



### GIRLS AND BOYS SUCCEED IN BASKETBALL

Continuing on in recent tradition, Central continues to exceed sports expectations.

SPORTS, PAGE 13



### ART AS A WAY OF LIFE

Erick Abernathy uses his art in many ways, particularly as a means to inspire others.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 5

### ARE STUDENTS INTIMIDATED BY IB?

The staff of The Register explore the overwhelming feeling many students face when considering the IB program

OPINION, PAGE 9



# The Register

A High School Newspaper Practicing Professional Journalism

Central High School

124 N. 20th St.

Omaha, NE 68102

402.557.3357

central.register@ops.org

Friday, January 6, 2012

### Inside:

Racial Jokes . . . . . 11	Gota Masuda . . . . . 3
Little Old Ladies . . 12	ESL Road show . . . . 6
Basketball . . . . . 13	Orange Leaf . . . . . 7
Sports Calendar . . .14	Senior Photo . . . . . 9

## Math Team takes second place at competition

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

10 math students were individually picked to be involved in the Brownell-Talbot Math Contest, held at the Brownell-Talbot on Jan. 26. Central finished in 2nd place with individual awards going to Ryan Goding (10), Marika Svulos (11), and Avery Zaleski (11).

The Brownell-Talbot Math Contest was broken up into three parts. The first part of the competition was an individual exam, taken by all of the contestants. The questions varied from 5th grade math, such as decimals and percents, to high school pre-calculus.

The second part was the team event, which included questions harder than the individual exam since there were five brains instead of one. Some of the questions there were written as students had never seen in a classroom.

The last part was a game called "set," a deep thinking and matching game. At this point most of the sponsors were grading the other schools' papers. As they would say, "It's just a fun thing to do when papers are being graded."

There were 11 schools participating, but only ten students per school. These students are usually involved in Enrichment Math or the Math Club and were individually invited by Greg Sand. These students were ones who wanted to go and would most likely be the best ten participants in the contest. Really, the only practice they had was going to their regular math classes each day.

The students who were involved were: Nate Boryck (10), Grant Fishburn (10), Ryan Goding (10), Bryce Gollobit (12), Ethan Koch (10), Adam Lacroix (12), Emma Lacroix (10), Marika Svulos (11), Avery Zaleski (11) and Noah Zaleski (9).

Goding was awarded second place and Svulos was awarded first place individually, with Svulos receiving second place overall. Avery Zaleski was also awarded Set Tournament Champion.

After the contest, some of the sponsors made their way up to the front to read off the final awards. The students were granted certificates, but Svulos also got a second place medal. If this was any other formal contest, there would have been a whole award ceremony for not only the winners, but for all of the students.

## OPS board looks for Dr. Mackiel replacement

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

There has been talk of Dr. John J. Mackiel retiring as OPS's superintendent in April and the board's search for someone to take his spot, assuming power over the district. While this is true, right now Mackiel must do business as usual like it's any other day.

Mackiel is currently doing his job as if nothing is happening. He is a very busy man, tending to the needs of the district. He is also waiting on the board's decision of who may take his spot as OPS's superintendent. As of right now, the district is looking for somebody with a strong academic background, strong managerial skills, and someone who is able to recognize the contribution of students and staff of the district.

There are many surveys on the OPS website for students, staff and community members to fill out. Last Dec. 8, 9 and 10, a common forum was issued to express opinions on what OPS is looking for in a new superintendent.

Having a new superintendent may change both the Board of Education and the whole OPS district. Hopefully the search will progress and ultimately be successful, resulting in an accomplished new leader for OPS.

"The OPS schools are going to miss him tremendously. It will be difficult to replace him," said Luane Nelson, Director of District Communication. "Hopefully the new one will build on programs and progress that Mackiel had initiated in the district."



GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/THE REGISTER

## INTRODUCING GLOBAL EDUCATION

Central prepares to kick off their International Baccalaureate program, and become part of the wide-spread movement to bring unified, global education to schools all over the world.

BY MEKENZIE KERR



Recall back to your seventh grade history class when the Pearl Harbor bombing dominated discussion; was what you educated drawn from your demographic background or a universalized outlook? How does one gain the ability to discern and value each international variant view on a subject? Questions such as these help build the foundation of the courses and international mindedness that the International Baccalaureate (IB) programme hopes to instill from school to school. And one of IB's next destinations: Omaha Central High School.

Central High School is currently an IB candidate school, already given the go ahead to implement IB courses and creating schedules as such.

### How Central Became IB

The initial idea to bring IB to Central started a few years ago, during former principal Greg Emmel's tutelage.

Cathy Andrus, Central's IB Coordinator, has

played a dominant role in Central's current candidacy. "When I came back as guidance director (approximately three years ago), I saw the need at Central for something more," said Andrus; she knew immediately that that something was the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

From there Andrus continued to suggest and discuss the topic of IB with a myriad of fellow teachers and faculty members, including Emmel. Coincidentally enough, Dr. Lisa Sterba, principal of Lewis and Clark Middle School, relayed her interest in becoming a Middle Years Program (MYP) school to Emmel. The duo furthered their venture by presenting the MYP/IB idea to the board, who gave them the solidarity to pursue a grant.

It was a "bottom-up" situation, according to Andrus. About 13 to 15 years ago the IB program was presented as a possibility to the Omaha Public School district, but with one school in mind. As soon as OPS high schools like Central and Burke caught wind of the news, everyone was up in arms about who wanted and deserved it. The decision was made that IB was not going to happen if the high schools could not make a decision, and since then the IB program for an OPS high school has lived a shelf life of about 10 years.

Three years and about half a million dollars

Continued to 'IB' on Page 2

### The IB Grading Scale

- Grade 7**  
*Excellent Performance*  
Demonstrates conceptual awareness, insight and knowledge and understanding evident in the skills of critical thinking.
- Grade 6**  
*Very Good Performance*  
Answers coherent, logical, and well structured. Shows consistent evidence of critical thinking, ability to problem solve.
- Grade 5**  
*Good Performance*  
Demonstrates a strong knowledge of subject using specific terminology, answers are good, but not fully developed.
- Grade 4**  
*Satisfactory Performance*  
Demonstrates knowledge of the subject beyond mere "common sense" points. Answers structured more descriptively than analytically.
- Grade 3**  
*Mediocre Performance*  
Answers show ability to solve problems basically, demonstrates some knowledge and basic use of subject terminology.

## Ginny Bauer retires after 33 years at Central

BY EMILY BECK



PHOTO BY EMILY BECK/REGISTER

Ginny Bauer has been Central's treasurer and go-to girl for 33 years. She said most of all, she will miss the people she has gotten to work with.

Treasurer Ginny Bauer said goodbye to Central during a retirement party on Monday after 33 years of service. Teachers, office workers and other Central staff members stopped by the office conference room to reminisce and wish her good luck.

During her time at Central, Bauer handled money and kept track of finances. She wrote checks and financial reports, answered peoples' questions about the history of the school, and even ordered flowers if an office worker fell ill. She described her job as "handling money, with many side jobs."

Bauer's daughter Laura Bell said that her mother "has a lot of energy," and that she is a perfect example of the fact that getting old doesn't necessarily mean that you have to get old.

For Bauer, retirement simply means more freedom. "I'm sure I'll find plenty to do," she said. As an avid quilter, she will now have plenty of time to finish all of her projects.

But Bauer doesn't want to sit at home everyday —she needs a purpose. She plans to pursue volunteer work that involves doing creative projects with kids, or caring for premature babies in a natal unit at a nearby hospital.

While Bauer is excited for what is to come, she still gets a little misty-eyed talking about the time she has spent here at Central. "Really, it's the people," she said. That's what she'll miss the most about her job: everyone that she has had the opportunity to meet and work with.

Among her fellow office ladies, Bauer said that she will also miss the students. "I've always enjoyed seeing kids," she said.

While Bauer is moving on, one thing is for sure: she'll never forget the friends that she's made during her 33 years at Central.

"I'm proud to have worked here," Bauer said.

# The Register

2011-2012

ATTN: The Register  
124. N. 20th Street  
Omaha, Neb. 68102

Phone: (402) 557.3357 Fax: (402) 557.3339  
central.journalism@ops.org

**Editor-in-Chief:** Mekenzie Kerr  
**Exec. Editor-in-Chief:** Katherine Scarpello

## STAFF

**Advertising:** Kendall Panas

**News:** Tabitha Panas

**Entertainment:** Esau Rendon

**Sports:** Stephanie Paul

**Opinion:** Jennifer Rooney

**Writers:** Emily Beck  
Precious Gaspard  
Seth Arter

**Contributing Writer:** Giselle Tran  
Tanzy Givens

**Contributing Artists:** Lindsey Smith  
Duncan Reed

**Advisors:** Hillary Blayney  
Ali Hodge

For advertising information call Ali Hodge or Kendall Panas at (402) 557.3357, central.journalism@ops.org, or ali.hodge@ops.org.

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

The staff strives to uphold the principles of journalism in all 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 an 11-time Best-in-Show winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in San Francisco, Boston, Phoenix, Dallas, Washington D.C., Seattle and Chicago. The Register also won first place in Front Page News Layout for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA convention in St. Louis.

The Register has won multiple NSPA Pacemakers, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism.

It has also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA.

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

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

Signed editorials are the opinion of the author alone, and do not necessarily represent the opinion of Central High School or The Register staff.

Letters to the editor are encouraged.

They can be sent to The Register at 124 N. 20th St., Omaha, NE 68102 or via email to central.register@ops.org.

Letters must include the author's full name and grade. The use of pen names is not permitted. Unsigned letters will not be published. Letters will be edited for length, clarity, taste and accuracy.

Misrepresentation of fact will not be considered.

Special thanks to all the faculty and staff of Omaha Central High School and Omaha Public Schools. Your cooperation with our students help us maintain a professional atmosphere in order to teach media education.

Question, concerns and inquiries are directed to Ali Hodge and Hillary Blayney at (402) 557-3357. If there is no one available, please leave a message.

Thank you, readers.

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

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

# Central High not defined by IB, remains the same strong academic institution

■ 'IB' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1



later, funded by the Sherwood Grant Foundation, a funding arm of Susan Buffett, and advocacy from Central High members like current principal Dr. Keith Bigsby and IB coordinator Andrus, Central has implemented IB Diploma programmes, educated their future IB teachers, and all that is remaining is the letter of official IB authorization.

## About International Baccalaureate

The International Baccalaureate programme's headquarters are located where the programme initially began: Geneva, Switzerland. From there, the IB program has flourished around the entire globe to 3,324 schools throughout 141 various countries.

Omaha Central High School is currently one of the 520 IB candidates waiting for authorization, getting word that the letter finalizing Central will be coming between Feb. and end of June.

International Baccalaureate's goals are to "develop inquiring, knowledgeable and caring young people who help to create a better and more peaceful world through intercultural understanding and respect," according to their mission statement in Central High School's IB information packet. The IB Diploma Programme is a "pre-university" course that requires the best from both parties of the education spectrum: educators and students.

Students graduating with the IB Diploma are noticed by universities for their "outstanding qualities" equipped with a universal mindset, demonstrating a "capacity for in-depth study while maintaining a broad perspective of the different subject areas." IB Diploma students maintain a solid sense of their personal cultures and identity, while upholding the values of being able to communicate in two (or more) languages with "people who have a different viewpoint of the world."

While the International Baccalaureate programme seems like a prestigious system that only very well-rounded students can do, 91% of the IB schools in the United States are public. Public IB schools "provide low-income students with a chance to succeed," according to IB's website. The Ga. Public Policy Foundation, in May 2009, "recognized Fair Street International Baccalaureate World School, in Gainesville as a leader among 'No Excuses' schools, defined as those that have an above-average proportion of low-income students achieving at higher levels than those projected according to statewide correlations between poverty and test scores."

Specifically, the IB Diploma Programme is "designed as an academically challenging and balanced program" that helps mold and prepare students in a holistic manner ages 16-19 for college and future success. IB Diploma Programme students "study six courses at higher level or standard level," and must choose one subject from Groups 1 to 5, "ensuring breadth of experience in languages, social studies, the experimental sciences and mathematics." From here the student can choose an option for group six that correlates to art and music, or another subject from groups 1 through 5.

## The Structure of IB

IB's groups are divided by what is currently considered the "core subjects"; Group 1 is Studies in Language and Literature, Group 2 is Language and Acquisition, Group 3 is Individuals and Societies, Group 4 is Experimental Sciences and Group 5 is Mathematics. Group 6 includes music, if taken, requires an IB music theory class to correlate. (See sidebar below.)

Group 1 encompasses a wide range of literature, and "encourages students to appreciate the artistry of literature and to develop ability to reflect critically on their reading." Central's Language and Literature class will be taught by Sue Oles for juniors, and Jen Stastny for seniors. The work in Group 1 is studied in different cultural and literary contexts and built on "the assumption that literature is concerned with our conceptions, interpretations and experiences of the world," thus further bolstering the international

mindedness that makes a sum of the goals of the International Baccalaureate programme.

Group 2, Language and Acquisition, is divided up into Spanish, French and German. Spanish will be taught by Enrique Garcia for juniors, and Alfonso Garcia for seniors, who are sacrificing their Plan periods to collaborate for their IB classes. French will be taught by Micah Ringlein, and German by Erica Meyer. Language Acquisition is "an additional language-learning course" for students who have had prior experience with either of the languages.

The third group, Group 3, is Individuals and society, broken further down into four different groups. 20th Century History will be taught by Victoria Deniston-Reed, Psychology by Robert Tucker for juniors, History of Americas by Scott Wilson for seniors, and Information Technology in a Global Society (ITGS) by Kelly Means. Psychology is offered to juniors, although they have the option to quit, if not, their teacher senior year will be Tim Shipman. These classes together are collectively looked upon as the "human sciences or social sciences;" group 3 subjects explore the "interactions between humans and their environment in time, space and place."

Group 4, Experimental Sciences, involves the regular sciences including Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Biology will be taught by Jean

“Millard North and Central have varying ethnic and economic demographics, but Daughtridge does not see this as a hinderance to either. “[It will be] different, but successful. The IB Diploma Programme has proven itself successful in a wide variety of demographic profiles; ones very much like Central and [...] like Millard, and it succeeds either way.”

Whitten, chemistry by Jesse Busse and physics by Ashutosh Kumar; all of the IB teachers are currently teaching the honors, AP and regular levels of Science.

Finally, Group 5, Mathematics is broken down as well. Math Studies will be taught for juniors and seniors by Jenne Gregor, Mathematics at standard level will be taught by Brent Larson, and Mathematics by Greg Sand.

Internal and external exams are the two versions in test-taking; known by IB as "papers," but here at Central as exams. Overall students' grades do not rest on themselves, but also countered in is the teachers' methods. If the teacher tends to stay on one end of the "too hard" or "too easy" spectrum, the students grade is adjusted accordingly. Internal exams are tailored from teacher to teacher, more of a personalized form of a test. External assessments are consistent at every school, and are shipped all over the world wherever IB dictates.

Tests are no longer based upon "what do you know and what you do not know," but "how much do you know and how can you apply and connect it?" The majority of tests are fill-in the bubble format, which will soon be done away with. On a scale of one to seven, students are graded from "Excellent Performance" to "Very Poor Performance."

## The Faces of IB at Central

Tracey Menten oversees, what she feels to be "the core of the programme," Theory of Knowledge (ToK) and Creativity, Action, Service (CAS). The ToK program is a course that helps the learners explore how they know what they know, if there is a bias in the knowledge, and how culture, time, space, etc. affect what we know (or think we know), according to Menten. This course includes an internal and external assessment.

CAS's name is self-explanatory, revolving around the values of Creativity, Action and Service. Jodie Martinez is working together with Menten, taking CAS training and is "pretty excited about collaborating." The student is required to balance these three things outside of school to enhance their in-class experience.

Menten is what Andrus calls a "natu-

ral born" IB teacher, and Menten has adjusted seamlessly with the IB style. Core values of the IB programme are directly synonymous with what Menten has felt all along.

"When Mrs. Andrus first presented the programme to the faculty, I thought to myself, 'How did they get my teaching philosophy out of my head without me knowing?'" said Menten, "They type of learning the programme values is directly in-line with what I believe in as an educator, which is that education should be about developing the whole learner, not just the pieces. That knowledge is gained, not given."

Menten's job as CAS instructor involves meeting with the students to make sure they are on track with their hours, "reporting" to her throughout the year.

"I get to learn as much as the students do, which is a relief for persons who can't get enough information into the grey matter of her skull," said Menten, "this ends up being a pretty cool way to spend the day."

IB as a whole, with CAS and ToK as perks, is a relief for teachers such as Menten who "cringes" when students pose questions such as "This isn't math, why do we have to do this?" her response being, "Because you are learning to think critically and you can do that with any kind of course content." With IB these questions won't need to exist as the barriers put up between education subjects are broken down.

"One of the aspects of the current education system in the United States that drives me bonkers is that we teach subjects in isolation - meaning students study math in math class and science in science class, etc." said Menten, "when in reality we should be studying each and every subject in all classrooms."

## IB in Omaha

While Central's future in becoming an IB school is an inaugural event for the OPS district, it is not the first for high schools in Omaha to receive the title.

Millard North was approved by the IB program back in 2001, and they reaped the harvest of the IB program with their first graduating class in 2004. According to William Daughtridge, IB coordinator at Millard North, the IB program married well with their already impressive education system.

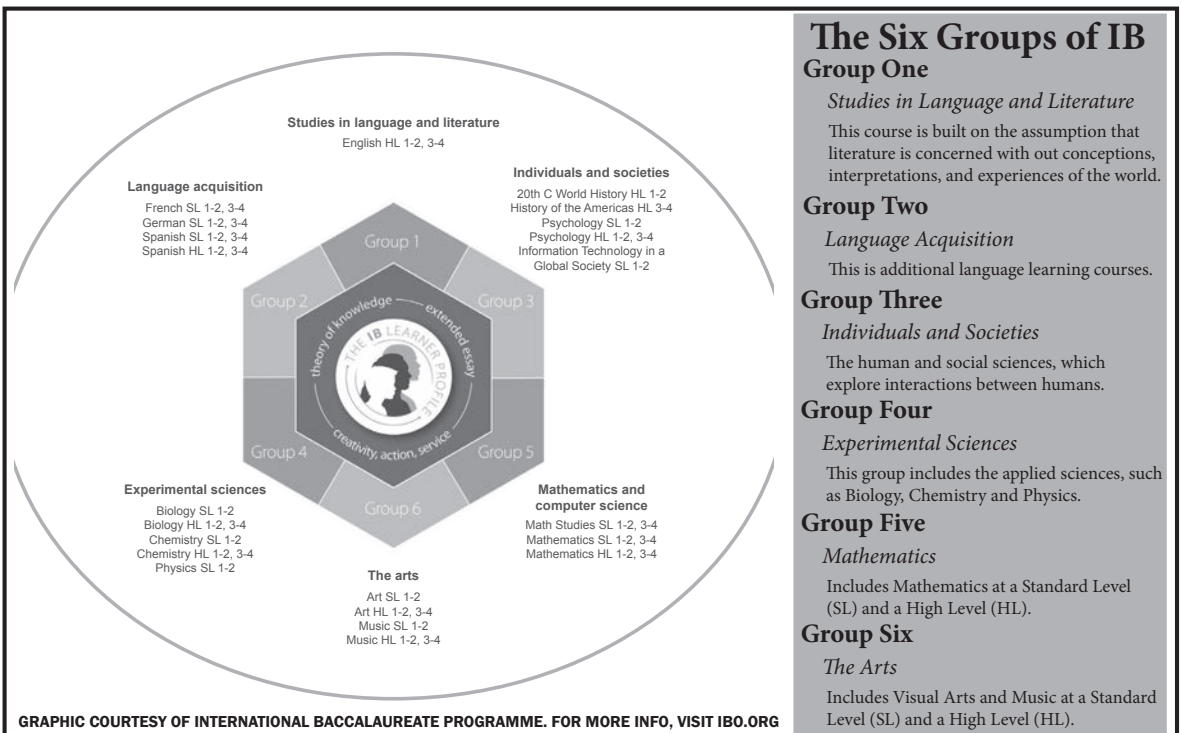
"The emphasis on cross-curricular connections and international mindedness was a welcome addition to the excellent academic program at Millard North High School," said Daughtridge.

