

EQUAL RIGHTS FOR ALL

The Register Staff expresses their beliefs on same-sex marriage and supports the New Jersey Assembly bill.

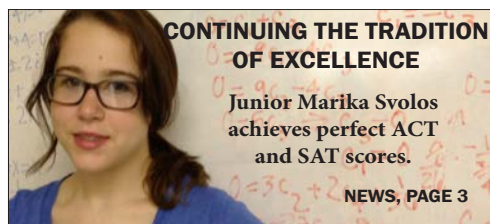
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SHORT FILMS MAKE A BIG IMPRESSION AT THE OSCARS

The Oscar Live-Action Short Films are screened at Filmstreams annually. This year, there was a lot to be said for the qualifying titles.

ENTERTAINMENT, PAGE 10



CONTINUING THE TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE

Junior Marika Svolos achieves perfect ACT and SAT scores.

NEWS, PAGE 3

The Register

A High School Newspaper Practicing Professional Journalism

Central High School

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Monday, March 26, 2012

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GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

CENTRAL'S SUCCESS ENCOURAGES A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAP

While the district has been forced to put a lid on enrollment for the class of 2016, Eagles are still confident they will blow the lid off of upcoming years, continuing the tradition of excellence and ending their high school careers by walking across the stage.

BY MEKENZIE KERR

"I was not anticipating it," said Central Principal Keith Bigsby, "not in my wildest dreams..."

Including both parochial, OPS and outside school districts, an estimated 1,000 eighth graders chose Central High School as their No. 1 pick for the upcoming 2012-2013 school year. As a direct result of the surplus in interested students, Dr. Bigsby's wildest dreams came true; around 400 of the 1,000 that applied received letters containing the downer news that Central was full, and Central had to cap enrollment.

Central reigns as Nebraska's largest high school, with a current enrollment of 2,397 students; for the 2012-2013 school year the high school had about 685 spots readily available for freshmen, and all were filled quickly.

Historically, athletically and academically famous, Central stands as the oldest high school in the Omaha area, built in the dawning ages of the 1900s. Central pulls students in from around the area with its AP program and athletic traditions in all areas.

"We invent realities for others to perceive," said Bigsby, "and we've developed one as an outstanding high school with unbelievable opportunities."

In addition to the recent boys and girls 2012 State Basketball Championship titles, Central's status as an International Baccalaureate Candidate school has significantly increased the magnetic pull for students.

The "key to us [Central High School] is not a bunch of ads," notes Bigsby, "but parent and student word of mouth." These students talking up the school to their parents and friends are the best marketers for incoming Eagles.

Word of mouth took off following Open House in January, eminent in the comments on the Omaha.com article on Central's, noting the "eager" Central students who relayed interest in the eighth grader's tastes, tailoring the girl's tour to fit her as an individual. With both a positive and professional atmosphere, Central has been able to attract students from all over the metro.

Dr. Bigsby also feels the diversity of Central is a huge pull for both students and parents, acknowledging that some may look down upon it, as a high school we value the rare diversity we encompass.

"Diversity creates a sense of mediocrity," said Bigsby, "but it has nothing to do with race, ethnicity, but individual opportunities."

As an urban high school that draws in students from all the varying demographics of Omaha, diversity is expected. Following an article in the Omaha

Continued to 'CAP' on Page 2

Car crash ends with an Eagle's untimely passing

BY JENNIFER ROONEY



PHOTO COURTESY OF O-BOOK

"Whether you know him or not, because we are a community, you will always feel the loss. It feels like we're not complete," said Dr. Keith Bigsby, Omaha Central's principal. "We are going to have to work to get through it."

Central lost 17-year-old student Victor Rojas on Sunday, March 4th, right before 8 a.m. Teachers, students, friends and (most importantly) his family were hurt from what had happened.

"When you listen to the news and to hear a young person die, your heart goes out to them. You don't plan for things like this. It hits stronger when it's us. You just hope everyone's okay," said Mrs. Leslie Hill, Rojas' counselor.

