditorium lights were kept on for the duration of the dance, and song selection was monitored, according to school officials.

If the intent of this monitoring was to keep the dance tame, it certainly succeeded. Millard's dance floor was nearly lifeless, full of wallflowers hanging around the edges, sipping lemonade and looking bored.

Ralston High School principal Greg Shepard was quoted in the Omaha World Herald saying high schools concern over dancing styles arose when some female students complained about feeling "passed around" on the dance floor, and that such a situation creates the potential for sexual assault.

I'd like to challenge those statements in two ways. First, the number of such complaints must be taken into consideration. Typically, if being in close quarters with others on the dance floor is uncomfortable for someone, they'll stay off of the dance floor. If an individual is reporting being uncomfortable in a school situation, it may very well be that they are in a compromising situation with peers. These concerns should be addressed on an individual basis to ensure that the situation is resolved in the best possible way.

The restrictive group approach to curb the dance craze is ineffective. By shutting down dances, it's as though school administration is saying "we can't keep track of what our students are doing at a school function"; it sends a message that the kids are out of their control.

Here I would like to pose the question of where students are going if they are driven away from a school dance. All dressed up and wanting to move to the music, students who are removed from dances will more than likely pursue another place to bump and grind: clubs, parties and other unsupervised environments. If a school board is cracking down at dances out of concern for student safety, it should not be driving them to places with a higher potential for risky behaviors.

High school dances are often seen as a rite of passage among teenagers. By imposing these new rules and regulations at school dances, districts are stripping whole classes of their homecoming memories due to the questionable behavior or complaints of a few individuals. It is absolutely critical that these issues of propriety be addressed on an individual basis.

With winter rolling in outside the window, 2010's homecoming season has come to a close. But after all of the "dirty-dancing" controversy throughout the metro area, I speculate what measures schools might take during the spring prom season.

It is my sincerest hope that administration will address and respond to any future concerns appropriately, more so individually, rather than snuffing out the life of the school dance as a whole.

After all, some of us still just want to tap our toes and shyly sway to the rhythm.

Eight seats to a table hinders student socializing

BY MEKENZIE KERR

You're running late to lunch for whatever reason, whether it's your fault or not, and your lunch table is already full to the eight person capacity. The next step you must take is to somehow find another seat at a table that is not already full and that has at least one person you know.

If that doesn't work for you, maybe there is a chance that another chair is available to steal from a table. Except wait, that won't work because there is strictly eight chairs to a table at all times. Even if you think that the rule can be bypassed, you will somehow be sought out and get a warning for the "felony" you have just attempted.

Every student at Central High School knows the rule that applies to both the cafeteria and the courtyard during lunch time.

I don't know if teachers understand how that relocating to a table of strangers can make for a very awkward situation. It's definitely not a bad thing for students to be occasionally forced to fan out and meet new people, but it gets a little bit stressful during lunchtime when all you want to do is rest and eat.

The eight students to a table rule is a bit ridiculous. Sure, it may be a safety hazard or harder for teachers to manage the amount of students in each eating facility. Then again, in retrospect,

it's really not. The eating areas are hectic and full of loud students. Though I feel if teachers allowed a little leeway for stray students to fit nine or ten to a table, things would be less stressful for students and even teachers.

What is even more ridiculous than the rule itself is how heavily teachers enforce it. Again, I understand that their jobs are to make sure rules are intact, whether students find them reasonable or not.

Students generally put up an argumentative attitude when teachers ask them to move anyways, why not avoid that problem by letting the student sit there? Maybe the problem is because the courtyard doesn't have enough room. It is a pleasant place to eat with little room to do so. Expansion and utilization of the space may provide less hassle and solve a little more of the eight-seats-to-a-table rule breaking. Spaces on the steps could be opened up, and since there are plenty of teachers, some could be positioned down on the lower end of the staircase to watch students.

Until we get a little more "rebellious" and let more than eight people sit at a table, the rule will continually be broken until a change is somehow made.

Students find newer desks more uncomfortable

BY MEKENZIE KERR

Students spend about seven hours of their day at school, around 35 hours a week total, and the majority of that time is in a desk listening to teachers' lectures.