Millard North and Central have varying ethnic and economic demographics in relation to their location and student population, but Daughtridge does not see this as a hinderance to either. "[It will be] different, but successful. The IB Diploma Programme has proven itself successful in a wide variety of demographic profiles," said Daughtridge, "ones very much like Central and others very much like Millard, and it succeeds either way."

Alongside a successful result, the IB program will be "value added" to Central High School, although integration of the IB program "won't define us," according to Dr. Keith Bigsby. "We've already got an outstanding academic institution, tradition of excellence and culture," said Bigsby, "The IB program will help us earn more accreditation." Bigsby looks at the IB program as the "icing on the cake," the extra bang to enhance a school that already has a solid core education, but won't be defined by the title "IB School," similar to Millard north.

"Anything you take on something like IB, you'll do pretty well in some areas and learn in other areas," said Bigsby, understanding that there will be kinks to work out once the authorization and implementation phase hits.

The focus of the IB program at Central is not about recruiting, but letting students with the drive and passion to do so choose for themselves. Too many get "lost in number games," according to Dr. Bigsby, and while numbers are encouraging, initially expecting 20 sign-ups for next year and receiving over 40, that's not the force coaxing Central on, or the motive Central wants to take. It's about maintaining the tradition of academic excellence that has put Central on the map.



## The Six Groups of IB Group One

### Studies in Language and Literature

This course is built on the assumption that literature is concerned with our conceptions, interpretations, and experiences of the world.

## Group Two

### Language Acquisition

This is additional language learning courses.

## Group Three

### Individuals and Societies

The human and social sciences, which explore interactions between humans.

## Group Four

### Experimental Sciences

This group includes the applied sciences, such as Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

## Group Five

### Mathematics

Includes Mathematics at a Standard Level (SL) and a High Level (HL).

## Group Six

### The Arts

Includes Visual Arts and Music at a Standard Level (SL) and a High Level (HL).



PHOTOS BY EMILY BECK/THE REGISTER, PHOTO COURTESY OF KARA HEMSLEY

1. Gota Masuda plays with the Hemsley dog, Mickey. The two share a special bond. 2. Kara Hemsley and Masuda are able to relate to each other through a shared interest in music. 3. The Hemsley family spend lots of time together, creating a comfortable environment for a foreign exchange student. 4. Masuda arrived in Omaha the day before homecoming. The dance was his opportunity to meet a few of Kara's friends.

## DEFINING HOME

*Despite many moves, Senior exchange student Gota Masuda connects closely with Omaha, his host family, and Central High School. His decision to move to America from Japan was based on his dreams of living abroad professionally one day.*

BY EMILY BECK

### Decisions, Decisions

Junior Kara Hemsley wanted to have an exchange student for her senior year. It was a split-second decision—and it all started with a pamphlet.

One day while waiting in the counseling center, she came across an advertisement for Education First. To pass the time she picked it up and began reading—and really liked what she saw.

"The process is supposed to take six months, but we got Gota in five days," said Douglas Hemsley, Kara's father. In that time period, Kara and her dad had gone to the program's website and filled out an application, got their house checked out by a representative from the program, and underwent background checks. The two weren't expecting to get a student so quickly.

But Gota Masuda, a 17-year-old from Japan, was already staying with two host parents in the US, and it wasn't working out very well. They disliked his erratic sleeping schedule and were a little strict, and it was decided that a move would be in the best interest for everyone.

Before the Hemsleys knew it, Gota had arrived.

"We got him the day before homecoming," Kara Hemsley said. "It was interesting trying to get him a ticket."

Normally students are able to go to the EF website and sort through potential exchange students; listed are their interests and activities. Kara Hemsley said that "it was almost like a dating site." The only difference: photos of the kids aren't shown to prevent looks from influencing decisions. The program wants students to choose exchange students based on similar interests.

Gota was interested in being an exchange student because he wanted to become more independent. He already knew English, but he wanted to try it by himself; the student said that he thought his experiences in America would help him to "grow up" so that one day he could travel and work independently in whichever location he chose. He also received a lot of encouragement from his parents to come to America.

### The Journey Here

The trip from Japan to America was a lengthy one: it took 15 hours altogether by air travel. Gota had to make connecting flights in Los Angeles and Denver before arriving in Omaha. "I had no sense of direction, so it was really confusing... I didn't know which way was right," Gota said. "I didn't get lost, but it was really hard."

When Gota arrived at Kara Hemsley's house on Sept. 16, she wasn't there, but had gone to Central's Homecoming game. Gota ate dinner with her family and then headed to Central; that's where they first met. "She was trying to talk to me... She asked, 'Are you okay? Are you tired?' and everything again and again," Gota said. He saw her as a very kind person right away.

At the beginning of his time at the Hemsley's house, Gota spent a lot of time in his room. He didn't speak much. "We had to pull words out of him," Doug said. He noted that Gota's English wasn't as good as some of the other exchange students that he had encountered, but that that was okay: the Hemsleys were patient with him, slowing down to speak when needed or stopping to ex-

plain an American phrase or unfamiliar word.

One of the Hemsley's goals was to expose Gota to American traditions and customs, but Gota also introduced them to lots of Japanese things. Through living together, Kara and her father got a taste of just how different the two cultures are.

In Japan, Christmas isn't a huge holiday. Gift exchanges are different; families go shopping together and kids are able to pick out their gifts in the store. When Doug took Gota holiday shopping, he started asking why Kara and her sister weren't with them. Doug explained that in America, gifts are a surprise.

Gota introduced the Hemsleys to a lot of different foods. Together they visited several Japanese food markets in Omaha, and he showed them his favorite beverages, candies and snacks that reminded him of Japan. He also embraced his cooking talents. Gota's mom mailed him a cookbook from Japan, and with the help of the Hemsleys, he began cooking constantly.

### Food, Confusion and Differences

One of the main things that Gota found strange in America: the cuisine and the manner in which Americans eat it.

"The food is really big!" he said. "You usually don't eat the vegetables so much." At first, he thought it was strange how little green is usually a part of meals. And the abundance of potatoes!

"Potato and chicken, potato and beef, potato and steak," he noted. "You guys eat potato instead of rice. How can you do that?" he asked.

Gota noted that the food here is saltier and sweeter. When he first tried Snickers, he was a little disgusted and had to spit it out because he found it too sweet. The fries at McDonald's were also different for him: "It makes me thirsty," he said. Gota laughed when he talked about friends who he saw adding more salt to the French fries; he shook his head, saying, "Are you serious? It's enough salty! How can you eat that?"

Gota said that some of his favorite foods here include gravy and enchiladas.

In Japan Gota always ate breakfast, and was perplexed to find that that isn't the case in America. Even when Americans do eat breakfast, it isn't really prepared the way it is in Japan. Gota described cooking as 'getting ready for.' While at Kara Hemsley's house, he often stayed up late getting ready for the next day's breakfast and lunch. Meals in Japan usually consist of small dishes (like rice and miso soup). Rice is eaten at every meal, including breakfast.

Apart from food, sports are also different for Gota in America. He began playing volleyball in Japan when he entered high school, and when he came to Omaha he was surprised and exasperated to find that only girls play volleyball. He had asked, "Where is the boy's team?"

According to Doug, volleyball is Gota's "big sport," but he's found a replacement.

A member of Central's swim team, Gota originally joined to stay in shape. He swam a little back in Japan, but he didn't take it seriously at first.

After some time, though, Gota started caring and trying to improve. He puts forth a lot of effort now to quicken his times and become a better swimmer.

"Now I'm really crazy for swimming," he said.

### Connections Made

Kara Hemsley and Gota didn't get to talk a great amount during his time at the Hemsley's, and for this, Gota expressed a lot of regret. He admitted to spending too much time in his room instead of with the family. "I shouldn't have done that," he said.

One of the reasons Gota felt that he couldn't talk about how he was feeling: he was self-conscious about his English. Frustration came often.

"I didn't like talking so much," he said.

Over winter break, he spent a lot of time watching the show 24 with English subtitles, and he now feels that his English is better. That confidence motivated Gota to get out of his room and start spending more time with the family.

Kara Hemsley and Gota were able to relate to each other more toward the end of Gota's time there. "Music was a good way for us to connect," she said. The two exchanged music and even discovered some mutual bands that they liked to listen to, like Paramore.

Unfortunately, around that time Gota had to leave the Hemsley's because of the stress that Doug was experiencing from kidney problems. He has a rare kidney disease, called IgA nephropathy, but has lived with the same kidney for years. Now that he is nearing the top of the waiting list for a transplant, Doug will either receive a new one soon or begin dialysis (a process that does the kidney's job, which is to filter blood). The added stress of hosting an exchange student was getting to be too much to handle, and Gota had to move to yet another new home.

He now stays with Giacomo Santoro, an Italian exchange student, and his host parents. The two have formed a unique friendship and enjoy living together, but Gota still misses the Hemsleys.

Despite his relatively short time staying with Doug and Kara Hemsley, Gota formed a lot of respect for the two. He has an invitation to visit whenever he wants. Doug expressed mutual respect and warm feelings toward Gota.

Overall, Doug doesn't think that there is much of a difference between American and Japanese teenagers. "Kids are kids," he said.

### 2011 Earthquake

Gota's home in Kanagawa wasn't heavily influenced by the earthquake on March 11, 2011, but he did feel some affects.

It happened while he was at school, and he remembers a lot of shaking. Everyone thought that it was just a small earthquake, but realized they were wrong when the shaking didn't stop.

Trains were down, so a lot of the students at Gota's school couldn't get home.

"We stayed in our house for more than a week," Gota said. His family was very frightened by the threat of nuclear leaks. The news had said that everything was safe, and that they didn't have to care about it, but "we thought it was dangerous."

## Louder than a Bomb makes its way to Omaha, Central poets prepare

BY EMILY BECK

Last weekend marked the beginning of something that Omaha area writers hope will be big: the city's own Louder than a Bomb (LTaB) poetry slam competition.

A kick-off workshop for students interested in taking part was held Saturday, Feb. 4 at the Omaha Healing Arts Center, located in the Old Market.

Originating in Chicago in 2001 through the Young Chicago Authors organization, the teen poetry festival aims to "bring teens together across racial, gang, and socio-economic lines," according to YCA's website.

Schools enter teams of poets who perform group and individual pieces; five judges are selected randomly from the audience to score each performance on a 10 point scale.

These scores are added up, and groups win or lose as a team.

Saturday's workshop helped to prepare students for the slam, which is to be held in April and will feature teams from 10 different schools within the Omaha area.

Local writers and teachers have worked hard to bring LTaB from Chicago to Omaha.

Andrew Ek, board president of the Nebraska Writers Collective, called the process of bringing the competition to Omaha "a group effort between us, the Chicago folks, and the Omaha-area donors," as well as the writing community as a whole.

An award-winning film documenting the competition of 2008 was screened by Film Streams in August of 2011.

The director, Greg Jacobs, was invited to direct a Q&A session after its premiere—which is where he and Ek met.

Jacobs expressed an interest in getting LTaB going in cities besides Chicago, so the two exchanged contact information and involved Matt Mason, executive director of the Nebraska Writers Collective, and Kevin Coval, a founder/organizer of Chicago's LTaB.

With the monetary help of several local philanthropists, LTaB is not only affordable—it's quickly becoming a reality.

"So much has happened so fast," Ek said. "We're trying to do a year's worth of work in just a few months."

According to Ek, slam poetry (created 25 years ago by Marc Smith) offers attendees a night of flashy fun and an opportunity to connect with a roomful of other spectators as well as performing poets.

And now, Omaha's poetry slam scene will no longer be dominated by adults.

With the arrival of LTaB, high school students will also be learning the craft.

Creative writing and English teacher Deron Larson is the coordinator for Central's team.

A fan of slam, Larson is getting just as excited as the students. "The opportunity for poets from Central to get together with poets from other schools is unlike any other," he said.

Senior Janessa Davis plans to join the team out of love of poetry; she has been writing it for 6 years.

"I just like getting the word out," she said.

Area teachers, LTaB coordinators and the NWC hope that the workshop and approaching slam will help to create a tightly knit community of writers of all ages who are from varying walks of life.

"At the very least," Ek said, "I hope the effect that we have is that there are a few more kids in the world who don't hate poetry. If that's all we can accomplish, I'll be pretty happy."

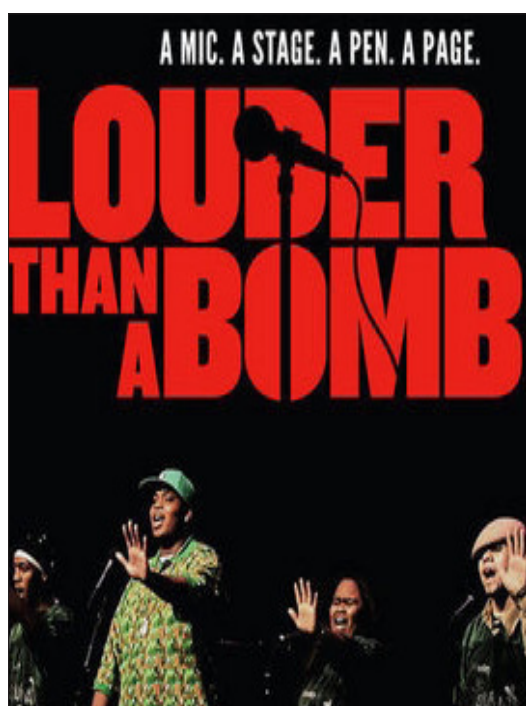


PHOTO COURTESY OF LOUDERTHANABOMBFILM.COM

## Central revamps recycling program

BY ESAU RENDON

Recycling is nothing new to Central High School, it has been done for years, however this year there have been large improvements, evident with cardboard recycling containers in numerous locations within the school, all of which were donated by the Coca-Cola Company.

Head Custodian Engineer Debra Bolas has taken the reins of the recycling machine, after Bilingual liaison, Alejandra Soto.

The department head has worked at Central for 11 years and is more than glad to recycle, saying that is easy to do and good for the earth. Bolas herself said she has been recycling for about three years after her daughter influenced her to do so.

Today, Bolas said that we have seen improvements in this year, saying that in the month of January alone there has been more recycling than the whole year, she also included that Central's recycling has saved us money, which is due to the times of collection. Bolas also says that she aims to lower the amount of collection days from four to three, which were formerly five.

Another one of her goals is to get staff and students on board to help with the recycling. "We want to get everyone involved and make students aware of what we can do to save the Earth."

The recycling program offers volunteer hours to its student volunteers, who must have a free period in order to participate. Recently participants that have joined are also from the Nation Honor Society, Latino Leaders, and student aides. However eligibility isn't exclusive to those students. Participants must follow a schedule. Students who volunteer first hour will have to collect material from the entire fourth floor, the schedule shifts to collect materials placing them in large bins from the third floor during second hour and so on. Eventually the collection reaches its last turn which is fifth hour and includes the auditorium, gymnasium, and Physical Education classes.

Senior Edith Avila has volunteered before and says "I like to recycle. I am all about being ecological, and I enjoy volunteering too. Plus it's a great break during the day."

However, students aren't the only people at Central excited about the recycling program. English and Speech teacher, Jayme Prisbell says, "I am glad they came to the conclusion that recycling is an intricate part of our school." Sue Drumm, agreeing, said "I love it; I am 100 percent for it. It's about time. I am an avid recycler, and I used to have to take things home to recycle them."

# Trio sets eyes on gold with clothing brand: Gold Slugs

BY MEKENZIE KERR

Gold, a color of success and splendor, symbolizing increased power, enjoyment of life, success ... but mostly wealth, and lots of it.

It has also recently become part of an increasingly popular line of shirts' brand name: Gold Slugs.

Creators Lee Martin (12), Shaq Jones (12) and Marze Ballard (12) teamed up to begin production of what they hoped would be a big success.

Beginning simply with tee shirts that boast the name "Gold Slugs," the trio who originally released 50 shirts, was left with a mere 3 in less than a week.

Martin and Jones formulated and mulled over ideas during the summer, initially throwing around the idea of their own brand before that.

With the adjoining of Ballard, their hopes became reality when their first line of teal, hot pink and grey shirts dropped.

'Gold Slugs' was at one time a part of a conglomeration of a list with different names that each Martin, Jones and Ballard found suitable.

'Gold Slugs', slugs sometimes meaning bullets, is simple, easy to remember, besides, "all things gold" are all things good.

The process in designing and selling has proved a substantial feat for the three, although handling it with stride.

Ballard says the entire thing from orders to production is "really time consuming;" the most difficult areas involving organization and trying to estimate how many of their product to order for sales.

Results from their tedious work showed positive for Martin, Jones and Ballard beginning on the Friday after Gold Slugs' release.

Friday night they went to a party in order to inaugurate promotion and get word out about Gold Slugs news, and from there the ball got rolling.

"Word of mouth was good," said Martin, "but can only get you so far."

Word of mouth, noted by Jones, was a key player in a jumpstart for publicity, but as with all other success stories, Twitter played an important role as well.

The group utilizes social networking outlets to the fullest from Twitter to Facebook to Tumblr, they have it all. The three agreed Twitter was the biggest social networking component, creating and making semi-famous the hashtag #GoldSlugs retweeted by friends, former Central students and many others.

Type in #GoldSlugs in the search bar and hundreds of tweets will pop up, displaying the little note.

Thanks to modern technology Martin, Shaq and Ballard have managed to get Gold Slugs name "ultra hype."

In regards to the publicity, Twitter has doted upon Gold Slugs, Martin remarked, "Twitter is crazy."

Requests and compliments from a numerous amount of other places in the United States have been relayed to the Gold Slugs owners as well.

Using all aspects of media, Martin uses Instagram to help further the word about their brand.

"People I never even thought I'd know from different countries I'm talking to," he said.