Rojas was killed in a single car crash on the Kennedy Expressway in his SUV. He was traveling south on Interstate 480 onto the JFK Expressway when his car went out of control. He then crashed into a barrier near the F Street exit.

After that, he was taken to the University of Nebraska Medical Center where he was pronounced dead. Investigators soon figured out that he was not wearing a seat belt. That may be the most effective way to survive a car crash.

Victor Rojas had been on his way to his brother Alfredo Rojas' house that morning. When he didn't show up, Alfredo

Any event like this changes us. We just have to appreciate the students here. We can't take life for granted and have to be kind to everyone.

- Leslie Hill

Rojas decided to go looking for him, eventually coming across the accident scene.

Police officers later stated that there was no alcohol, drugs or mechanical problems involved in the crash. The wind most likely made him lose control.

The worst part was that Victor Rojas' mother was in Houston, Texas, on her way home from Mexico. She received a call that there had been an accident and booked an emergency flight home. She was later told that he was gone.

Teachers, students, friends and his family are all trying to work through this tragedy. Hill went to each of his classes Monday, March 5 to talk to the students.

Victor Rojas was the type of person who talked to everybody he knew. People knew him as a funny and social guy who valued everyone. He really enjoyed people. He was also very respectful and polite to adults.

The teachers of Central High School found out about the tragic event from Mrs. Bette Norton Ball, head of the guidance department, who contacted them via phone. Most of them were shocked. "It caught me off guard. I had to get proof, I couldn't believe it," said Bigsby.

Friends of Victor Rojas have made shirts and such things as posters to give to his mother to show how much they loved and appreciated him. A few students even made a huge banner for any student of Central High to sign, which they later gave to Victor Rojas' mother.

"I was very impressed and proud of the compassion and kindness and support the students give one another. It's so beautiful," said Hill. Several students even asked Bigsby permission to wear Victor Rojas' button at graduation, but this request was declined.

Rojas' visitation was from 1 to 8 p.m. on Friday, March 9th. The funeral was on the following Saturday, March 10th, at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's. Victor Rojas' mother encouraged anyone who knew Victor and wanted to attend to come to his funeral.

Ms. Alejandra Soto, a bilingual liaison, called the Rojas family to give them her personal sympathy. "I wanted to be the one to talk to them to tell the mother the school felt her loss. I have talked to her before. She was glad to see that we cared," said Soto.

Soto talked to the siblings over the phone, but decided to make a personal visit as well to the Rojas' home to talk to all of the relatives. "The mom recognized me right away and I just let her cry on my shoulders," said Soto.

Central will always remember Victor Rojas, who inspired and changed throughout his time.

"Any event like this changes us. We just have to appreciate the students here. We can't take life for granted and have to be kind to everyone," said Hill.

Boy and Girl Eagles share in Championship joy, Omaha Central dubbed "Champ High"



PHOTO BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

Coach Eric Behrens, left, and Coach Thomas Lee, right, congratulate one another on their matching state titles. Both teams share the joy of being Nebraska State Champions.

BY MEKENZIE KERR

The Omaha Central girls' and boys' varsity basketball teams didn't have magic on their sides this 2011-2012 season. Many teams hope to win the state basketball championship title, and hope springs eternal: with heartfelt ambition, sweaty hard work and impressive leadership skill, both the Lady Eagles and Boys' team brought home the state championship title.

Both state championship titles marked numerous achievements for the Central Eagles, establishing records and memories to last each player's lifetime. Each of these near flawless records are displayed proudly on the girls and boys basketball pages on

the Central site, but these wins mean much more than simply years of trophies--2012 has ushered in many firsts.

Central's boys team, lead by Coach Eric Behrens, made the Eagles the first Class A boys basketball team in 23 years to go undefeated. A solid victory of 55-38 over Omaha South finalized the undefeated record that has been following the Eagles around the entire season.

The boys team's 2012 state championship title makes the sixth state title in the past seven years, and served as the first undefeated season in Class A since 1989. It is also the third consecutive state title the boys have reeled in for Central High School.