So the question I have for everyone, students and faculty alike, is why are the desks and chairs not comfier?

For the extended amount of hours that each student occupies a seat of some sort, most of that time is probably spent feeling quite uncomfortable. Besides the baskets that are used as makeshift footrests, the desks and their comfort rate are not up to par.

The seats here at Central, and I am sure many other schools around the area, are rock hard and a bit on the small side.

The unoriginal small-statured chairs and desk seats provide a small backrest along with an also small, very flat seat. Not to mention that the navy blue color of the desks isn't all too appealing either.

Although this would be more extreme cases, improper seating can permanently affect the back and/or cause back pain.

How It Works.com says that the most significant thing to remember on how to avoid chair-related back problems is that the chair you are in should share the main burden of helping and supporting your body weight with your back.

Chairs can also properly fit people if personally selected. The user's feet should reach the floor, the chair should have five legs and forearms ought to rest easily on the arm rests. As well as the person should be able to sit completely against the back of the chair, according to UCLA Ergonomics.

The chairs at Central are altogether extremely generic, which may seem the reasonable choice for a high school setting, that must provide hundreds of seats to each classroom. In my eyes it seems that the seats should be a little more suitable for high schoolers' bodies in general.

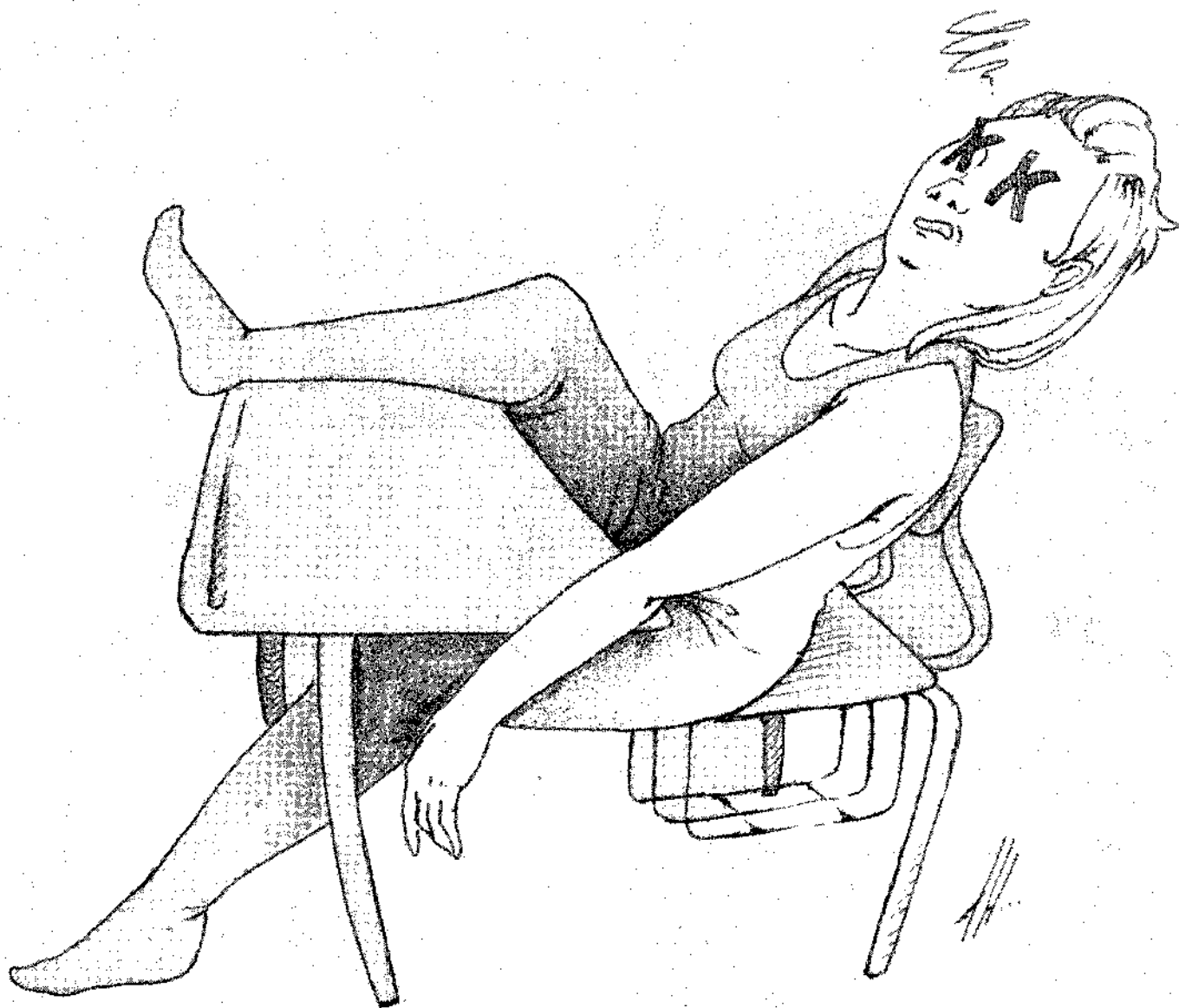
Although each students' body varies in height, weight and torso length, the seats could be a little more personalized, and it really wouldn't take too much.