Their tactic is to create and design shirts that appeal to all sorts of



PHOTOS BY MEKENZIE KERR/THE REGISTER

Ballard, Martin and Jones sold out of their first design and discuss plans for their next release, revolving around the Chicago Cubby.

different groups of people.

Gold Slugs isn't a brand that is supposed to be specified to a certain niche, rather being one that everyone could get into.

As things catch on, the team-of-three hopes to start designing more than shirts from crewnecks to hats, continuation to pursue the "no market target" ideal.

"A lot of people make shirts," said Martin, "but shirts that sell is another thing."

Words of praise and sale are in order to the simplistic, yet enticing designs done by Martin.

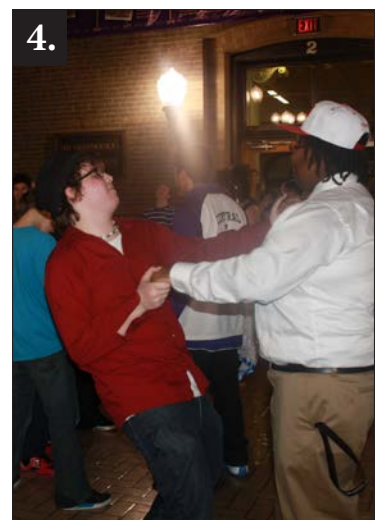
He began making designs soon after discussing the loose idea of a brand name. Since then he has built-up a stash of designs they might use on their future releases.

The original drop, as a way to see what appealed to people, has spawned more hopes of a brighter future for Gold Slugs and its founders.

The ideas and drive to do it sparked by seeing people constantly clad in DGK, Diamond Supply Co, and other brands similar, hoping to be that name on peoples' clothes someday, may possibly become a reality within reach as new lines make their way onto the Omaha and National fashion scene.

A lot of people make shirts, but shirts that sell is another thing.

- Lee Martin



PHOTOS BY MEKENZIE KERR AND EMILY BECK/THE REGISTER

1. Isabella Baummel spent extra time doing her makeup for the GSA dance. 2. Students participating in the GSA dance were not only from Central, but from other metro schools as well, including Millard North, Millard South and Burke. 3. Jenny Barack talks with a fellow classmate during the dance. 4. Noah Grossman and Tamerea Marion share a dance to "E.T." by Katy Perry.

## GSA dance hosted at Central, creates safe atmosphere for students

BY EMILY BECK AND MEKENZIE KERR

Central's courtyard was filled with flashing lights, creative, shimmering dresses and blaring music during the Gay Straight Alliance's Valentine's Day dance, held on Friday, Feb. 3.

Students from across the OPS spectrum, including Millard, got together to dance, listen to music, eat and converse.

'E.T.', 'Yeah' and 'Stacy's Mom' reverberated through the DJ's speaker, heightening the technical feel given off by spurts and streams of specially picked dresses and blinding bursts of pink and blue lights.

Even more noticeable than the vibrations of the songs leaking through the floor tiles, was the comfortable, good-vibed-feel radiating from students having a spectacular time.

Rick Richards, counselor and main sponsor for GSA, does most of the planning; once the dance gets going, though, he says he hands it over to the GSA officers.

The presidents and officers from each grade help to put the event together; planning began last month.

Junior Tamerea Marion, who shares the GSA presidency with Dawaune Hayes, described the process as a group effort. "We always know we're going to plan a dance, just not the date," she said.

While the courtyard wasn't packed during the dance, Marion said that attendance was up from last year; only a handful of kids have shown up to previous events. Marion said that the

majority of the GSA was represented on Friday night, minus other president, Hayes who had prior engagements.

The GSA's goal for the dance was "to give the kids in the different GSAs the chance to meet each other and to get acquainted," according to Richards. Spreading of the dance's happening showed successful with the students from a conglomeration of Omaha area schools being represented, adding to the atmosphere.

Central's GSA began in 1999, and the dance has been an annual event since 2005. One of these dances occurs every year, and many of the students also attend Pride Prom. Although Pride Prom is not planned directly by Central's GSA, many members look forward to attending.

While homecoming and prom are offered to the entire school population, Marion looks at GSA's dance as a place more for the environment and atmosphere. "It's just a place for everyone to feel safe," said Marion.

Word about GSA's dance was spread to other schools by Mr. Richards, although not overly publicized. "We don't promote it a lot. If we blasted it around school, more people might come," said Marion, "and that could make it [feel] unsafe."

Both a safe haven and place solely to catch the vibe and dance their hearts out, GSA members from Central and Omaha-area schools incorporated both aspects to create a memorable Feb. night for all.

Sweaty from excessive dancing, GSA members and other fellow students trickled out of the courtyard at nine, leaving with carnations as a closing to their two hour night of fast-paced jams, boogying, and lights.



## Films allow for an escape



**GREAT JOB!**  
A Column by KENDALL PANAS

My heart is thumping like a drum set. My fists are clenched so tight I can hardly feel my fingers. My whole body recoils in fear as I sit in the cold dark auditorium filled with dozens of other thrill-seeking movie-goers. The adrenaline rush that comes with watching a scary movie has always kept me seeking out heart-stopping horror films.

As long as I can remember, I have always loved watching all types of movies. You could even call watching movies a hobby; there's nothing I enjoy more than grabbing some snacks, sinking into the couch, and getting lost in the plot of some crazy, twisting, rigorous film, and it's an activity that I do almost every weekend.

Some think watching movies is a boring waste of time, and with some movies, it really can be. Horror movies like *Saw* and *My Bloody Valentine* aren't intriguing, just vomit inducing. But with most films (not just horror movies) it's like a mini adventure filled with twists and new things to learn. Just last weekend, I found myself entranced in *Judy Moody* and the *Not-so-Bummer-Summer*, the movie my five and seven year old cousins were blankly staring at; that's how much I like movies!

I'll enjoy almost any movie, but my genre of choice is always horror movies. There's something about the terrible suspense that really gets me. Though it got bad reviews, *The Devil Inside* kept me entertained and thoroughly creeped out. Stories about demons, ghosts, and aliens are my favorite: just knowing that the story could actually be true makes the plot a lot scarier.

One of the first horror movies I ever watched was *Jaws*. I can vividly recall sitting on the couch with my dad, at the young age of seven, watching that huge mechanical shark sink its multiple rows of jagged teeth into the leg of an old sailor. I was terrified. But I loved every second of it. Looking back, the graphics were really amateur and pretty un-frightening, but *Jaws* was the film that really kick-started my love for scary movies.

That night, I couldn't sleep. Images of killer sharks and severed legs swam through my imagination as I lay there, blankly staring up at the ceiling. Most seven year old girls would be scared out of their minds, never wanting to watch another scary movie as long as they lived; but I just wanted more.

After *Jaws*, I moved on to bigger and badder things, more sophisticatedly scary films such as *Amityville Horror* and *Nightmare on Elm Street*. While other kids my age were watching Disney Movies, I was watching some of the creepiest movies ever made.

I've never been "that kid" at slumber parties who is too scared to watch a rated R movie. I was always the one begging and arguing to watch *The Strangers* instead of *Series of Unfortunate Events*. When I won, I would act completely unphased and calm at the scary parts, but inside I'd be freaking out. After the movie, when everyone else would be sleeping, I'd be awake thinking about the movie and scaring myself even more.

I respect any movie that has a good plot. If I can tell that the dialog and storyline were carefully planned out with much detail, the movie instantly becomes better. Watching a good movie is one of my favorite things to do at any time of the day. Anything that can trap my attention for two hours is a true work of art.

### LANA DEL RAY CONFUSES SNL AUDIENCE



Lana Del Ray deals with backlash after critics call her performance 'the worst in SNL history.'  
**ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8**

### FRO-YO SHOP GETS RAVE REVIEW



Orange Leaf, a newly opened frozen yogurt shop, has quality, quantity, and atmosphere.  
**ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 7**

### TAKE CARE TAKES THE LISTENERS BACK



Drake's most recent album rings with nostalgia, while showcasing unique talent.  
**ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 8**

Friday, February 10, 2012

Omaha Central High School

Vol. 125 Issue 3



PHOTO BY MEKENZIE KERR/REGISTER

Participants in the 2012 English as a Second Language (ESL) Roadshow practice after school. Dances show students' background and native culture.

## Underrecognized show celebrates tenth year

BY ESAU RENDON

The acts for Central High School's annual Road Show have been selected, but while many participants vigorously practice their routines and emotionally prepare themselves to perform in front of hundreds of strangers, members of the English as a Second Language community prepare themselves for a similar event: *Generacion N* (or *Generation N*).

Started in 2001 with the help of former Central High School employees Susana Lara and Giovanna Zermeno, both of which worked as Bilingual Liaisons at Central, is a scholarship and talent show that exposes talent while also incorporating the diverse cultures in Omaha Public

Schools into every performance

Lara moved on to become a Spanish teacher at South High School, while Zermeno was hired as a Social Studies Teacher at Marrs Magnet School. However, Central has been the host of this unique talent show since its beginning; that is, until this year, with the event changing location to South High School's auditorium.

The difference in location hasn't been the only thing that has changed throughout the show's history; the types and styles of performances have morphed as well.

"About ten years ago when the talent show started here at Central, it composed of acts with primarily Latino participants" said Bilingual Liaison Alejandra Soto.

Continued to 'ESL Roadshow' on Page 6

## Senior looks to future in art



PHOTO BY EMILY BECK/REGISTER

Along with other senior AP art students, Erick Abernathy has his own workspace within the art room. Here he creates designs for the Uncool Movement as well as independent projects.

At a small, almost completely obscured desk toward the back of the art room, where the most advanced and promising art students have been given their own work space, you can find senior Erick Abernathy for most of the day. Eighteen years old and bursting with talent, Abernathy hasn't had an easy life. But he's undeniably using art to surpass

all of his struggles.

Abernathy had a lot to show; most of his work is done on thick white paper with watercolor, ink and paint. He has the eye similar to a graphic designer: some of his pieces feature graffiti accents, surreal color, a special alphabet of his own creation and a lot of symbols. Right now he's working on a zombie collection, complete with gore and plenty of underlying meaning.

Although I had had the opportunity to view his art before, I was still blown away after asking to see it. He was more than willing to explain his inspirations for each piece, and shared with me the messages that he was trying to convey. One of my favorites was a painting of a gaunt African child, standing in front of a seemingly endless landscape of skulls. Abernathy told me that he had modeled it after a photograph he'd seen of a child standing amongst piles and piles of bones; he had been amazed by how unfazed the boy seemed by the immense death that surrounded him.

Another piece depicted a thug-like man with zombie features, standing in a rough part of town and pointing an accusing finger at the viewer. "The guy in the projects, he's just speaking on how he would love to see another day...you never know when you could be the person they are talking about on the news," Abernathy said. The painting features a speech bubble, which encloses the funky letters of his alphabet; the whole thing is done in intricate detail.

### Struggles

Abernathy spent an equal amount of time moving between Nebraska and California. The people who surrounded him where he grew up in Los Angeles dubbed it socially unacceptable to be different. The only art around was gang graffiti, which was quickly covered up by rival gang's graffiti. It didn't carry any meaning. As a kid and young adult, people always asked him things like 'why are you so weird?' and 'why are you drawing stuff like that?'

Continued to 'Abernathy' on Page 6

## Junior dislikes animal cruelty on programs



**FEELS GOOD TO BE AT THE TOP**  
A Column by GISELLE TRAN

I dislike animal cruelty to the point of hate.

Dogfights, cockfights, they all disgust me. Watching abused animals on television makes me sick to my stomach. I can hardly stand seeing a docked tail, unless it's for practical purposes.

I often wonder why people would ever force their dog into a pink tutu or pumpkin costume. That aside, I must confess that I have found myself fawning over panda dogs. Yes, panda dogs.

Side note: panda dogs are not a hybrid species – a cross between a panda and a dog. Pandas and dogs are different species and therefore cannot procreate (unfortunately – imagine if pandogs were real).

Pandogs originated in Japan when one Maltese-poodle mix named after the quirky detective in the hit TV series *Columbo* was rescued from death by Kensuke Hirakawa. According to the stories, *Columbo* had been abandoned for his ugly looks. I, for one, was shocked to hear this myth as *Columbo* is now one of the most famous and adored dogs in Japan (and maybe all of Asia).

Hirakawa planned the most Extreme Doggy Makeover, needing only one material: non-toxic, non-permanent black dye for dogs. Armed with doggy-safe dye and a novel idea, Hirakawa dyed his Maltese-poodle in the striking pattern of the panda and thus created for *Columbo* a life of fame.

The story goes on. Pandogs are the new trend, and Chow Chows are the most popular dogs on which the new look is found.

On the other hand, animal rights activists find this new trend appalling. And it's not only animal rights activists. People who feel sick when they see a three-legged dog or a one-eyed puppy are averse to the conversion of Chow Chows into pandogs. One person commented: Do you not realize how cruel and horrible this is? I am totally disgusted by this. Some people are upset dyed dogs that seem little more than accessories to their owners. Others believe that dogs have feelings and genuinely dislike being dyed to look like a panda.

Yes, dogs are creatures that are alive and know pain and happiness (if you disagree, Google search "wagging tails"). While Google searching wagging tails, find pictures of pandogs, and I assure the general public that it will fall in love.

Pandogs look like big fluffy balls of cuddly goodness. They made me tear up for their cuteness. And for the people who say that pandogs are ridiculous, I must not have made myself clear: Pandogs almost made me cry with love. They are simple fluffy pillows containing not feathers but delightfulness (from what I've seen, pandogs have the potential to be more comfortable than pillows).

Understandably, people might want to return their pandogs and yearn for their dingy white-furred dog. That's what great about non-permanent dye! It is, and excuse me for being redundant, temporary. In fact, most non-permanent dyes last one month.

Personally, what I find more "cruel" than dyeing Chow Chows is trimming poodles into those shaped hedges found on vast grassy lawns. I would much rather wake up to a pandog licking my face than a dog whose tail is a perfect sphere of hypoallergenic fur. Forgive me for this tangent, but I must put in my two cents about poodles.

Honestly, the fashion in which certain groomers clip poodles' fur is preposterous. I keep thinking that a poodle is going to run up to me and ask me for a vest. I must also add that vests are useless because I've never had anyone say to me, "You know, my torso is freezing but my arms feel nice and toasty."

But the question is not whether pandogs are more lovable than shaved poodles because, let's be honest, everyone knows the answer to that question.

The real question is what battle is to be fought. I encourage dog fights and cockfights and physical animal abuse to be put to a stop before focusing on a few panda bear wannabes.

# Lana Del Rey confuses SNL

BY ESAU RENDON

This time last year, no one knew who Lana Del Rey was, but recently she has been featured in numerous magazines. Not just Charlie nobody indie magazines, but more big name magazines like *W* and *Rolling Stone*. Del Rey or Elizabeth Grant has also received a lot of press after her television debut on NBC's *Saturday Night Live*, that had terrible reviews, especially after the private e-mail sent to Gawker Chief Nick Denton by big shot Brian Williams, that expressed his discontent was publicly posted on Gawker for many to see.

Many critics, like Blogger Perez Hilton, felt Del Rey's performance was "off key" and "even cringe worthy" I couldn't agree more. However the performance was very different from the album, that sounds very intentional and right where Del Rey seems to aim for. The performance even sparked strong emotions with LCD sound system front man James Murphy, which expressed his feelings via twitter saying "Lana Del Rey plays *Saturday Night Live* next week. LCD Sound system tried for 6 years to play *Saturday Night Live*."

I don't know what else to make of the Twitter backlash other than to call it a fit jealousy, and why wouldn't you be jealous? Del Rey has received a lot of press in the past few months and has really only been around for four years.

Maybe it is due to her femme fatale looks and her too full to be real port, that has helped her demand attention so quickly. Although her looks seem to be reasons to the large following of Del Rey, I feel that the causer of this is simply her music, which always has some attitude, something sweet and girly with some misunderstood edge, like her Bronx spirit that reminds me of a gangster's girl. Regardless of the elements that accompany Del Rey, most of her songs seem repetitious and very few of them memorable for its quality, but for its catchiness. It is that same repetition that makes her good competition to 1960's advertisement jingles and failed hipster intent to revive somewhat retro sounds.

I can't say this album is complete garbage, for example "Blue Jean" is refreshing. It starts off with a recording of what to me seemed like an overzealous pastor from a horror movie reciting the Lord's Prayer. The Pastor is somewhat out of place because the song is mainly about a boyfriend that she seems to have had and held dearly all done in a husky and sultry voice. However, it is easy to listen to and even sets a scene, for me I can't resist but to feel as if I am on a road trip with the Bride from *Kill Bill*, perhaps for more people it would just be great relaxing music perfect for use on road trips.

In the song "Born to Die" I get a different feeling from the rest of the album, it seems epic and evokes a bittersweet feeling along with a calming one, Del Rey's voice is perfect for this. Her song "Off to the Races" is exactly the opposite which sounds a lot like the arrival of the Four Horsemen of the apocalypse, chaotic and dark.

Other memorable songs include "Diet Mountain Dew", "Radio", "Dark Paradise" and "Summertime Madness", while the others are just an obsolete blur.

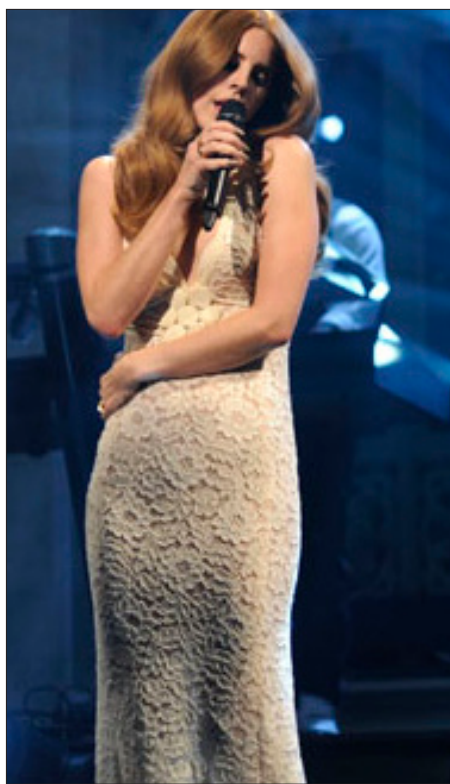


PHOTO COURTESY OF SNL.COM

**Singer Lana Del Rey delivers a less-than-impressive performance on *Saturday Night Live*, leaving critics calling her the worst musical guest in the history of the**

Along with her varying, she has made a lot of her own videos, that seem more like a home movie than a music video. A prime example of this is her video "You can be the boss," which shows Del Rey in what seems to be a 34 dollar costume wig. This being said, we know that Del Rey could possibly invest a lot more into the quality of her videos and sound, being that she is the daughter of investor and millionaire Rob Grant. Perhaps her choice of filming and wardrobe is used to appeal to what seems to be her target audience, which is a more independent crowd. That would justify it somehow.

However, it would be much more reasonable for Del Rey to focus on making her music more magical, and more like the people she has named as her inspirations: Nirvana and Kurt Cobain.