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NSAA STATE BASKETBALL SCORES

Boys Basketball

vs. Bryan: 56-52

vs. Lincoln North

Star: 67-47

vs. South: 55-38

Girls Basketball

vs. Fremont: 59-44

vs. Papillion LaVista

South: 48-40

vs. Lincoln South-

east: 36-35

The Register

2011-2012

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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.

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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 hillary.blayney@ops.org or come to room 029 to discuss your idea.

Local coffee shop works with Central marketing

BY GISELLE TRAN

The coffeehouse in *Friends* represented a place where friends could get together, share stories, and enjoy a hot cup of joe and a muffin. Omaha is now home to its very own Central Perk, also named Central Perk.

James Stapleton, owner of the Blue Jay Bar and Grill at 2416 Davenport Street, decided to open up a coffeehouse next door, thinking that managing a coffee shop in the mornings and the bar during the evenings would be a good fit.

Stapleton's goal in establishing Central Perk was simply a conversion of his office into a coffeehouse that could be enjoyed by people working in the downtown area. Central Perk serves as a perfect complement to the Blue Jay Bar and Grill.

Central High School has its own personal connection to Central Perk as Stapleton asked Central DECA, the marketing club, for advertising advice and promotional ideas.

DECA was happy to help as it provided t-shirt designs and tips on attracting customers. Including a newspaper stand was a thought supported by Harry Gaylor, a Central High School marketing teacher, and Principal, Dr. Keith Bigsby.

Customers would be able to pick up their morning newspaper and a cup of coffee without stopping by two different stores.

Gaylor believes Central Perk to be a great opportunity for DECA students to understand how class material relates to the real world.

Stephanie Thomsen, DECA student and senior at Central High School, agreed with Gaylor, commenting on the relationship between Central DECA and Central Perk, "It really helps the students...relate the things they are learning in the marketing classes and DECA to world situations. I think...Central Perk is really great in helping us make decisions as if we were legit."

After a morning coffee stop, DECA student



PHOTO BY TABITHA PANAS/REGISTER

Central Perk offers a casual, homey place for students of Creighton and Central alike to get their morning cup of joe.

Brita Sjogren said, "The set up was really good for high school [students], to have that location so close...but it didn't advertise well. [Central Perk] should have a sign on the side of the building that says 'Central Perk'...so that people can see it. I feel like a lot of people don't know about it." It is these constructive comments that will help Central Perk in its establishment of the business.

However, Stapleton connected with teachers long before he asked for advice from Central DECA.

In fact, Stapleton's brother is the Bellevue East varsity girl's tennis coach. Central Perk showed its support during teacher appreciation week by offering free coffee to teachers.

Central Perk's hours (6 a.m. to 9 a.m.) support an Omahan who wishes to pick up a cup of coffee on his or her way to work in the mornings.

The coffee shop has expanded its menu to include pop, smoothies, energy drinks, bottled water, chips, candy, gum, cookies and muffins.

Central Perk's cookies are from the one and only Otis Spunkmeyer, the company that also provides the cookies for DECA's fundraising.

Central Perk includes a daily special, often-times a cappuccino, with the choice of French vanilla or Butterfinger flavors.

In an effort to establish its business, Central Perk offered a free personal pan pizza with a purchase Monday through Wednesday during the week of March 11. Additionally, a sign will be going up, indicating that customers will receive a free coffee or cinnamon roll with a purchase. Central Perk hopes to lengthen its hours to 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Central Perk is on its way to success, but Stapleton says that he won't be disappointed if the coffeehouse doesn't work out.

Looking at the positive side of things, Stapleton hopes Central Perk runs as smoothly as the Blue Jay Bar and Grill, but if not, at least Stapleton's office space will be cleaner than it was before.

World Herald recognizes success that led to enrollment cap

■ 'CAP' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

World-Herald regarding the cap on students, an editorial was published praising Central as an "urban public school" that has "sound management and high standards," that acknowledged the size and complexity Central faces as an urban high school, something "that many other schools don't face."

"Oh my god, it [editorial] was spot on," said Bigsby, "it was like me winning the Super Bowl."

Bigsby was more than pleased with the production and publishing of the editorial, but more so by the acknowledgement of what among Central staff is known as the seven "correlates."