To provide a little bit more comfort, the backs could be adjustable to aid in the differentiating heights among students.

As I sit and write, my back is already becoming quite sore when I am merely just in a relaxed position. Spending triple the time I have spent sitting down here could not be good for the back.

A comfier chair might help reduce the amount of fidgeting that goes in while students are required to sit.

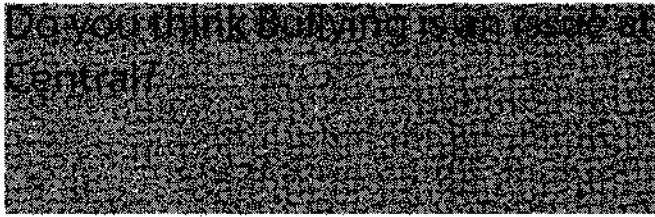
Overall, a comfier chair might just equal a happier student. Who knows? Maybe that could even lead to a more attentive student, and an altogether pleased teacher.



CARTOON BY ANITA HODGE/REGISTER

OPINIONS-EDITORIALS

LETTERS, E-MAILS, FAXES, POLLS, CARTOONS



Bullying not an issue

Dear Editor,
I don't think that bullying is an issue because no one really does it.
Michael Lee (10)

Bullies not stood up to

Dear Editor,
Yes, A lot of bullies believe no one will say anything if they do it.
Sierra Porter (9)

Bullying an issue

Dear Editor,
I think it is because although there are good students, there's also the ones that think it's funny to make others feel self-conscious. Usually the person being bullied won't speak out.
Kim Nellist (12)

Students picked on often

Dear Editor,
I think bullying is an issue because people get picked on for so many things and most of it they can't control.
Polly Duff (10)

Not so much

Dear Editor,
I don't believe it is because I haven't seen it going on. If bullying was one issue, I'm sure there would be someone trying to stop it for good.
RJ Jones (10)

Bullying definitely an issue

Dear Editor,
Bullying is definitely an issue at Central. Just big kids having nothing better to do. They're rude for no reason. Only because they're too worried about having a math test.
Dejah Johnson (11)

Bullying not usually visible

Dear Editor,
I believe there is bullying at Central, but I never see it. It wouldn't really be an issue if it happened so often that it was seen everywhere.
Gabrielle Fields (10)

Bullying an issue everywhere

Dear Editor,
I think bullying is an issue everywhere, not just at Central. Because teenagers think that they are amazing; they think they can just judge other people. They need to get over themselves.
Katie Brock (11)

Old grading system better

Dear Editor,
No, I mean some kids are teased but Central seems to be more of a friendly, open environment.
Keali French (9)

Threats heard a lot

Dear Editor,
Yes, People threaten others everyday here. They may be joking, but some people take it seriously.
Brittney Kennedy (11)

Need change quickly

Dear Editor,
I do think bullying is an issue at Central because there are too many kids that like to pick on other kids. Central should try to change the way students treat other students before it is too late.
Neil Brown (10)