Del Rey also landed the cover of the Russian version of Andy Warhol's avant garde *Interview Magazine*, I think that because of the publications backup, Del Rey must have something to offer. However it is not clear whether it is in music or fashion. Considering that *Interview* is primarily a fashion magazine.

Her reputation up till her SNL debut seemed well received; however it is her exposure to the masses that brought to light how her songs are something to grow from not something to fire off a legendary and remarkable career. Recognition is something that Del Rey has early in her career with many dubbing her as "Gangsta Nancy Sinatra". However, I feel most will weigh the importance of honorable achievements over notoriety.

# Block 16 redesigns classic comfort food

BY TABITHA PANAS

Being a Central student, you have probably passed by this place many times, maybe walking to the Old Market after school or just wandering around downtown on a weekend. I know that I have and probably never have given it a second thought; maybe I never even noticed this small, sort of hidden restaurant in the first place. However, I was pleasantly surprised when I finally tried Block 16 (formerly New York Chicken and Gyro) located on Farnam, just west of 16th street.

Block 16 has been open since Nov 1st 2010 and won the "Comfort Food Classic"

## RESTAURANT REVIEW



## RESTAURANT HERE

meal totaled up to \$9.10, a pretty fair price. It took them about five to ten minutes to whip up my meal. The price seemed almost generous when I got what I had ordered. The portions were large, which was good because I was hungry. I was very much in heaven as I devoured the Philly, almost dripping with meltly delicious cheese and sauce.

Like I said, I did not know what to expect of the food when I first stumbled upon this place, especially having the vegan option, because I often associate vegan restaurants with words like health-nut, organic, whole-grain, or vegetable, but this food did not put any of these words in my mind.

I talked to the owner Jessica to find out what were some of Block 16's best sellers. She told me that the "Pulled Pork York Roll" seemed to be a crowd favorite among the meat-eaters. Another favorite, she said, are their specials, which she describes as, "always vegan, rich, outrageous, and over the top."

Jessica also explained that she and the other owner Paul both went to school for fine-dining. She says that street food is completely new to them except for the little experience that they had gathered working in the fast food industry in high school. However, they have managed to make Block 16 a success. They have done a great job creating a restaurant with greasy delicious comfort food while combining it with many vegan options. I would definitely suggest this restaurant to anyone looking for a good bite to eat.

I ordered a chicken Philly sandwich and chose buffalo chips for my side over fries or onion rings. My



PHOTO BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

■ 'Abernathy' continued from page 5

# Abernathy overcomes adversity in unique ways, helps others

So he hid what was quickly becoming his passion.

My friends and peers had a tendency to shoot things down immediately. They wouldn't accept that I liked to do art, so I just didn't do it, he explained. "I needed to be a part of the majority."

Abernathy has undergone different stages of dealing with the talent he's been given.

"I got to a point where I stopped caring and didn't like waking up," he said.

The artist also experienced a phase of rage, where he would lash out at anyone who tried to criticize him.

As he's matured over the years, Abernathy has been able to settle at a mature and modest pride.

He's figured out for himself how to meet other's disapproval or strange looks with an unconcerned air.

He gives a lot of credit to his uncle, whom he described as "really humble." He's one of the reasons Abernathy was able to overcome the internal and external struggles that he faced in Los Angeles and Omaha both.

A semi-famous artist known as Ekundayo ([www.ekundayo.com](http://www.ekundayo.com)), Abernathy's uncle showed him the way to art and inspired him to embrace his talent.

"Looking back, he complimented me and I sucked," he said. Abernathy watched him travel, forever working on different projects and growing both as a person and artist. "It motivated me to become greater. I wouldn't have come this way on my own."

## The Uncool Movement

The Uncool Movement is a group that Abernathy started with several fellow artists with an aim to bring people together, regardless of major differences in styles, tastes or perspectives.

In the last few months the movement has flourished; collectively they have put together art shows, done live painting events and conducted meet-and-greets to promote artists.

The Uncool Movement is even planning a bake sale and poetry slam in the near future. "We're just doing whatever to reach out to whoever," Abernathy said.

Members from Central include seniors Imagine Uhlenbrock, Jesus Salazar and Kolby Gidding, as well as junior Blue Peterson; others outside of Central consist mostly of music groups such as Midtown Marauders, Dirty Diamonds, DJ Wizard, Raidio, Triangles and the Cheap Furs, many of which originate in cities

across the United States.

Street artists Kizr, Egor and Bekah Nigro are also involved. Abernathy explained that people separate themselves and put themselves into "weird groups," and he really wanted to bring people with minor interests together.

Maybe someone wears Jordans and Nike gear and someone else wears loafers and corduroys, but they both like the same music; they can still come together and make art and be connected. He feels like people, instead of categorizing, should focus on the small things that they can relate to each other through.

## What Art has Taught

Through his passion, Abernathy has essentially been able to relate art to life in quite a few advantageous ways—it's shaped how he thinks and perceives the world.

As an artist, he's made countless painting errors, but is able to adapt to those and work them into the piece.

He showed a painting of a man with glasses hanging precariously off of his face, and explained that they weren't originally supposed to be there—he had spilled black ink in a spot where it couldn't be covered up, and had worked glasses in.

Abernathy thinks that dealing with people is similar: we're mistake-making machines, but that does not mean that even our biggest blunders can't be fixed up and forgotten (or even transformed into something beautiful).

Frustration happens too: Abernathy admitted to getting so upset with a piece that he's had to simply get up and walk away. Later on, he's able to restart, picking up where he left off.

Sometimes, if it isn't working out at all, he can scrap the piece and start over.

That's what he has ultimately learned from art: forgiveness. He's figured out that while you can't always scrap a person the same way you can a canvas, there are still opportunities to erase and start over.

## Shows and Galleries

I'm busy with shows just about every weekend. I showed some work for the first time at a house show that Imagine Uhlenbrock set up earlier this year, but I wanted to start moving toward gallery shows, he said.

The show featured a number of local artists and band performances.

A show at the Siena Francis house came not long after his first show—he finds major inspiration in those "less fortunate," particularly homeless people. "They're happier than people with millions. They motivate me," he said.

"I wanted it to be a benefit. It really had to be about people with nothing."

Abernathy didn't have any money for the show, but luckily the Joslyn Art Museum provided him with free frames.

Through admission fees and the funds from people who purchased his art, "I was able to raise \$500 for the Siena Francis house," he said.

And he wants to continue work in that fashion: while traveling and doing art shows, Abernathy has a desire to bring art to places that wouldn't receive it otherwise.

And you could say that Abernathy is going places. Lately, he's been getting attention from all over the country.

Galleries in Council Bluffs and Kansas have contacted him in the hopes of getting a showing of his art, and he'll be visiting Chicago over the coming spring break for a show in which he'll be featured.

The East Coast is also a point of interest for the artist; he'll be gracing Washington, DC, New York, and Los Angeles with his ever-growing presence.

Summer 2012 will without a doubt be hectic. Along with traveling all over the United States, he is trying to fulfill his ultimate goal: London.

## Plans for the Future

While Abernathy's future isn't mapped out in stone, it's definitely going to be a bright one. Educational plans are uncertain—he may be heading back to California.

Regardless of location, Abernathy will continue uniting creative souls through the Uncool Movement, creating fresh and original pieces for galleries, making people think about and question life through his work, and bringing art to places in need of it.

Although college plans are a bit shaky, the road ahead is sure to be busy. But Abernathy will have plenty of time to get everything done.

He said, "I don't really sleep at all."

■ 'ESL Roadshow' continued from page 5

# ESL Roadshow showcases ethnic traditions, foreign talent

Today, the talent show has performances with roots in very exotic cultures, with participants from Columbia, Nepal, Somalia and Mexico among others, increasing the amount of performers and making the task of obtaining acts more competitive. Numerous tryout sessions now have to be held at all participating OPS high schools.

The diversity of participants has also made some question the name of the show that features the letter N, which is only found in the Spanish language.

Giovanna Zermeno, who still works a lot with the show, said the name wouldn't change because it was important to remember the roots of the show, although it has evolved much since the beginning.

Eduardo Suarez, another Bilingual Liaison at Central who participated in the first ever Generacion N while a student at South High School, agreed that the talent show has undergone drastic changes saying that "in the beginning the talent show didn't even have a name, it is obvious it has grown significantly, from five acts in the show to being selective about the many acts."

The show clearly has grown in its ten years of existence. However, many remain unaware of the fact that this even exists in OPS and at Central.

Burke Senior Indirra Colon made that evident when she said "I have heard about it, but not through my school, my Grandma." Junior Clara Harlow said "What? I didn't even know

this existed, I love the fact that it exposes OPS diversity, but I wish that it was better advertised." Junior Jordyn Grau agreed and said that more advertising would be a good idea.

It seems that most of the people who are enlightened about the show are either sponsors, members of Latino Leaders or theater connoisseurs like Senior Emily Hill, who like many say that it seems like only Spanish speakers are eligible to participate, since the few ads appear only in Spanish.

The issue is just that: many are confused about their eligibility and many are unaware that it exists, which is unfortunate to seniors who are missing out on a good scholarship opportunity that hands out \$500 scholarships, depending on the amount of funds available from the sale of tickets.

## Frozen Yogurt shop serves fresh concept, knocks out other Metro area competitors



PHOTO BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER



BY JENNIFER ROONEY

What's a little summer night without some good ole ice cream? Well instead of having ice cream with lots of fat and sugar, how about having some good, nutritious, healthy frozen yogurt? Why don't you try something new and try Orange Leaf?

My friend had told me about this little place right off of 72nd and Pacific between many bigger, maybe more important stores. Orange Leaf is located at 1110 S. 71st St. Suite F.

Don't be fooled by its size on the outside because once you walk through the doors you will be amazed.

The bright orange related colors on the walls will make your eyes pop and it makes the restaurant very colorful and interesting looking. The tables also make you think about what they are really made of. They're very small and have a little kid look to it. They might as well just be in a kindergarten class with the plastic and colorful look to it.

They do have couches as well to make it feel like you are at home right in front of your TV on a late Saturday night just relaxing.

Even though it has a feel of an everyday casual place, it is also a great family place to go with anybody that comes your way. Don't be fooled by the many teens enjoying their time.

Now don't be too excited yet, the yogurt is most definitely the best thing about Orange Leaf. There are over 60 flavors and 30 toppings. No, they don't have all of those out at once, but do have a great variety. They would have 16 different mouthwatering flavors up at once with loads of toppings.

When I went, I mixed blueberry, raspberry, and cheesecake all together. I'm not a big raspberry or blueberry fan, but after trying it, I just had to get more.

### RESTAURANT REVIEW



#### ORANGE LEAF

I then topped my own made frozen yogurt mixture of flavors with sprinkles, gummy worms, chocolate chips and cookie crumbs. Now don't be wrong, they do also have a bunch of fruit that you can top of your masterpiece with like pineapple, strawberries, blueberries, and much more.

And this isn't like any other frozen yogurt shops where you order what you want and then wait for it to be made by a worker and you know exactly how much it will be. You walk in and you get to serve yourself and pick out anything you want to top your masterpiece with.

You then pay by the ounce at the counter. But the best part is last, being able to dig in to your own frozen yogurt you created.

Now some people would compare Orange Leaf to a similar place called Red Mango. Well, I've been to both and personally I like Orange Leaf much more. This is actually the reason I tried Orange Leaf, my friend had told me that it is ten times better than Red Mango.

Although Orange Leaf only has only frozen yogurt, no smoothies or other extras, the place still might blow your mind.

Orange Leaf's frozen yogurt is much richer than Red Mango's. At times, Red Mango's frozen yogurt might also taste a little fake and not actually what the flavor is supposed to be.

Orange Leaf's frozen yogurt actually tastes like the sign stating the flavor right above it. It also has a very nutritious taste to it like you are getting loads of protein. I would probably rate Orange Leaf at a 4 star, not a 5 star frozen yogurt place because they could add some things to make the place even better for everybody.

Now don't get me wrong, I'm not trying to trash Red Mango's frozen yogurt or tell you not to go there, I'm just stating that you can go to a place much similar to Red Mango for the same price just getting a little better taste in your mouth.

A cool fun fact to know about Orange Leaf is that they are now open in Australia. They also have 127 shops open nationwide and 71 coming soon. Just go to their website or even the actual restaurant to check everything out for yourself.

Now don't take my word for it, take your own experience and taste buds and go in and try Orange Leaf.

I think with all the restaurant has to offer that others don't, you won't certainly won't regret your choice.



PHOTO BY STEPHANIE PAUL/REGISTER

Midtown Crossing's Italian cuisine restaurant, Portovino's, is open for lunch and dinner, seven days a week, 11-10 p.m. Like a classic Italian family, the restaurant is open and inviting, with enough room to accommodate a large group of people.

## New Italian restaurant has family atmosphere, mediocre entree

BY SETH ARTER

Are you looking for that perfect Italian scenery as well as authentic food?

I am here to say that if you're really looking for an Italian place, Portovino is probably not the right choice for you.

I'm not saying the food is awful. Then again, I'm not going to say it's amazing either. I wasn't too impressed.

The atmosphere is different from the atmosphere you would find in a typical Italian restaurant.

When you walk in, you'll find a very modern atmosphere. As you walk in, you will see the host's desk which is then followed by a few flights of stairs that leads you to a big open room with a bar and some tables.

Then, there is a room on the right with a few booths and more tables. Some of the tables are decorated with a big N sign for the Huskers. Which I really don't think is Italian at all.

The walls are pretty bland and generic. The lighting should defiantly be lowered a little bit.

If I were in charge, I'd change quite a few things. The restaurant should have more booths. I think the number of booths and tables should be balanced pretty equally in every restaurant.

I'd also put paintings up on the wall. Maybe some paintings of an old, historic building in Italy or something like that. I also think maybe adding some decorative lights would look really neat.

I was thinking some of those lights that you may find on a Christmas tree. I would put some on the railing as you head downstairs or hang some above the bar.

The food is far from horrible. However, it doesn't taste as well as some other Italian food I've had.

The spaghetti I ate there wasn't too bad. I feel that it could have been a lot better. For me it was too creamy. The bread that also came

before the meal was kind of bland. It wasn't my favorite. However, not everything was bad!

The service was really good though!

Our waitress was very friendly. She was efficient on the clock and came back several times to ask us how everything was!

In Midtown Crossing there's a lot more to do than just eating. The theater is right across the street from the restaurant so that is perfect for anyone who wants to maybe catch a movie!

There are also many shops in the area. Not only clothing stores but there is also a Verizon Wireless right across the street. I think that's very handy for those with cell phone needs.

This location is perfect. Especially if you live in midtown crossing or visit the area frequently.

I think the restaurant owner has set up the location exactly in a kind of place it should be in. The restaurant is right off Dodge and Farnam Streets so it really is not hard at all to locate the restaurant. The location is great for people who may live in the mid town area of Omaha. It also very close to the downtown area. One huge benefit is parking.

Now, yes there is parking outside on the streets. Those parking stalls operate just as downtown parking. You must deposit change in the meter, of course. It's really nice that the meter is free after a certain hour and on weekends!

However, the nice part is that you don't actually have to park outside if you don't want to.

Midtown Crossing offers free parking for up to a certain amount of time.

The garage is filled with many parking stalls and is protected by security. It's a great benefit of Midtown Crossing.

I think Midtown Crossing is very great. I just think there are a lot of better restaurants out there than Portovino.

Luckily, there are many places to eat, shop, and play such as Ingredient, Coldstone Creamery, Crave, Delice, The Afternoon, Peerless, Republic of Couture and Wholners Grocery. Overall, I'd give it 2 and a half stars.

### RESTAURANT REVIEW



#### PORTIVINO

## Reality show influences teens in negative way



### MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

A Column by JENNIFER ROONEY

I get home one late Thursday night tired and ready to relax and sign into my Facebook page.

The first things I see is not only girls, but guys freaking out about their favorite show "Jersey Shore" about to air on TV in a couple of minutes.

I am immediately disgusted. Why did they have to remind me of that horrible excuse of a television show?

I see the statuses like "Its Jersey Shore night," with hashtags of 'super pumped or excited.'

I then immediately log off because I just can't stand to watch, read, or see the way people fall all over these characters that just put themselves out there like they can do anything.

All these characters do is create drama with each other and probably show how to create more drama with the teen viewers we have today as well.

There is enough drama and chaos in the teen world and stupid entertainment shows that don't even make sense do not need to add to that.

But sometimes I have to wonder: not only is there enough drama in the world, but if shows like this actually make it worse?

When you have people prone to that sort of drama, don't they get ideas from shows like this? Shows that make drama and chaos look cool, after all.

The show gives students a bad role model and they do not present themselves as a good influence.

Yes, maybe this sounds like an educational text book saying you should not do this or that and everybody knows these things won't even be acted on, but seriously, some people are just trying to act like they are as "cool" as Jersey Shore and don't even realize it.

I have to ask: how cool is Jersey Shore? Really think about what they represent: promiscuity, drinking, partying, ect.

I also feel like the effects of watching this show are getting worse. As some people would say, "its dumbing people down."

I see this type of thing happen every day as I walk through the halls at Central.

Yes, it may not be Jersey Shore making people act as ridiculously bizarre as to dying their hair like Snooki and wailing at their actual friends.

These days it's not only Jersey Shore showing teens it's fine to act so ludicrous to their friends, but Jersey Shore should certainly take a big chunk of the blame.

I also asked people why they actually like this show and why they watch this.

Most of them actually say because I love to see them argue with each other and fight.

Well, in my opinion that's just wrong and not a good enough reason. Yet, some of them could have exaggerated a bit too.

Is this show showing that it's totally fine to fight and create drama to start more fights or is it just entertainment and delightful?

And has anyone actually thought about this, but what have these people actually done to get themselves on the big screen?

Having bucket loads of money is not an explanation at all.

None of them went to college or actually have any experience in anything this show may pertain to.

What makes them more important or even more popular than real actors or actresses in this world, like ones that have accomplished things from hard work?

All of the characters just don't know how to act in a mature sophisticated way.

Does partying all night, wearing barely any clothing, and creating chaos with everybody classy and elegant?

No.

That may as well be the complete opposite and be called trashy.

Yes, they probably wouldn't want to be called as elegant or classy these days or even think they are, but come on really some things just go a little too far like getting into brawls with your so called "friends" just because of other people coming into each other's lives.

Like come on ladies should act as ladies and gentlemen should act as gentlemen.

People that actually watch this show and love it may be disgusted by the way I'm talking about this show "Jersey Shore", but really this isn't even a show.

It's fake reality. Everything is fake about it even the characters. Most of these things could not even happen in real life and would never happen in real life.

It should actually be a disgrace to some people.

Many times I've heard new repulsive stories about Snooki on the news.

Now come on what's the deal with her?

Yes, we all know you're rich and think you have a hot body and hot boyfriend but really you don't need to flaunt it out or act in an eccentric way.

It's just not pretty to us even if you think it is. Sorry Snooki.

"Jersey Shore" is just not something to waste your time on.

It's first off not a good role model to anyone out there, not only teens, but adults and children as well and second, just really doesn't make sense because nobody could have a life like this even if they were Snooki because it's all just not real.