The journalist behind the Omaha World-Herald editorial, completely uninformed of the "correlates" Bigsby and staff has been incorporating, noted the "breadth of academic and extracurricular offerings", "ability to meet the academic needs of each level of students", "strong leadership from principal and faculty", "impressive community support from parents, alumni and school foundation", among many other high points that make Central the urban high school doing it right. All of the points in the writer's list corresponded synonymously with the outline of correlates Bigsby focuses on, making the editorial an even bigger plus in Dr. Bigsby's eyes.

Bigsby's seven correlates are drawn from 'Correlates of Effective Schools: The First and Second Generation', by Lawrence W. Lezotte.

The seven correlates fall under two categories, First and Second generation, Bigsby is looking at progressing and holding Central to the standard's of a second generation school, a more in-depth incorporation level of the correlates.

The seven correlates are as follows: 1. Safe and Orderly Environment; 2. Climate of High Expectations for Success; 3. Instructional

Leadership; 4. Clear and Focused Mission; 5. Opportunity to Learn and Student Time on Task; 6. Frequent Monitoring of Student Progress; and last but not least, 7. Home-School Relations.

Intertwining the correlates to daily life at Central was proven successful with the publication of the editorial. And to Bigsby, "passionate" about Central as a body, seeing the correlates come to life through the article written by a completely uninformed, outside source, was the cherry on the cake, hitting it "spot on."

Bigsby says he was asked by his staff members if he had informed the editorial's author beforehand; the editorial written to a T.

While the unprecedented recognition and words of acknowledgement via editorial, a packed-full high school and positive feedback from the community flows in, there are still a handful of worries about the bulge in freshmen population at Central.

Bigsby is dominantly worried "about [having] enough resources" for the maximum amount of students next year.

"If you create the monster, you've got to feed it," said Bigsby in regards to the full 2012-2013 freshmen class as a result of exceptional word of mouth info.

Looking at the relatively small attendance area geographically, out of the 447 students that applied within the attendance region of Central, 200 applied, making the 1,000 number of hopeful students magnify even more.

"Lots of kids are interested in the culture put together," said Bigsby, "not the principal, students or teachers separately."

Bigsby, regarding himself as "extremely competitive" and "big about school", so he takes on the future freshmen population as a challenge that, while worried about certain aspects, looks forward to working with the biggest school population in the state of Nebraska.

Checkmate: Chess team awarded third place in state championship

BY EMILY BECK

Members of Central's chess club took third place at the State Championship held at Gross High School on March 3. Teams from Boys Town, Millard North, Creighton Prep and Central spent the day submerged in stiff competition.

"You can really tell that there's a lot of tension," Junior and team member Mitch Hezel said. Despite friendships between players of different schools, all is forgotten across the board.

The team's other members in addition to Hezel are freshman Noah Zaleski and juniors Harrison McMinn, Avery Zaleski, Henry Hawbaker and Miles Russell.

Hezel believes that these "logic puzzles" can

aid students in subjects like math and science. He also said that he's noticed improvements in his problem-solving abilities ever since he started actively playing it.

Avery Zaleski also enjoys the game because of its demand for logic. "I like playing chess because it's a thinking game that's different every time you play it."

For this tournament, the Swiss system was used—this method of competition puts two players against each other, and all teams play for a certain number of rounds without elimination.

Points are earned during each round, and winners are determined by the number of points they accumulated.

The Swiss system's mission is to put players who are at similar levels against each other—so a player would play games against players with the

same score or close to the same score.

Players get half-hour breaks in between each round in order to prepare themselves for their next opponent.

The chess team stems from members of the chess club, which meets on Tuesdays and is headed by teachers Drew Thyden, Stephen Bouma and Andrew Reed.

These practices are held in order for club and team members to improve their game and better themselves, as well as just have fun playing together.

But it's something that the Central chess team takes seriously.

"Chess to me is like sports to athletes..." Hezel said. "Competing has taught me a lot more about the game than I ever would've imagined."