No one wants to be bullied

Dear Editor,
Yeah of course. No one wants to be bullied and felt like they're just a waste.
Tylee Glover (9)

Dear Editor,

Some of us have lockers on the 3rd floor and I'm never on the 3rd floor except for one class a day and by the time I get there the warning bell has rung and I'm going to be late. The bathroom lines make it impossible to get to class on time

Natya Sturm (11)

Dear Editor,

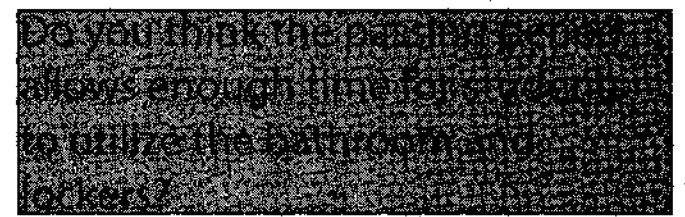
Central is a very big school and has four levels and sometimes people have to go to the bathroom and the people that have a long way to go wouldn't want to rush so they just walk and get tardy

Tylee Glover (9)

Dear Editor,

The Passing Periods go by too quick. More time is needed because the bathrooms are too crowded and the lockers are not near class.

Ray Parks (9)



Passing period sufficient

Dear Editor,
I do believe the passing period allows enough time. I can use the restroom and go to my locker and still get to class on time. You just have to plan your time wisely.
Andrew Bruch (10)

Not enough time

Dear Editor,
No, because if you have to go up so many floors from your locker than you're going to be late. Also, there are so many people it's hard to get where your going.
Polly Duff (10)

Depends on location

Dear Editor,
I say the time allowed is enough, but depends in the area you are in to get to your locker or go to the bathroom, you just have measure the time to sit there or wait another period to get your stuff or go to the bathroom.
Aaron Alvarez (11)

Need another minute

Dear Editor,
I think if we could an extra minute or two during passing period everyone wouldn't complain.
RJ Jones (10)

Need a longer passing period

Dear Editor,
The passing period needs to be longer because when I'm in P.E. and the teacher makes me late by the time I dress out the bell rings and I need to make it to the 4th floor from the basement.
Reak Dojiok (9)

Students should go straight to class

Dear Editor,
I think the passing period allows enough time because if you don't mess around and go straight to what you have to do, you would get to class on time.
Jacques Todd (9)

Hear the warning bell too late

Dear Editor,
No, I would say that the passing periods are short because if I do have to go to my locker, by the time I get there the warning bell rings and I'm late to class. And if I was to use the restroom the final bell rings while I'm whashing my hands. That is very frustrating when you still get all these tardies when it's really not your fault. They should really consider giving us a longer passing period.
Jameca Vasser (10)

Not long enough for girls

Dear Editor,
There isn't enough time in a passing period to visit the bathroom, at least for girls. There are only two to three stalls in six bathrooms and about 25 girls want to use it on each floor. It just doesn't add up.
Katie Brock (11)

Hallways crowded

Dear Editor,
No, I do not think passing period allows people crowding the hallways, and the bathrooms so people do not have enough time.
Deshone Lynch (10)

Not enough time

Dear Editor,
No. My locker is in the basement and I have no time to go down and use it so I have to carry all my books.
Keali French (11)

Hard to get to locker

Dear Editor,
It is hard to get from one's class to another on time when you need to stop at your locker or go to the bathroom because there are lots of crowds you have to get through.
Brittney Kennedy (11)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED

Letters to the editor are gladly accepted in room 029, via e-mail to Central.register@ops.org or can be placed in Ms. Parker's mailbox in the main office. Letters must be factual and contain the author's full name and grade. Incorrect or unsigned letters will not be printed. The use of pen names is not allowed.



Matthew Vondrasek
Editor-in-Chief



Daria Seaton
Executive Editor



Mekenzie Kerr
News Editor



Sam Parr
Staff Writer



Katherine Scarpello
Head Photographer



Emily Whitham
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Shaleigh Karnik
Chief Advertising Officer



Tabitha Panas
Sports Editor



Anita Hodge
Contributing Cartoonist