They're acting the whole time. None of these things are really happening.

So what I'm really trying to say is if you watch "Jersey Shore", try doing something different or watching something else for a change, because this is just not the life and not a show at all that should be aired on the big screen as something to watch today.

Don't waste valuable time that could be spent doing something more productive. Read a book, go outside, enjoy the daylight!

That's not how America acts and should not be shown as how America acts.

# Narcissism and nostalgia underly in Drake's album

REVIEW AND GRAPHIC BY MEKENZIE KERR

ADORNING THE COVER OF 'TAKE CARE', CLAD IN A SORROWFUL BLACK YET SURROUNDED BY THE COLOR OF POWER, WEALTH AND SUCCESS, A GOLD CANDLE, GOLD BIRD STATUE, GOLD GOBLET AND A THICK GOLD CHAIN, DRAKE SITS WITH A LOOK OF NONCHALANCE, REVELING IN WHATEVER LYRICAL PIECES FLOW THROUGH HIS MIND.

DRAKE HAS BECOME A MUSICAL POWERHOUSE ON THE R&B SCENE SINCE HIS RELEASE IN 2009 OF 'SO FAR GONE'. 'TAKE CARE'S' RELEASE IS EXACTLY 17 MONTHS SINCE HIS LAST ALBUM, AND DOESN'T SHOW ANY SIGNS OF CHANGE IN THE MUSICAL STYLE THAT ORIGINAL DRAKE FANS WENT GAGA OVER.

"YOU SAY I'M OLD NEWS, WELL WHO THE NEWS STAR?", DEMANDS DRAKE IN 'OVER MY DEAD BODY', THE RHETORICAL QUESTION DEMANDS THE ANSWER THAT THERE ISN'T A STAR WHO COULD TOP HIS BASS DROPS AND LYRICAL FLOWS ON 'TAKE CARE'.

DRAKE'S BEATS ARE STILL VERY LAID-BACK, WITH HOOKS THAT ARE NOTE-WORTHY AND OPENINGS LIKE 'OVER MY DEAD BODY' OR 'HEADLINES' THAT DIFFERENTIATE EACH TRACK FROM ONE ANOTHER, WITH MAJESTIC OVERTONES. 'TAKE CARE'S' QUALITY OF SOUND IS SATISFACTORY, INSTILLING A SENSE OF SMOOTH BLISS, YET FIRM.

DRAKE STANDS ON EXCEPTIONALLY SOLID GROUND WHEN IT COMES TO THE LISTENING, LYRICAL PORTION OF 'TAKE CARE'.

15-TRACKS OF SMOOTH, REAL LYRICS PORTRAY THE VULNERABLE, HARD-HITTING, MONEY-AND-WOMEN-LOVING SIDES OF DRAKE THAT ARE EXEMPLIFIED THROUGH HIS LYRICS FROM THE INTIMATE-EMOTIONS DRIPPED THROUGH "TAKE CARE" TO THE BORDERLINE-NARCISSISTIC TONE IN "UNDERGROUND KINGS".

WHETHER SLAMMING DOWN LYRICS ON WOMEN, CLUBS OR HIS TREK TO THE TOP OF THE BILLBOARD'S, iTUNES AND THE MUSIC LADDER AS A WHOLE, DEFYING ALL ODDS PUT UP AGAINST HIM, EXEMPLIFIED IN 'UNDERGROUND KINGS'.

WHILE "RAISING CHAMPAGNE BOTTLES" TO HIS SUCCESS, APRT OF HIS 'TAKE CARE'S' SUCCESS CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE WIDE SPECTRUM OF OTHER TALENTED NAMES THAT ARE SPRINKLED THROUGH OUT THE ALBUM. THE WEEKND ("CREW LOVE"), RIHANNA ("TAKE CARE") AND NICKI MINAJ ("MAKE ME PROUD") REPRESENT ONLY A FEW OF THE APPROPRIATELY PICKED ARTISTS DRAKE CHOSE TO GRACE HIS NEWEST RELEASE.

THE WEEKND'S SOUND COMBINES FORCES ON "CREW LOVE" THAT SEAMLESSLY FLOWS TOGETHER WITH THE CYMBALS AND BROKEN LYRICAL SOUND OF ABEL TESFAYE TO THE LYRICS SPIT BY DRAKE. THESE TWO ARTISTS COMBINED CREATES A SOUND THAT SHOULD BE MADE A WHOLE ENTIRE ALBUM ITSELF OF EASY-LISTENING AND HYPE BEATS.

'TAKE CARE' LEAKED ALMOST EXACTLY A WEEK BEFORE ITS DESIGNATED RELEASE DATE, AND NEWS SPREAD LIKE WILDFIRE WITH THE HELP OF TWITTER. THE EARLY RELEASE DIDN'T SEEM TO FALTER FANS BUYING MOTIVES.

MAKING "HEADLINES", 'TAKE CARE'

BRINGS TO FRONT THE RAW TALENT DRAKE CONTINUES TO MATURE IN AS THE TIME BETWEEN EACH ALBUM RELEASE PROGRESSES, MAKING EVERY RELEASE MORE ANTICIPATED.

SOLDIFIED IN "HEADLINES", DRAKE

CLOSES: "I HEARD ONCE THAT THEY WOULD

RATHER HEAR ABOUT MEMORIES THAN

ENEMIES. WHAT WAS OR WHAT WILL BE,

RATHER THAN WHAT IS. RATHER HEAR HOW

YOU GOT IT OVER HOW MUCH IT COST YOU, RATHER

HEAR ABOUT FINDING YOURSELF AND HOW YOU LOST

YOU. RATHER YOU MAKE THIS A OPEN LETTER ABOUT

FAMILY AND STRUGGLE AND IT TAKIN' FOREVER. ABOUT

HEARTS THAT YOU'VE BROKEN AND TIES THAT YOU'VE SEV-

ERED, NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT'LL MAKE THEM FEEL BETTER", LINES THAT RING OUT AND LEAVE CHILLS THROUGHOUT THE LISTENER'S BODY.



PHOTO BY KENDALL PANAS/THE REGISTER

## Drake Bell of Nickelodeon's 'Drake and Josh' shows off mature talent

BY KENDALL PANAS

Everyone in our generation remembers Drake Bell of Nickelodeon's hit show Drake and Josh.

Remember, mid week day, that goofy try-so-hard-to-be-cool kid walkin' around, gettin' all the 13-year-old 'ladies' while dragging along his puppy dog-esque best friend?

Well, that little boy has grown up. And now he doesn't have to act so hard to be cool.

What many people don't know is that aside from acting, Drake Bell is actually an accomplished musician. On Tuesday, Jan. 10, Bell played an acoustic show with his three-man band at the Waiting Room in Benson.

As I was buying my ticket online, it was hard to imagine what type of crowd this band would attract.

Would it be all little kids dying for a glimpse of their childhood idol? Since it's at a bar, will there be older, more mature people in the crowd?

Questions like this were going through my mind as I got ready for the 8 PM show.

What do I wear to this type of show?

The picture of Drake Bell on the Waiting Room's restaurant portrayed him as being a classy musician, not a Nickelodeon star.

Playing it safe, I ended up dressed in black jeans and a green cardigan.

Upon our arrival at the concert, I instantly spotted a few of my friends standing right next to the stage.

Joining them, we exchanged our skeptical thoughts about the upcoming performance; none of us knew what to expect.

Despite my questions of what was to come, I couldn't deny my excitement to see Drake Bell, one of my childhood celebrity-crushes.

Warming up the crowd for the main act, the Mitch Gettman Band from western Neb. played a few of their songs.

The opening band's music was more country/western based a complement to Drake Bell's softer acoustic performance.

When it was time to play, Bell walked across the stage to a hearty welcome from the small crowd.

He was carrying an acoustic guitar in one hand and an open beer bottle in the other; this is when I realized that Drake Bell is no longer an amateur teenage performer, but a

mature adult musician.

Opening with a few of his original songs, Bell also covered some of The Beatles' songs from their album Abbey Road.

Most of the crowd seemed to recognize Bell's original work, which included the songs "I Know", "You're Not Thinking", and perhaps his most famous song, "Found a Way", which was the theme song to his TV show Drake and Josh.

After the theme song was played, concert-goers started shouting for Josh, which Bell chose to ignore.

As a former Nickelodeon child actor, it would be hard to recreate yourself as a musician, and not be known as "Drake Parker" from Drake and Josh.

The crowd was composed of mostly young adults and pre-teens.

Many crowd members were accompanied by parents, who stood back from the stage. It was evident that many of

the people in the crowd had never been to a concert before; they looked scared, and many simply stood there with their arms crossed.

Bell was accompanied by only a guitarist and a piano player.

The show was entirely acoustic, so there were no electric guitars, drums, or bass.

Drake's talent on guitar was really evident; he played main guitar and sang, so all attention was on him.

Periodically throughout the show, Bell would interact with the crowd.

Being up at the front, my group and I got to request a few songs for him to play. At my request, he played the first few seconds of the song "Taxman" by the Beatles. I communicated with one of my favorite childhood TV stars!

Towards the middle of the performance, Bell began to strum the chords of an old Beatles song "Blackbird".

The crowd reacted positively and sang along with him as he hit every note perfectly and didn't miss a single lyric.

This was when I realized Bell was a solid musician — "Blackbird" is a difficult song to play, and he really pulled it off. This show in Omaha premiered Bell's tour across America.

One could have expected him to sound sloppy and unpracticed, but it was quite the opposite. Drake Bell has a lot of talent, and it's not just limited to his acting.

All in all, it was a solid performance. I was surprised by Bell's musical talent and over all stage presence; he is no longer a cheesy child actor. The 12 dollar ticket and lack of sleep was well worth it to see this entertaining concert.

### CONCERT REVIEW



DRAKE BELL





## Opinion



**YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM CENTRAL WHEN...**

A Column by KATHERINE SCARPELLO

...you know exactly where smokers corner is. Or do you? Uhm, why don't I smell smoke as I walk up to school? Where are all of the hooded, puffy coats filled with the stench of a grape flavored swisher? Am I going blind or is the ground completely free of cigarette butts? Oh my god...Where. Are. The. Smokers? The sidewalk just off of Central property and onto Joslyns has been known as Centrals "smokers corner" for years.

It's famous, and people across the district know what we mean when we talk about it. So why has it been re-located? Rumor has it after years of having students make a mess of their property and loiter on a regular basis, Joslyn has decided to enforce their loitering policy by not allowing students to use their property to have their five minutes of nicotine heaven and therefore moving the students across dodge on the south side.

But is this taking things a bit too far? Does moving smokers corner a mere 30 ft. completely alter things? I mean, for 99 percent, no. It really doesn't matter whether the Central smokers are on one corner than another. Who cares, especially if you're not spending your time smoking up a storm. For 99 percent, it might even be a good thing they moved them.

Who really wants a plethora of second hand smoke in their face first thing in the morning? For the most, it doesn't matter. Although, there is always always always a second side to every story. Students think it doesn't alter things too much, but definitely gives central a different feel.

Junior Jake Stiehl says he is happy that they moved because it has always been known, and it gave central a bad reputation.

"I don't think it changes things around here because the only reason smokers corner still exists is because of the freshman that get dropped off by their parents and have to hide the fact that they smoke," Stiehl said.

To me, the bottom line is that smokers corner is a tradition, whether people like to think so or not.

Teachers, students incoming from middle school, even students from different high schools know what and where it is.

All institutions have things they're not so proud of, and for most people, that's probably one of those things for Central. But think of it as our beauty mark. Some find it ugly, some find it beautiful; it's one of those quirky characteristics that have people saying, "Well, it is a high school after all."

Now that it's gone, they have taken away one of the schools infamous trademarks. And that's how I know I'm from Central.

### NO ROOM FOR LITTLE OLD LADIES IN 'C FACTOR.'



Beloved Roadshow act cut in preformers' last year.

OPINION, PAGE 12

### CAN RELIGIOUS BELIEFS REALLY COME TOGETHER TO PROMOTE UNITY?



Community takes a new approach to religious tolerance by combining Islam, Christianity, and Judaism.

OPINION, PAGE 10

### INTERNET GIVES CENTRAL A BAD REP AND STUDENTS ARE TO BLAME.

Twitter account emphasizes negative stereotypes and showcases student irresponsibility.



OPINION, PAGE 12

## Students intimidated in the shadow of IB



Have you ever wondered what the significance of the letters 'IB' are?

This stands for International Baccalaureate, an educational program active in over 140 countries; Central may be the first OPS school to participate in it.

If Central is accepted as an IB school, students in the program will study subjects from six groups (see graphic on page 9).

Classes are offered at a higher level (HL) or a standard level (SL). Students are required to take part in two courses: Theory of Knowledge (TOK), which discusses things like the different types of knowledge and teaches students to connect all of their subject areas together, and Creativity, Action, Service (CAS, done outside of class), which includes arts activities, sports, and service projects.

A final requirement is an independent research project on a topic of interest that results in a 4,000 word essay.

Are you intimidated yet?

A lot of the classes from these six groups are the same as normal high school classes—history, music, language and mathematical courses, geography, economics, theatre, etc.

The difference between the two?

The classes teach students to appreciate the subject in the viewpoint of different cultures; one of the program's main aims is to produce open-minded "global citizens," as well as teaching them how to think in different ways.

That's one of the reasons TOK is a required course: it allows students to see how all of their other classes connect.

While the workload shouldn't be considerably larger, a lot of extra effort goes into the program because of the extended essay and CAS.

Students are expected to engage in a certain number of community service hours per week, and project is measured by the impact that they are able to make.

The entire program looks very polished and attractive, although still a bit daunting.

How would commitment to IB affect students' jobs, sports, and after school activities? That's one of the downsides to being the first group of Central kids to experience this program—uncertainty.

Sophomore James De Mott has a very positive outlook on the program.

"It's exciting. It's historic. It's a big thing for the school," he said.

He looks forward to developing a solid and unique understanding of general subjects that will result in a well-rounded education.

He believes that "It's a big thing to have an IB diploma," and he's ready for the challenges ahead.

Theory of Knowledge instructor Tracy Menten is geared up for the program to begin next year.

She believes that IB is better for today's students because of the global society that they live in. She also thinks that it will produce advanced critical thinkers, which is an essential for college.

She said that the program really teaches students how to look at things in different ways.

Ryan Goding, sophomore, has a different perspective. While he sees IB as a place where some students will thrive, he believes that "others [will] struggle to enjoy the program." Rather than signing up for IB, he has instead opted for the AP track for the higher flexibility that it offers, particularly in choosing electives.

Goding has a point: here at the Register, we're not crazy about the way that IB limits which electives students can take.

Since kids are required to have one class from each group, plus the TOK course, there really isn't a lot of wiggle room.

This poses as a problem for students who have specific interests and passions like art and music.

The option to fill up one's extra schedule slots junior and senior year with music and art courses is absent within the IB program, simply because there isn't enough room.



GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/THE REGISTER

For example, many students who participate in marching band are also active in other music classes, such as A Capella, Orchestra, CHS Singers and Music Theory. If they were to participate in IB, they would be forced to choose between these.

While drawbacks are apparent, no one can deny that the International Baccalaureate program will change our students for the better, providing them with a unique world-class education.

But what about AP classes? Don't those provide a solid education as well?

According to Menten, neither of the tracks is better than the other; students need to evaluate each program and figure out for themselves which is the better fit.

Some of us at the Register would be thrilled to participate in the program.

The atypical style of teaching along with the mind-changing course content makes the IB program an incredible opportunity for Central students.

Unfortunately, there is no IB Newspaper Production class.

But that doesn't mean that there will never be one in the future: new classes are introduced to the IB program every few years.

Still unsure of which track to choose? You aren't alone.

But make sure to choose wisely: once junior year is reached, there is no turning back.

As De Mott said: "You've got to be bold."

We encourage you to visit [www.ibo.org/diploma](http://www.ibo.org/diploma) for more information.



EDITORIAL  
The OPINION of the Register  
Staff



CARTOON BY DUNCAN REED/CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

## Senior photo controversy surfaces issues tact, morals

In an effort to reminisce on past years of school, thumbing through the yearbook from former years never fails to create a wall of nostalgia as I flip through page after page filled with faces of high schoolers from grades nine to 12.

Senior portraits are by far the most eye-catching, being that they are big, bold, and beautiful - the way seniors immortalize themselves for the rest of their peers and underclassmen.

Naturally, I'd assume seniors would want to be pictured as the classy "older" group of teenagers reigning for a mere year as the "big dogs" of high school.

But I suppose classiness isn't what I should expect from everyone everywhere, namely senior Sydney Spies of Durango, Co.

Spies submitted risqué photos for her yearbook picture, claiming that they were "artsy", portraying her as the model she aspired to be, no different from a football player posing with a football underarm.

While Spies may feel the photos are "artistic," describing "who she [I] is [am]", it's apparent that her high school's yearbook staff didn't sympathize with these faulty reasons, turning down both photos she had hopefully submitted.

Spies' first picture depicts her in a wrap-around piece of clingy black cloth more similar to a little book cover's synthetic material and a yellow mini skirt that, paired together, covered less than it showed.

To top off her "model mantra," she poses with puppy-dog eyes and a look that screams "I'm really just cute and innocent."

Her outfit was more suitable for a 21 and over club, with photos that look like submits for the future star of Maxim, Spies photos sparked debates all over.

One debate being the right to publish, which, in Journalism, is something we like to call "media rights." The yearbook laid down

some laws on the photo, which had media rights groups talking about first amendment rights, even in regard to risqué photos.

Spies' mother relayed that she felt a bit nervous about the photos at first, but supports her daughter "spreading her wings."

She sees allowing the photo shoot to happen as a way to support her daughter's creativity. But in this way? Really?

Sure, you can argue all day with me that just because she poses raunchily in small outfits doesn't make her promiscuous of some sort; or that it is completely justified because she's only trying to immortalize herself as an aspiring model. Maybe your stance is that it's a stupid topic, narrowly because it's just a high school yearbook in Co.

More times than not I find people seeking or reveling in justification of actions through comparison or societal "norms".

Tight outfits akin to spandex, flashes of tummy from the crop tops or the cleavage spilling out of shirts may be "normal", but that doesn't make it okay in any way.

Especially in a high school setting. I come to school to be educated, occasionally feeling like looking nice, but in no way does "looking nice" have to entail a scantily-clad wardrobe.

Society emulates, as much as you may beg to differ, the idea that being sexually appealing is one of the most important things for women to strive for.

When girls like Spies feel the need to even briefly consider near-narcissistic pictures of them in near-to-nothing outfits, it makes me question how much of society has gotten to them.

Cat calls and "aye, you cute" may buy a few moments of a higher self-esteem, dressing a certain way certainly doesn't qualify a firm, forever sense of confidence.



THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT  
A Column by MEKENZIE KERR

## Sophomore sees homework unnecessary



**GREAT JOB!**  
A Column by KENDALL PANAS

When I come home every day, the last thing I want to do is think about school.

I spend 35 hours a week at that place. That's like a full time job.

As well as every other student, I need time to get away from the stresses of high school.

With the new grading system, assigned homework is supposed to count for only a small completion and life skills grade.

Part of Standards Based grading is to make homework assignments more for the student's practice, not an assessment grade.

At the beginning of the new semester, a few of my teachers told their classes that a detention will be assigned for every missing or incomplete assignment.

My mouth literally dropped open at the ridiculousness of this statement.

I understand that doing homework assignments is good for students.

Without a little practice, the student won't do well on tests. Also, having work to do gives students responsibility.

On the other hand, completing a 45 problem math assignment should not be a priority.

If I understand the basic concept after doing a couple of problems, that is.

I'm not going to waste an hour of my night finishing the assignment to boost up my 5% life skills grade; I have other assignments to get to.

I know that I'm never going to use Algebra in my adult life, right?

So why should I spend hours finishing every last homework problem?

I'll do what I can to get a pass the tests, and call it good.

As an Honors student, I have a reasonable amount of homework each night.

If I were to completely finish each assignment for each class, I would be staying up into the early morning.

According to an article by the American Psychological Association, lack of sleep in young adults can lead to issues with brain development; the teenage brain is still growing, and it requires a substantial amount of sleep to properly function.

It's kind of a paradox, staying up late to do homework; the purpose of these assignments is to help students learn.

But if the student is forced to stay up late and complete the homework, their brain, being deprived of sleep, won't learn very well.

At this point, getting nine hours of sleep is more important to me than staying awake to practice matrices and parabolas for Algebra.

Another thing that I find ridiculous is when incomplete assignments are counted as missing.

So when I turn in an assignment that is three quarters of the way done, it counts for nothing even though I got the practice I needed.

Adding an additional three hours of homework each night (on average, I take three hours to completely finish my daily assignments) is way too much to ask.

This leaves me with almost no time to relax and complete other un-school related tasks.

Students and young adults need time to be involved with sports, music, friends, part time jobs, and other social activities in order to pave the way to their adult lives.

Developing a good work ethic is a must, but I think I can teach myself to work well without devoting my entire day to it.

Since some teachers make homework such a priority, seniors don't have time to find out who they really are and what they want to do with their lives.

They are forced to stay inside and finish all of these assignments in order to get a good final GPA.

In a college setting, homework is assigned purely for the student's practice.

If a student fails to complete every problem on a worksheet, the professor won't freak out and lecture the class; most likely, the homework won't even be collected for a grade.

The main goal of Standards Based Grading is to prepare the student for college.

Why not treat the homework like college homework?

Threatening to assign detentions for incomplete or missing assignments is a bit out of line.

Some things are simply more important than finishing a homework assignment. Many teachers aren't taking into account the schedules of their students.



GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/THE REGISTER

## Tri-faith program encourages religious tolerance, change in everyday lifestyle

"The irony is not lost on me that the location of the Tri-Faith campus is none other than the site of Highland Country Club -- the same turf where my dad made his statement for religious diversity in the 1960s," wrote Susan A. Buffet, the Chair of the Sherwood Foundation and the daughter of Billionaire Warren Buffet.

She also writes in the blog entry published in the Huffington post that her dad's statement of the injustice of The Omaha Country Club was sparked after Nick Newman, who was a Jew, was rejected from the club that at the time was limited to Gentile customers only.

The reason for his denial of membership was because he was Jewish and there was already a club for Jews and it was not The Omaha Country Club.

Warren later challenged the idea by becoming a member of The Highland Country Club, which broke barriers according to Susan Buffet.

In his stance, Warren proved himself to be a man full of integrity and overall one that appreciates equal rights.

Sure his action against religious segregation was small, but it performed adequately, one might even say it transformed Omaha to become more open to being friendly to a group of people different from there selves.

With all of Omaha's diversity, one is not surprised when hearing that the Tri-Faith initiative is specially unique to the city.

The initiative will create a site with Jewish synagogue, a Christian Church and an Islamic Mosque, also accompanied by a Tri-Faith building for all three of the congregations to come together.

All done to make all three congregations come together and develop honest relationships.

Not at all ones that only mimic real ones and are used to make people feel good and as if they are actually making a difference in the world, when in fact, they are

just creating superficial and insincere relationships that will never benefit the world.

I feel that Rabbi Aryeh Azriel of temple Israel shares the same viewpoint when he said, "We want to engage in true relationships and discover Gods image within each other and make relationships kinder and more creative."

And although the movement creates ties within the congregations through Abraham, it wouldn't be sacrilegious or unacceptable for anyone practicing any other world religion to come to the services or the events at the Tri-faith building.

Without a doubt, the campus is open to more than just members of the Semitic religions, teaching and demonstrating compassion for all human beings, an action that can greatly influence the future generation, making the world a much better place for both ethnic and religious diversity.

Omaha will most likely still appear in the national news because of those groundbreaking ideas that prove themselves to be humanitarian and compassionate.

The world may one day become accepting about religious diversity, and when it does we feel it will largely be due to education, not being scared of learning about our neighbors.

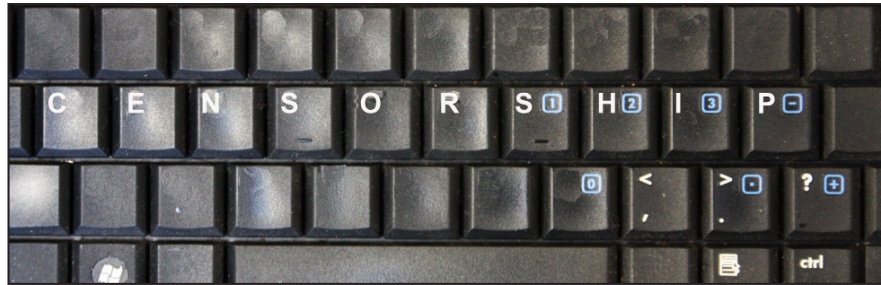
Leader Rabbi Azriel seems to have set an importance on knowledge, so much that he asked Gary Groff, professor of World Religions at Central High School and the University of Omaha, to teach a weekly class to Temple Israel members that looks into the basics of other world religions, something that will most likely create a sense of appreciation with its members.

This project will be a start in providing an eventual coexistence and even an embrace of each others differences, teaching all members of the human race to stand up for each other not just for our own people and groups.

### EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register Staff

## Censoring the internet, SOPA-thetic



GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/THE REGISTER

It is the year of 2032, as the world advances forward in bounding leaps through economic and technologic hurdles, but on the day of Jan. 20, 2012 the United States pays tribute to what was once the driving force of invention and technology itself: the internet.

Enter the latter-half of 2011 and the very beginnings of 2012, when Stop Online Piracy Act (SOPA), and Programs on International Policy Attitudes (PIPA) come to the United States House of Representatives and the United States Senate.

Internet piracy is an age-old technologic term pertaining to all things World Wide Web, and companies have been trying to traffic piracy better.

Unfortunately suing specific users, shutting down domains that are United States based and having the providers work towards taking action against their subscribers; this still hasn't controlled the flow of international sites like MegaUpload.

With many failed attempts, the ideals upheld by SOPA and PIPA only scratch the surface of what the bill really holds for internet companies and their users.

SOPA would allow the United States attorney general to create a sort of "death penalty" for websites giving privileges to get court orders versus the offshore Web site and this would make this targeted website "virtually" disappear from the internet provider, or at least that's what they hope.

SOPA, section 102 states that after the removal order has been mandated: "A service provider shall take technically feasibly and reasonable measures designed to prevent access by its subscribers located within the United States to the foreign infringing site [...] that is to the order [...] Such actions shall be taken as expeditiously as possible, but in any case within five days after being served with a copy [...] or within such time as the court may order."

SOPA, the bill targeting domain names written by Representative Lamar Smith backed by 31 cosponsors of the House, has become a very controversial and conflicting issue.

Although the justifications for these acts revolves around 'rogue sites', a.k.a, the sites are based around

copyright infringement and trademark counterfeiting.

Wednesday, Jan. 18 was a big day for the websites. Twitter featured two to three trending topics that rallied against the bill, Google's world-famous red, yellow, green and blue letters were blacked over and Tumblr jumped on the band wagon to retaliate the passing of SOPA by giving Tumblr users the chance to join the anti-SOPA movement by blacking out their blog page for the day.

Websites such as Craigslist and Reddit joined along in protest.

Wikipedia took advantage of Wed., shutting down their entire site in order to give a real-life first-hand experience of the potential effects of SOPA.

These internet-elitists, along with others, face radical changes to their interfaces if SOPA is passed.

As simple as PIPA and SOPA seem, the farther one reads into the bill, the more detrimental its effects become on everyday internet life for society.

Google is one of the leading search engines that is an advocate for the movement to "End Piracy, Not Liberty" by educating users on the effects and statistics on what SOPA presents for the long-run.

SOPA and PIPA become even more daunting because by mandating this law, the U.S. government could demand websites to be blocked utilizing methods similar to those in effect in communist China. Because of these factors and protests like those held on Jan. 18, 41 human rights organizations and 110 prominent law professors have expressed their grave feelings towards SOPA and PIPA.

Pros and cons are still being thrown from both battlefields of the SOPA/PIPA bill war. The Register, along with the rest of the country, feels that if these bills pass - which, more than likely, they won't - this could be a huge setback to the growth and advancement of our world.

Not to mention, it could have serious effects on the growing world of journalism.

As opinions sway back and forth, the true value of the internet is at stake, symbolizing just how much we may take advantage of the simple luxuries.

## Feathers hurt more than style



**I LOVE THE 80'S**  
A Column by TABITHA PANAS

Anyone feel like putting fly-fishermen put of business while killing thousands of birds a week?

If the answer is yes, it really isn't that hard.

You can "kill two birds with one stone" on this issue, so to speak.

If you are wondering what this rambling on and bird-mention is about, you might not be alone.

I am talking about the latest fashion trend that is sweeping many hooligans across the nation; from Miley Cyrus-worshipping preteens all the way to the rock band Aerosmith's lead singer, Steven Tyler.

The new fad is feather hair extensions.

It turns out you don't need any stones at all to kill thousands of birds or to put fly-fishermen out of business. All you have to do is simply follow the trend.

Did you know that these long, thin feathers (called saddle feathers) that so many students are adorning their hair with today come from the rear end of a rooster?

A couple of years ago, the only use for these feathers was as bait for fly-fishermen.

However, with the feather in the hair becoming the new trend, hairstylists all across the nation have flooded into fly shops to purchase these feathers for their demanding customers.

While this trend seems like the perfect accessory for the everyday fashionista, roosters are losing their lives over it and fly fisherman are losing their bait. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) posted an article on their Website over the issue. The article states, "Roosters used to make these extensions are bred and genetically altered to produce long, luxurious saddle feathers before they are killed and de-feathered for their precious plumage."

It seems logical that these "feather farmers" should not have to kill their roosters for their saddle feathers. Why can't they pluck the feathers while they are still alive? It turns out that most of the roosters that have their saddle feathers plucked while they are living die as a result of the plucking. It is more humane to euthanize them before the procedure.

Poultry geneticist Tom Whiting lives in Delta, Colorado where he owns Whiting Farms, one of the largest producers of these rear end feathers. He explains to a Seattle Times reporter that he can't keep up with the orders for saddle feathers and is currently harvesting 1,500 roosters a week to try to fill the consumers' needs.

Whiting says that he has "tried to withhold some for the fly-fishing world." He knows that when the fad dies down, he will still need to make a living; and that would be made difficult if fly-fishing became a dead sport due to their current lack of bait.

So if you want to continue your cute and edgy alternative style, try some bold hair accessories that aren't killing roosters and making fly-fisherman angry. (Maybe dye your hair a crazy color!) I am sure that there are many stores at the mall that would sell items to Central students and not discriminate against women either.

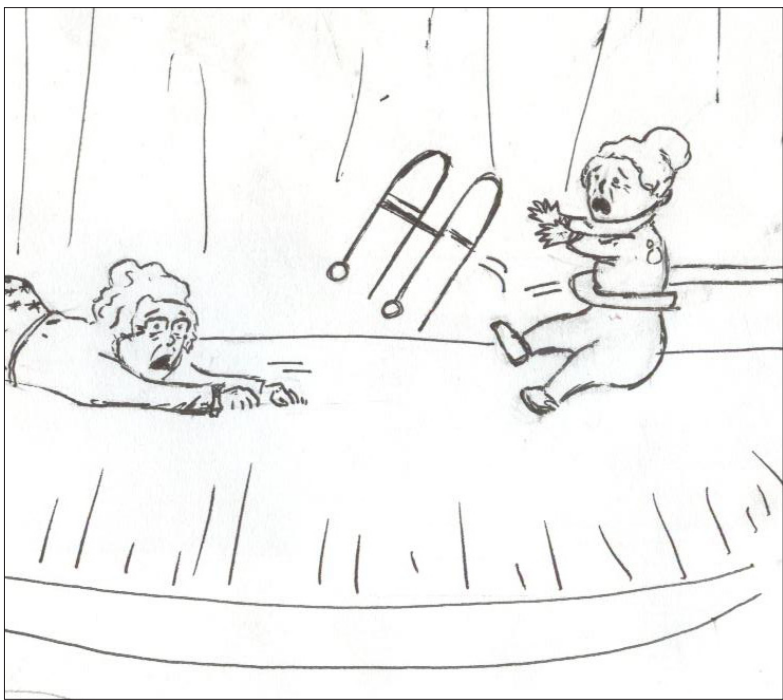
Here is where this issue involving angry fly-fishers and angry PETA workers might as well involve NOW (the National Organization for Women) as well.

While, no one has yet to file charges, many women are accusing fly fishing shops of discrimination for refusing to sell feathers to women. Shelley Ambroz, the owner of MiraBella salon in Boise, Id. complained to Dan-ity fashion magazine about her local fly fishing shop's new policy. "If you go in and you're a woman, they won't sell to you," she says.

Who would have known that a seemingly harmless fashion trend could cause such a feud, leaving one side yelling "animal cruelty," and the other side yelling, "Discrimination." In a perfect world, people would have better fashion sense and this whole issue would not exist.

Many websites, such as teddyhilton.com, blame the whole issue on pop singer Ke\$ha saying that her "love for rooster butt feathers" has caused all of the drama.

I personally blame anyone who looks up to these celebrities and attempts to copy their styles, especially the dumb feathers. If anything, I pay attention to celebrities looking for what not to do. I mean, Roseanne Barr recently sported the feather extensions. If that alone is not enough to make one want to run from a feather falling out of the sky, then I don't know what would.



ARTWORK BY DUNCAN REED, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

## Roadshow act staple missing from this year's Roadshow

"He doesn't realize the magnitude of 'The Little Old Ladies' skit," says senior Bailey Newman.

Newman is talking about senior Emily Hill's and her Road show act that was recently cut this year.

These two have been the MC's and had their regular comedy performances, pretending to be two frazzled elderly women in frumpy clothes, for the past three years.

Sophomores, juniors and seniors have watched this act develop in previous Road Show Acts.

Every year students wonder what silly or crazy stunt will be pulled by these two. One year Newman danced with Central's Step Team, surprising everyone when she busted out some moves in her obnoxious old-woman attire.

However, this year, their act was cut. They have tried out every year previous and made it, but this year was different for them.

Many students are associating this act being cut and all the other new decisions being made this year to the new drama department head who came from teaching at Burke High School, Mr. Scott Meade.

However, chorus teacher Lynn Bouma clarifies, saying "People audition. We judge them. We look at percentages. The process didn't change."

This year had a panel of 24 judges made up of students, staff, and the drama department.

While everyone's votes are taken into account when deciding if an act is admitted into Road Show or not, it is still the director's final decision that counts, and there have been rumors coming from anonymous students and teachers claiming that they voted for "The Little Old Ladies" and seemed to think that many others did too.

Even still, Bouma says, "Road Show is Road Show," right after she explained that the act probably wasn't selected because it went overtime.

She also stated that there were a lot of good acts that simply didn't make it this year.

While it is difficult to argue the final decisions of the Drama Department, you can argue for a tradition of excellence.

Senior Evan Stoler accompanies two Road Show acts this year and was very disappointed to not be performing with "The Little Old Ladies."

"I feel that the drama department is changing tradition, which is going against Central's ideals," Stoler says. "If we have had them for three years, then why not? It's a talent show. It's supposed to be fun."

So many other students feel the same way. Why take away a tradition when it is the last year that these performers have to participate in Roadshow?

Newman, the little old lady who is also on step team, feels the same way about her act being cut- as well as many of her peers do.

She said she was shocked and surprised to find out that "The Little Old Ladies" had been cut; so much so that she decided to write up a petition to get the act back into the show.

Newman says she is getting as many signatures as she can and already has well over a hundred.

Stoler is one student who signed the petition. He states that "The Little Old Ladies" should have at least been the MCs.

Apparently, this year's MCs didn't have to audition.

They were simply chosen by Mr. Meade who selected members of his advanced drama class.

Another change this year that Stoler wasn't happy about was a new rule change over who is allowed to be a judge of Road Show.

Stoler says that he was promised a position as a judge, but then was denied the position simply because he has an accompanying piano part, when this was allowed in previous years.

This leads him to his statement, "I believe that the performing arts department is corrupt."

Senior Bella Vinci is another student who signed Newman's petition to get the "Little Old Ladies" back on stage.

"It has already been established into Road Show," she says.

So many students feel the same way about the act.

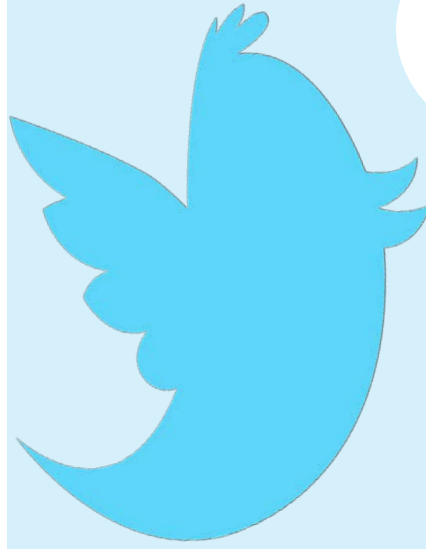
Road Show will not be the same for many students without it.

As long as any current Central student has attended Central, "The Little Old Ladies" have performed.

Senior Jacob Wilson says, "After seeing them do it for three years, it's really sad to see it go."

## 'Central Probs' emphasizes negative school stereotypes

"#\$@\*& that %\$#@  
at Central, that  
@#%\$\*  
is #\$\$%\*!"



GRAPHIC BY MEKENZIE KERR/THE REGISTER

Central students and staff know that we are often looked upon, for lack of a more politically correct, polite adjective, as the "ghetto" school of Omaha.

As a student body with faculty included, we take pride in our school, being readily aware that we are superior in many ways to other Omaha area high schools.

Therefore some may wonder, besides the typical reasons including widely-known race and economic demographics, what encourages these stereotypical, narrow-minded views?

One of the main things are the jokes made, or things with humorous intentions gone sour, case in point being the twitter account, @CentralProbs.

@CentralProbs showcases the so-called "problems" that Central students face on a "daily basis," from what goes down in the bathrooms to the teachers who get on their nerves.

According to the current follower count of 253 followers, it shows the number of current and former students that may get a good laugh or can sympathize with the #CentralProbs hashtagged on all the infamous tweets.

The problem is that the owner and creator of the infamous hash tag '#CentralProbs,' an unknown hiding behind Central's logo, doesn't seem to have any form of a filter when it comes to the content of their tweets.

Although the account was perhaps originally created to get a boom in followers and start a few laughs, much of the content is arguably malicious, crude and could be misinterpreted as an indirect form of cyber-bullying.

"Ghetto" could be easily slapped onto a few of the tweets ranging from ones discussing procrastination problems, sleeping in class and waking up with a cockroach on your legs, or the problem you face with multiple "baby mommas" in the same class.

Implying Central as a run-down place with unproductively in academics, but a boost in sexual activity, @CentralProbs is highlighting the negatives down to the nitty-gritty.

While many of @CentralProbs' tweets are retweeted by fellow students showing up in timelines everywhere, the overall message it sends is far from positive.

"Tweeting in class" as opposed to "learning" is one of the many contradictory tweets that doesn't synthesize with the others. As far as one can tell, the creator and owner of @CentralProbs needs to pay a bit more attention in English as opposed to tweeting with simple grammatical mistakes about people who do the exact same thing.

Whether one argues that it is "just the internet", @CentralProbs' showcases an array of offensive language, grammatical flaws along with the annoyance that the account's owner capitalizes the first letter of every word in their 140 character-long messages.

While many of the tweets seem and are harmless, often provoking a giggle or nod of the head in having experienced some of the problems, many of them have become tasteless jokes that would be very offensive if read by the person or persons they are directed towards.

Many faculty members of Central are targeted in the tweets. These tweets range from rumors heard about them to simply having their name displayed with '#CentralProbs' to close it off. Inappropriate, immature remarks on staff members and the pictures of students that began to be sent are also degrading and embarrassing.

Staff members referenced to on the @CentralProbs account are tied with sexual jokes, very personal life-rumors and accusations that should not be made in public or discussed at anytime. These tweets display the total lack of respect that many students display for teachers and authoritative figures, making a mockery of very serious issues whether fact or fiction, and none of our business as students.

A handful of students have sent in pictures of things that they have deemed #CentralProbs; the few pictures showcased would be a nightmare if seen by the student in the snapshots.

One picture displays a young man whose pants are sagging low enough to see a bit of his backside, and as immaturely hilarious as that may be, if that was a picture of one of us and we found it posted by a classmate, who knows what might happen. These pictures have both the potential to be humiliating, instigators of hazardous quarrels and a pure violation of privacy.

While attending school one shouldn't have to be in a state-of-mind that is continually self-conscious, wondering if they'll be the next "disaster" posted on @CentralProbs to be just another retweet.

A tweet on Dec. 8 reads, "See that broke a\*\* dude trying to collect bus fair everyday so he can make it home #CentralProbs." Funny at first sight, the more you think about the tweet, the more wrong it becomes.

Tweets like these are only jocose facades that are covering up the bad-mannered tone behind them.

Being both ignorant and naïve, this tweet only highlights one of the issues society faces: making judgments on others, when we don't know them.

Maybe the kid trying to collect bus fair is living in a poverty-level situation or one close too. Maybe the kid trying to collect bus fair is facing personal, familial or educational issues they are too mentally tied down too to try and reach out for help.

As a student body, our jobs as young adults are to build each other up, paving firm foundations for others who are struggling, the exact opposite of what such tweets are doing.

But more than being nothing short of a few bad jokes and a trashy sense of humor while trying to relay the "typical day-to-day" problems a Central student faces, anyone who reads the tweets has the fair right and reason to see Central in a negative light.

The Twitter account portrays our downtown school as a ghetto, sex-filled and undereducated with illegitimate faculty members type of learning facility, a message that no school would want to be promoted.

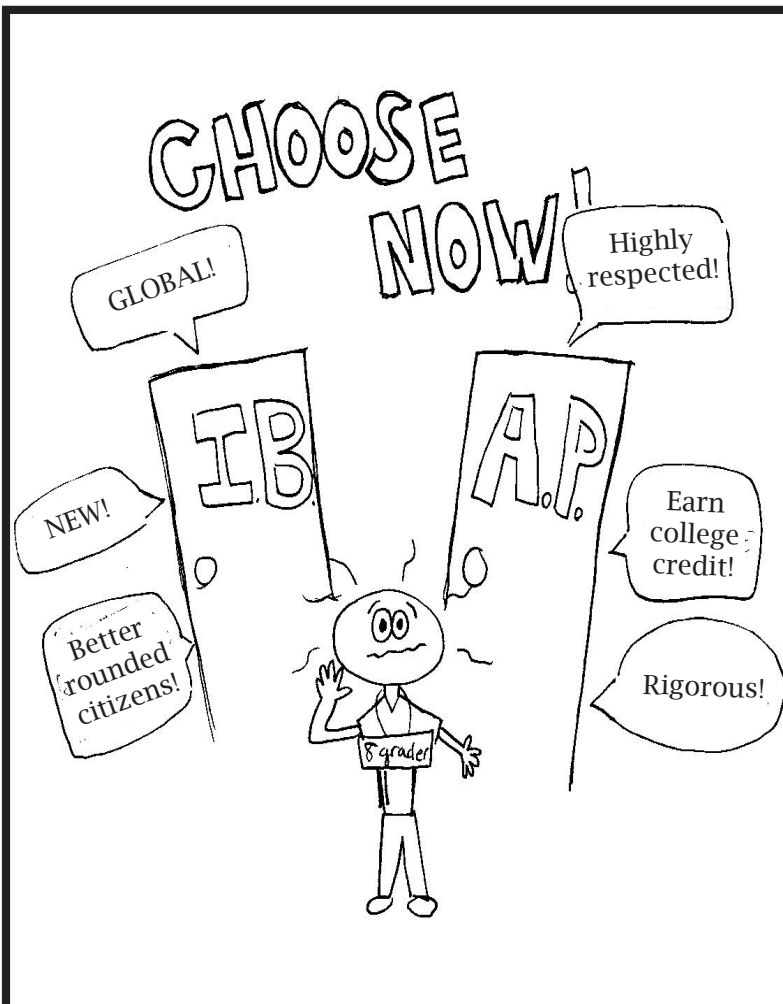
@CentralProbs magnifies two flaws that everyone is in fault of: finding humor in and other's flaws or differences to ridicule them; and lacking respect in the judgments we make on people we don't know.

Teenagers typically turn the other cheek when adults treat them as "stereotypical teenagers", but @CentralProbs only reaffirms adults' action in doing so.

One hundred and twenty-five tweets branded with #CentralProbs have been released to the accounts of the 253 followers, all of which should be deleted and done away with.

Twitter accounts as easily as they can be made, can also be deleted; @CentralProbs would be better deleted in a few easy clicks.

Hiding behind the Central Eagle Twitcon is a student who owes a handful of heartfelt apologies to staff members, peers and Central itself as a valued place of education, one whose safe-haven feel was breached by the intrusive tweets.



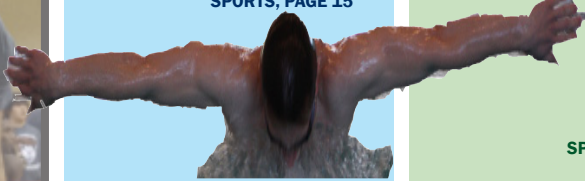
EDITORIAL CARTOON BY LIDNSEY SMITH, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST



### SENIOR SWIMMER RACES RIGHT TO THE TOP

Senior Sean Froeming beats multiple records, and while he is looking forward to graduating, he is also debating his future in swimming.

SPORTS, PAGE 15



### CENTRAL REPRESENTS WELL AT HOME POWERLIFTING COMPETITION

Central girls powerlifting team won overall championship at competition held at Central High School.

Natalia Claxton awarded outstanding female lifter of the meet.

SPORTS, PAGE 14

### NEW SOCCER COACH EXCITED ABOUT NEW SEASON

Eduardo Suarez brings a fresh new coaching style, as well as interesting background to the field.

SPORTS, PAGE 15



Friday, February 10, 2012

Omaha Central High School

Vol. 125 Issue 3

# SAVE THE DATE

## ROCK THE NEST CENTRAL HIGH!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, SEE SPORTS, PAGE 16

# THE MAIN EVENT

Success in Central athletics have put Omaha Central High School on the map. Boys and Girls basketball have gained nation-wide attention. Following in recent tradition, Boys remain undefeated while Girls have only lost one game, making them the main event of Central Athletics.



GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/THE REGISTER

BY MEKENZIE KERR

With a bird's-eye view of the state of Neb. it is impossible to simply overlook the undefeated record that the Omaha High School Varsity Boys' Basketball team has earned itself, alongside the girls' varsity team only suffering a mere one loss. The boys' with a record of 21 wins and absolutely no losses, and the girls' standing at 18 wins and one loss, Central Boys' and girls' basketball teams know how it feels to be on top.

Going into this year coach Eric Behrens said, "We know we had the chance to be the best team in the state", slowly coming true as the boys' varsity team knocks down basketball team after basketball team. Coach Lee also holds high expectations for the girls' basketball team entering into a new season.

This 2011-2012 school year the boys' varsity team has shown improvements since the last, with zero losses as opposed to three. Remaining before districts are four more regular season games, Papillion posing as a potential threat to the untouched record. Papillion has a "really good" basketball team, according to Coach Behrens, with sixteen wins and two losses, ranking third in the state.

In order to get to the level they are at, the varsity boys' basketball practices hard each night, alternating between Norris Middle school and the Central gym. Coach Eric Behrens says the boys practice a plethora of different offensive and defensive drills to stay sharp. The team also simulates actual game situations, sometimes scouting the other teams to pick-up on their styles or what their

players' tendencies are.

Girls' varsity team also pushes themselves hard on the Central gym court, working up a sweat practicing numerous drills and routines to stay in tact.

The most recent tournament in Kearney brought back wins for the boys' varsity team as well.

While making the number one rank look easy, there have been teams who have put up a good fight, although fallen short. South played well in the holiday tournament, according to Coach Behrens, and Millard North posed as a fair opponent as well.

Although some at Central may revel in the fact that our boys' varsity basketball is on top, and the girls are close to follow, competition is still being served. Norfolk closing in with zero losses to match Central's boys' basketball team; the girls team suffering one loss against Papillion South's strong team.

"Our goal is always to win every game," said Coach Behrens, "but you never know what's going to happen, it's a long year."

Serving as Behrens' key players, Akoy Agau (11), Tra-deon Hollins (11) and Darian Barrientos-Jackson (12) have played as vital parts of the team in all the wins. From the girls' basketball team Emily Gamble (12), Mercedes Bender (12) and Brianna Rollerson (12) are names on the lips of students murmuring about the girls' team.

State-minded, the boys' varsity basketball team will finish the last four regular season games strong, looking forward to districts, where we will hopefully maintain the number one seat.

## Sophomore finds interest in sports through father

Football, football, football! Every day it's football. I come into the living room to be greeted by the sound of an insane college crowd screaming after a touchdown, and my dad's voice bellowing cheers for the Huskers. My dad is the biggest football fan in the world.

"Gimme the remote, the game's on!"; a common phrase heard around my house. Every Saturday, Sunday, and Monday night, the TV is on lockdown by my dad. On days that football isn't on, it's basketball. When neither basketball nor football is on, my dad wanders aimlessly around the house with nothing to do, slightly depressed.

My dad pays extra on our cable bill to get NBA League Pass, which broadcasts every NBA game of the season. Two weeks ago, League Pass Info channel wasn't working; my dad threw a fit and called the Cox Cable guy immediately. After three separate visits, the basketball channels were up and running again, and my dad was finally satisfied.

My dad's love for the NBA is shared by my sister and I. Every year, we try to go to a game. So far, we've been to Memphis to see the Grizzlies play the Dallas Mavericks, to the Quest Center

in Omaha a couple years ago to watch a pre-season game of the Minnesota Timberwolves vs. the Detroit Pistons, and to Denver to see the Nuggets play the Phoenix Suns. Months before each of these visits, my dad would eagerly count down the days until the game, putting entries in his phone's calendar and taking off work weeks in advance.

Though I do enjoy watching the NBA, it gets a tad excessive in my household. When basketball and football are the only things on TV 24/7, it gets very old very quickly. The quarrel over who gets to control the remote gets quite heated on a regular basis.

On those rare occasions that neither football nor basketball is on television, my dad likes to go on his "Husker Rivals" chat room. Being one of the first members of this chat room, he likes to keep up his internet reputation for knowing the most about the Huskers. A life-long fan, my dad has many Nebraska Cornhuskers shirts, signed footballs, posters, and other memorabilia. Oftentimes when ESPN plays old games from the 70's and 80's, my dad recognizes crowd members and remembers exactly where he was and what

he was doing while that specific game was going on. In one game, we actually saw my dad as a 14 year old in the crowd.

Before the Huskers changed conferences, we would go to the Nebraska vs. Colorado game every year. This huge rivalry always got my dad excited.

Even the coldest of weather wouldn't stop him from going to this game.

One year, we took the nine hour journey across Nebraska to get to the stadium in Colorado.

It had just snowed, and temperatures were far below zero. Despite these drawbacks, we arrived at the stadium two hours early, clad in 50 pounds of coats and winter gear.

Five hours later, we return home encased in blocks of ice. The rest of the day is spent talking about the game, thawing out, and talking about the game some more. The minor frost bite is all worth it to my dad; just another sacrifice we make to watch football.

Though my dad's obsession with football and other sports can get bothersome, it has become part of my family, and there's nothing I can do about the constant TV remote fight until I move out.



GREAT JOB!

A Column by KENDALL PANAS

## Broncos star using God or football for fame, as well as attention?



**WORLD ACCORDING TO ME**  
A Column by ESAU RENDON

Football is one hundred percent American, just as American as hot dogs and apple pie.

We like to look at football players like Manning and Brady as role models especially for males, and we typically put them in high regard.

We disagree when a football player cheats on his wife and are even more opposed if any of them are openly gay like Roy Simmons and David Kopay.

We also know that the profession of a football player or an athlete for the most part is lucrative and comes with an enviable celebrity status, which leads to girls, grills and Garlados.

All things that contribute to the idol worship of these figures, making males dream of being just like them.

Without a doubt football forms a great part of America's society.

As does Christianity; so it comes to no surprise to us that Tim Tebow has risen as a football star and a God star, due to his strong embrace of his Christian roots.

Tebow was born to missionary parents in Makati City in the Philippines.

Although his mom was told it would be better to abort because she would have most likely have a still born due to the drugs she used to rouse her from a coma and dysentery.

Needless to say she didn't abort and I think we all can agree that the fact he lived seems a little miraculous.

He later went on to play football in high school, although home schooled for most of his schooling, at Nease High School in Ponte Vedra Beach in Florida.

Today, he is the starting quarterback for the Denver Broncos.

Regardless he isn't well known for how many games he has won; rather his Christianity that has seems to form a large part of his life and has been a huge part of his explosive notoriety.

In interviews and after a game it won't surprise people in any way if he thanks his Lord Jesus Christ, prays before a game, Tebow in no way is closed about his Christian beliefs and doesn't seem ashamed to embrace his beliefs.

There is not anything wrong with his religion, but I do feel that he tends to do it too publicly and has only used this to help him get fame.

I mean let's face, he isn't the only National Football League player that has had strong Christian beliefs.

However, he definitely has been one of the most public ones.

Clearly displayed when he quotes John 3:16 and he acknowledges God for both his victories and loses, which all build character and shows he is thankful.

I am sure he is talented and I am sure he is a nice human being, as well.

However, when one reads bible verses like Matthew 6.6 that says "But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly",

I can't help it but to think of how Tebow has overlooked this verse from a book he should keep sacred, and keep up with it in its entirety.

However, Tebow has been seen many times praying on the sidelines.

Amidst Tebow's hypocrisy, I can't help it but to feel a little worried, about the way this God Star will use his position.

Will he seem more like an overzealous, unaccepting and close minded evangelical rather than to embrace and respect diversity with the peacefulness as Martin Luther King?

If he were to act like a member of the Westboro Baptist Church, this he would also influence his fans to do so as well.

What if one of the members of the other faiths play against Tebow, will America's spectators and Tebow fans act negatively and make abrupt comments to the player of another faith?

I feel it would be a really big deal of the player was a Muslim football player, especially since the turmoil left behind after 9/11.

I feel strongly towards freedom of religion and feel that while we should let Tebow embrace his views, we should let him do it in moderation, because everyone deserves to be respected and Tebow is not that exception.

So columnists should never attack him for his religion.

Of course, he should be able to thank God when he wants, given that the setting is appropriate.

However, Tebow should stop with the excessive public displays that scream "I love Jesus."

This only makes Tebow look as if he is using religion to gain attention, something I feel strongly against because it makes him only seem like a mockery of a Christian, something that is disrespectful to the Christian community.

As society we need to give all religions the same amount of respect.

## Powerlifting team excels in home competition

BY GISELLE TRAN

One word describes Central's Powerlifting Team's performance at the CHS Invite on Saturday, Jan. 21 - consistency.

While some sports teams might dominate at district competition and disappoint at state, Central's Powerlifting Team demonstrated mental strength and stability when its girls team took first place and its boys placed second, with several individual first, second, and third place awards.

In addition, Natalia Claxton was awarded the distinction of Outstanding Female Lifter of the Meet.

The dedicated coach, Dennis Baker, has been the power lifting coach at Central for four years but has been teaching weight training and physical education classes since 2006. The meet on Jan. 21 proved to be competitive as lifters from Omaha South, Creighton Prep, Fremont High, and Bellevue East traveled to the downtown to compete in their assigned weight classes.

As powerlifting is not a well-known sport, the rules are not common knowledge. Similar to wrestling, lifters are divided into weight classes. Within each weight class, lifters have three attempts to perform on each of the three lifts: bench, squat, and dead lift. Three judges score each lift according to the amount of weight lifted as well as technique; two judges must approve the lift.

People are often surprised that girls participate in power lifting. Kudos to Central's Powerlifting Team as it has one of the largest female participation in the district of OPS. Coach Baker sees past gender stereotypes, believing that powerlifting is a great experience for females because of its uses as a "confidence builder" and "character builder." Tamerea Marion, who placed first in her weight class, strongly advocated female participation. Her thoughts on the subject were, "Girls can do what boys do."

Although the powerlifting team meets only three times per week on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday, the team is dedicated, and some lifters even lift outside of Central practices. For example, McKenna Kuhn lifts four to five times per week at 24 Hour Fitness and in Central's weight room.

The lifters certainly participate as a team, but each lifter has his or her own regimen that contributes to his or her success.

McKenna Kuhn, a junior at Central, starting lifting weight for football his freshman year but found joy in lifting, saying, "It became my passion; I love it." According to McKenna, the lifter has to be as mentally invested in lifting weights as in any other sport. If lifters don't believe they have the capability to squat, bench, or dead lift the weight, they simply will not succeed. McKenna's key to his success is "hard work and a little elbow grease... [It] takes you a long way." McKenna has shown impressive work ethic and perseverance in his dedication to powerlifting. During the interview, I discovered that for McKenna, his favorite lift is the squat as he said, "I really dig legs." McKenna placed second in his weight division at the Central Invite and looks toward the future and hopefully, more success.

For Tamerea Marion, lifting weights was the way to a healthier lifestyle. Marion's initial goal was to simply lose weight, but after some encouragement, she began regularly attending lifting practices and noticed that she had a knack for the sport. From there, she continued to build on her discovered talent, leading her to where she is today. At the Central Invite, Marion placed first in her weight class.

According to Marion, however, she has a routine before, during,



PHOTO BY KATHEIRNE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

Ronneisha Hanes competes in the powerlifting competition held at Central Saturday, January 21st.

and after competitions such as the Central invite. Before her lift, Tamerea focuses on physically relaxing but mentally concentrating and building up confidence. For Marion, it's all about "getting my numbers up." Because powerlifting is seen as such a physical sport, few people realize how much thinking and strategizing is involved not only by the coaches but also by the lifters. Throughout the duration of the powerlifting competition, Tamerea pays attention to her opponents, scouting out the competition. During the actual lifting, Tamerea puts all her focus into the lift, as she believes that lifting is "mostly mental, maybe 1 or 2 percent is physical." But Tamerea does not stop there. After a competition, whether she won or lost, Tamerea focuses on the future and concentrates on improvement.

Central's Powerlifting Team has proven to have the ingredients for success. From here, the lifters must put in the hard work and mental effort to succeed in the long run. "A lot of them [the lifters] have potential," Coach Baker said as he looks forward to future competition.

# Sports Calendar

## February

**4** Boys Varsity Swimming, Millard South Invite

**10** Metro Swim meet, Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Millard South, Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Millard South

**11** Boys Varsity Wrestling @ Districts, Metro Swim meet finals, Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Papio La Vista, Boys Basketball vs. Papio La Vista

**16** State wrestling, continuing until Feb. 18 Girls Varsity @ Bryan, Boys Varsity @ Bryan

**17** Girls Varsity Basketball vs. Bellv. East, Boys Varsity Basketball vs. Bellv. East

**21** District Girl Basketball, continues until Feb. 23rd.

**24** State Swimming

**25** District Boys Basketball, continues until Feb. 27

## Sophomore reveals reality of being a swimmer, appreciates struggles as an athlete, bonding as a team

I started off swimming in seventh grade, and I'm not completely sure why. I had never done it before. I think that I had a desire to be more athletic, like my sister (she's played volleyball for years), and that had never been me. I played soccer throughout my younger years, but I was always a strange child who enjoyed reading books a little too much.

There was a specific event that I now contribute to my decision to swim: it was during some volleyball game of my sister's, and I saw a girl several years younger than me passing a ball back and forth with another girl. Her hair was wet, tied up in a messy bun, and she had this impressive athleticism about her that I both admired and envied. I remember my mom noticing her and saying something along the lines of "Wow, look at her. She must play volleyball and be a swimmer." For some reason this struck a chord with me, and I found myself wanting to be like this girl who my mother was impressed by. So I decided to go out for swimming.

I had a few friends who were doing it too, and I remember that those friends missed the very first practice, so I was on my own. The swimming part in particular was awful; I pulled and kicked without getting anywhere, sputtering and swallowing water until I was a gasping, chlorine-soaked mess. I felt so dejected, thinking to myself the whole time things like "You're going to have to quit. This is just too hard." This ended up being a mistake, because for the duration of the bus ride back to school, I was soaking wet. Looking back, I'm surprised that I didn't vow to quit then and there.

Of course, now I realize that swimming in middle school is basically a joke. Eighth grade year it was incredibly fun; we mostly helped each other out with learning technique and the hardest sets were 15 minute swims. The world

of high school swimming is entirely different; the practices are longer and harder, and the level of commitment is way more extreme. Plus guys and girls swim together! That little fact makes things a whole lot more interesting...thank goodness it wasn't that way in middle school, because that would have been stirring up a big ol' pot of awkward.

When most people hear 'swimming,' they immediately think 'Michael Phelps!' He eats 12,000 calories a day and swims 10,000 yards every day, earned eight medals in Beijing, may or may not have smoked weed that one time at the University of South Carolina, and has hands and feet the size of cement blocks. Yes, he is a swimming prodigy. Unfortunately, most of us aren't quite that skilled. But our team works hard.

Swimmers are united in a completely different way from other athletes.

There are just so many things to complain about, and if you've never swam competitively, it's difficult to grasp. Don't ever try to bag on the sport to a swimmer; that's incredibly foolish.

I think that swimming is probably the most difficult, time-consuming and intense sport that one can take part in. Have you ever swam 12x200s on the 3:30? Yeah, it's not easy. And on top of two hours per day of practicing after school (we swim around 3,000 yards), we're forced to attend invites throughout the season; for many of them, warm-ups begin as early as 7 a.m. on Saturdays. Leaping into a frigid pool of water that early is not on my list of favorite things to do.

Don't even get me started about what swimming does to your body! First, it gives you a munchies-esque craving for food. I've read that you burn something like 12 calories per minute while swimming, although it depends on your weight/distance swum/stroke.

Regardless, you get incredibly hungry and devour everything in your house post practice. Obviously you get crazy muscles from swimming (especially if you do it year round), but it really changes how you smell. Chlorine clings to you, soaks into your hair, and sucks all of the moisture out of your skin. I have to put on so much lotion just to drive away the itchiness that sometimes prevents me from falling asleep. And it's really bad for your hair, especially if you don't wear a swim cap. Most of the guys' hair is completely fried, and in desperate need of a good deep-conditioning. Speaking of hair: do any of you participate in No-Shave November? Try extending that through to February. The night before the Metro Swim Meet, which sits midway through the month of love (and is one rung below state—so it's a big deal), the whole team ventures into the boy's locker room and shaves their legs together. I realize that this sounds creepy/strange/disgusting, but I can assure you that it's fun and incredibly satisfying. Needless to say, it's a bonding experience.

Honestly, I'm nowhere near being the best on the team; so much respect is owed to all the swimmers with insane dedication.

These people show up at 5 in the morning three days a week to swim and a good amount of them swim year-round. Do you know how hard that would be?!? I practically go crazy within the approximately 14 weeks of swim team.

I can't imagine being immersed in chlorine constantly, and sacrificing all of my Saturday mornings to attend meets. Kudos to the kids with that much devotion.

One really cool thing about the swim team, though: it's a family. We suffer together, we spend way too much time together, we eat together, we compete together, we win and lose together. We get each other, we encourage each other. It's a pretty special thing to be a swimmer.



**WHAT A PRINCE**  
A Column by EMILY BECK

## Senior Swimmer exceeds expectations, records

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

"The feeling you get at the end of a hard practice when you pushed yourself to the limit; the way the water feels when you get back in after a few months off. It's a part of your identity, something you love and something you hate." —Anonymous

On the outside looking in, this is the perfect way to describe a swimmer's life, especially senior Sean Froemming's relationship with the water.

Froemming first joined the Elmwood swim team at the age of nine in hopes of seeing his hidden swimmer crush every day.

His first motivation to swim was premature, but soon he began to see why he loved to swim.

"I'm hugely competitive, so I just love the fix it gives you in a way... it's like a natural drug because of the workout," he said.

The sport requires extreme determination; with early morning practice three days a week, after school practices daily, and no off season, each swimmer must schedule time wisely and yearn for the water.

Froemming is a sprinter, so his sets during practice consist of quick sprints with less rest. "No set they give me is too hard, and I've never been like that throughout swimming, but this is my last year, and it's the time to prove myself." And prove himself he has, by beating over four records; the 50 free Central record, 200 medley relay, 200 free relay, and 400 free, as well as coming in first in all of his 16 races.

With 2012 being his last year at Central, Froemming debates what to do with swimming after graduation.

"I'm hoping to keep swimming because my coach thinks I'd have a really good career with it," he said.

Along with swimming, preparing for the future takes much determination, which Froemming clearly has.

"I'm sitting down with my coach and emailing Morningside and South Dakota State about possible scholarships," Froemming said.

Although it's hard for Central to lose one of its best swimmers, a college gets to gain a new champion.



PHOTO BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

Senior Sean Froemming practices for his next meet in which he hopes to break more records.

## New soccer coach brings energy, background to the field

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

Mr. Eduardo Suarez is a new teacher at Central, beginning his time here last September. He is not only the bilingual liaison, but is also an addition to the boys' Varsity soccer coaching staff starting this year.

Suarez said that he came to Central High School because this certain position was available at the time for him.

He is a part of the bilingual liaison, the voice between parents who don't speak English and the teachers and administrators who need to get through to them.

He also helps out with the new students who don't speak English by sending papers to the teachers in the school that must need them.

And that doesn't mean just Spanish; it can be any language from around the world. However, Suarez does only speak Spanish and English.

Suarez was offered the position on coaching the Varsity team due to his past and present soccer experience.

He has played pro and indoor, and played while at Bellevue University. He played so well that he was a four-time All American.

He also tried out for a third division soccer team in Mexico and made it, but instead came back to America because something miraculous happened to him here at home.

Right now, he is still playing soccer for the Omaha Vipers.

Coach Suarez will not be the only one coaching the boys this year. Coach Pham and Coach Garcia (JV) will also be there.

Right now Suarez will be thought of as an assistant coach, but soon will be taking over Coach Pham's place as head coach.

"I'm really lucky to have a coach like Pham because he is willing to coach in my type of coaching style," said Coach Suarez.

Suarez also states that this year is going to be a lot different. There will be new leaders who will lead by example, especially at practices and games.

The boys are currently conditioning before school every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 6 a.m. to 7 a.m. In February, all of the coaches will come together to judge tryouts. Each will get his say in the JV and Varsity team's lineups. After that, the teams will have two practices a week for the first month.

Suarez is looking forward to getting his teaching degree and having the position of head coach.

He thinks that this year, instead of Central's team, other schools' soccer teams will be the ones reacting differently to him becoming the new boys' soccer coach.

He has said that South's coach knows him really well and knows what he is capable of. Other teams have been looking at old records and some of them have thought that maybe our team was a joke, but this year, all thoughts could be changed to the complete opposite.

"Anytime there are players willing to train hard makes it me feel really good about the new season," said Suarez.

So come out and support the new boys' soccer teams with the new addition of Coach Suarez to help out and soon take over the head position. We'll soon see the skills that he's capable of bringing out of the boys this year and for the years to come.

As the soccer team ramps up for the next season, they look ahead to contributing to Central's tradition of athletic excellence.

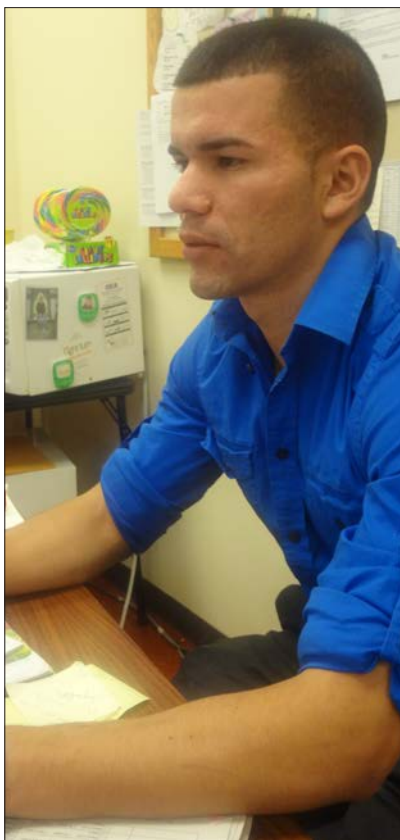


PHOTO BY JENNIFER ROONEY/REGISTER

New soccer coach Eduardo Suarez looks up soccer drills on his computer. Suarez is excited about the coming season.

## Coach pushes girls basketball in right direction



PHOTO BY PRECIOUS GASPARD/REGISTER

Administrator and coach looks up statistics and roster for the girls Varsity Basketball team. The girls team has had a great season, by only losing one game.

BY TANZY GIVENS

Coach Thomas Lee has made a huge impact on the Central's Girls Varsity Basketball team since he started coaching in 2010. Last season the girls made it to the semi-finals, and this year they are hoping to make it all the way to the end.

Coach Lee states that the 2010-2011 season was, "a mental game... the girls worked on believing in themselves, gaining confidence, building moral, and becoming a team." He then said that this season was about more than the mental attributes, but also the physical attributes.

All of Coach Lee's players have nothing but positive things to say about him.

"He is a great coach," says Abigail Niebrugge, (sophomore, shooting guard), "We have practice every day to guarantee that we are at our best for games."

"He's caring, and very dedicated to us," says Sydney McGruder (junior, post).

"All of the girls have their strengths and weaknesses," says Coach Lee. "We work on our weaknesses during off season and our strengths during the season."

Acting as one is a thing the players do to actually combine as a team. "We are closer as a team by doing more team bonding activities," says Niebrugge.

"I've been cheering for the varsity girls since my junior year, and since

Mr. Lee has started coaching, I can tell how much of an impact he has made on how they play. Last year you could tell that the girls weren't as close as they are now. It was Coach Lee's first time coaching them, so they also had to get used to that. Coach Lee's standards are high, and you can tell that they really want to meet his expectations. Plus, last year was the first year that they all actually played together on the same team, so they had to get used to those changes too. Now they have that bond and you can tell that they think as a team," says Brianna Martin, varsity cheerleader (12).

So far the Girls Varsity team has won 19 games and lost one. The team also won the Metro Holiday Tournament and are ranked No. 1 in the state; they plan to keep it that way. "Before state," says Coach Lee, "we need to focus on our opponents in districts." Though state is the main goal that the girls want to reach, they do have to get through districts first.

The girls beat Kearney ending with a 70-18 score on Monday, Feb. 6, and have four games left until districts, which start on Feb. 21 and end on Feb. 23. State starts the week after.

Coach Lee has a lot of faith in his players. "They can win state," he said. "After we get through districts then we can worry about state. And then with state it's all up to the teams."

When asked what their strategy will be if they make it to state, Niebrugge replied, "Play hard the whole time, and play as a team."

"May the best team win," says Coach Lee. Central is definitely that team.

## Junior calls for equal attention for girls and boys school sports



MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

A Column by JENNIFER ROONEY

It's Friday night at Central High School and there are so many people rushing in with silly outfits (compared to their regular clothes they wear every day at school). Of course they're on their way to the late-night boys' varsity basketball game to cheer on their fellow classmates who play on the team. But just hours before when the girls' varsity basketball game was on, there was definitely not as many fans cheering them on. Why? Why aren't the girls just as important as the boys? They are both varsity and they both have a long winning streak throughout Central. There are no differences.

I think that's just not right. The guys shouldn't be treated as more important than the girls, any more than the girls being seen as more important than the guys. Each one should be given equal treatment in everything. Sports just aren't different at all. Don't treat anyone differently.

And it's not just basketball that the girls might not be given equal treatment and praise in. It also could be boys' and girls' golf or boys' and girls' tennis, or even boys' and girls' soccer. Now these teams shouldn't be treated differently just because they are different genders.

In a normal classroom, both girls and guys are given equal treatment to get a good grade in that class and pass. Both are competing for a better grade than the other and are just trying to get a good grade.

Both girls and guys have high grades and are smart. Either one can be smarter, so why not stronger or tougher?

Now you have heard that statement when you were little that "guys are stronger than girls, but girls are smarter than guys." Anybody should be able to be what they want to be these days. Nothing should stop anyone.

Now I've seen, and I think most people have seen, a girl beat a guy at any casual arm wrestle. That just proves the point that any girl can do any sport they want and be just as important, strong and tough as a normal guy if she really wanted to. Nothing is different.

I love those people who show that a typical stereotype does not apply to him or her. Don't set that typical stereotype that is true to a certain type of person. Everyone is different. Be the person that actually supports the differences.

I also think it's awesome when a girl is on the wrestling team. Yes, I think it's wrong to hit a girl, but this is why she joined the team, to fight. Give her that equal right to do what she wanted to do, fair and square.

About a year ago, an Iowa State High School 15-year-old wrestler refused to fight against a girl because it was in his faith not to, and he thought it just was not appropriate. Many people praised him for that, actually, because he stuck to his faith and let her take the win. Other girl wrestlers also thought it was totally okay because all he did was stuck to his religion. Now people had a heated debate on if that was sexist or respectful.

I think that there is a fine line between sexist and respectful. Yes, don't ever hit a girl because it has been around for centuries that it is just disrespectful to, but if this girl is in a sport that tends to become violent, well then stick to the rules and play the real game! That's all she really wanted, a fair game.

Now this isn't just girls doing any sport they want to, guys can also do anything they put their minds to. Like for example, at Central, guys can join pom squad, cheerleading and the step team. Nothing is different for them either. This year there was actually a male who tried out for the cheer team, but instead he decided to go with something different at that time and go with something he had a bigger heart for. He was just doing what he loved.

Not only should the different genders in the different sports be treated equally, but the different teams compared to the other ones should be treated as equal.

Each school has a main sport they love to get into, for example Central loves our basketball teams, mainly because we do so well. But what about any other sports that need support?

Each day Dr. Bigsby shouts out to the different sports and gives them all the support and recognition they should have.

Everyone should be able to have the recognition and support by their fellow classmates because it makes them try even harder, and also makes them realize that someone cares.

When I was in track and swim team years ago, I loved when my teammates cheered me on, but it was even better when people my own age, in my school, who weren't on the team, cheered me on to do my best. It would make me feel really good inside and gave me more confidence in what I was doing.

Yes, everyone has different opinions in what sports they like, but that doesn't mean that they shouldn't be a supporter for the ones that do.

In my own home, my parents are huge Nebraska Cornhusker fans and I really don't care for football, but I still support the team because it's my homeland and where I grew up.

I also support the Cornhuskers because I know it will make everyone happy to have a another fan, even if that person doesn't have much knowledge in the game that is being played.

Now all I'm really saying is that everyone should let the differences come out, and let any boy or girl do any sport that he or she wants to do while actually supporting his or her choice in it.

Don't only support the different genders equally, but also the different teams that try just as hard as the others. Fairness just starts with a little support from our own peers these days.



**\$40 OFF  
PROM TUX\***



savviprom.com

\*Order and partial payment required at least one week prior to prom date. Not valid with any other offer. Excludes budget collection. Expires June 15. See store for details.



**BE SAVVI!  
PUT YOUR PROM  
INTO HIGH GEAR.**




*Gentleman's Choice*  
TUXEDOS



144th & West Center  
Below Old Chicago  
330-6158

8014 W. Dodge Rd.  
391-3200

"Like" us on  at Gentlemans Choice Tuxedos / Savvi Formal Wear

# SAVE THE DATE

Central High School Foundation  
wants you to mark your calendars!  
You won't want to miss these  
upcoming events!



**ROCK**  
the nest  
trivia night  
**sunday,**  
**april 29, 2012**  
at the Scoular Ballroom



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL  
2012 GOLF OUTING  
**monday,**  
**june 4, 2012**  
at Field Club of Omaha