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Junior achieves perfect score on SAT and ACT

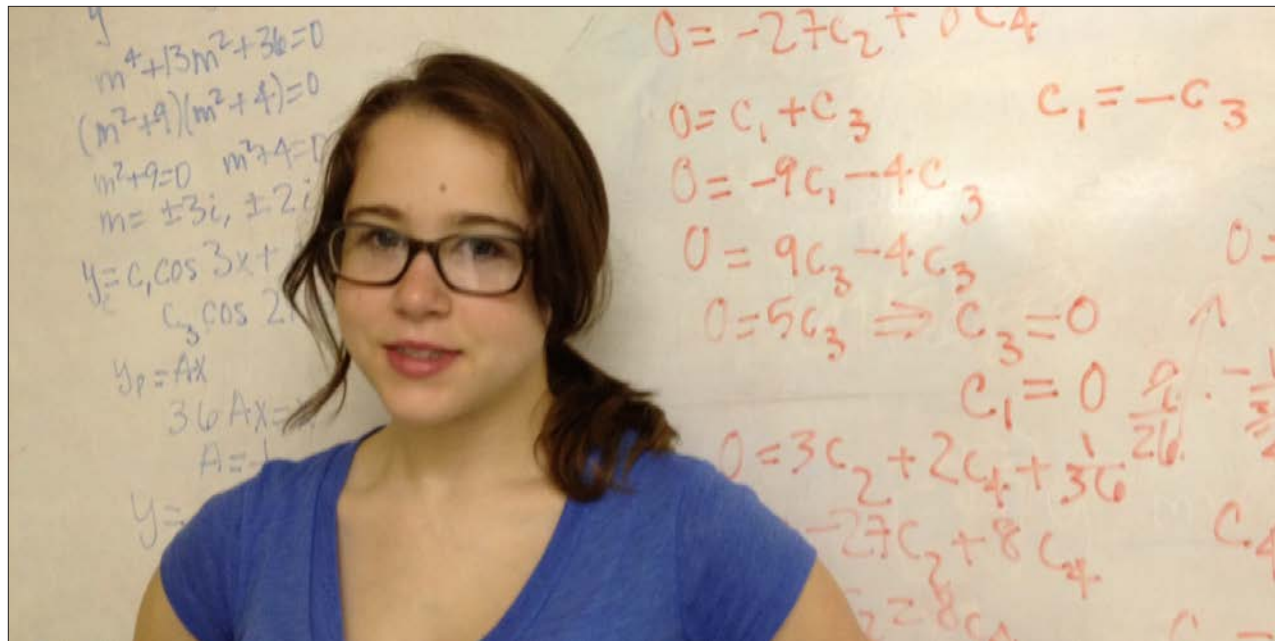


PHOTO BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

On her first try, Junior Marika Svolos scored perfectly on the SAT and ACT. Svolos feels her best topic is math, and her math teacher, Greg Sand, is confident in her ability, calling her future a bright one, even claiming that she would be the “perfect professor at a University” one day.

BY MEKENZIE KERR

Junior year has proved itself to current and former high school students to be the most daunting and rigorous year of the high school career. From the extra testing and advanced classes to taking the ACT alongside the SAT, junior Marika Svolos has given her junior year a taste of its own medicine.

Svolos scored a flawless 36 on the winter ACT, making the two hour and fifty-five minute test look like a breeze. The ACT was by no means the last major benchmark for Svolos impressive test-taking record; it was followed by the SAT, which ended with another unprecedented score of 2400.

Not only did she achieve a perfect score, but she was able to accomplish it on her first and last try for both college-entrance exams.

“I was always planning on taking both for college applications,” said Svolos, “because if I was to apply for an East Coast school it’d look better.”

In preparation for the ACT many juniors and seniors dish out the bucks for John Baylor Test Prep or other ACT assistance programs out there; Svolos, as opposed to copious amounts of test prep, took a few practice runs to help her “get used to the format” of the ACT and SAT.

“I thought the SAT was a lot more difficult than the ACT, especially the reading,” said Svolos, “because the questions required you to put more thought into them.” Regardless of being a math wiz, she felt that the math section on the SAT was more of a task than the ACT’s.

While Svolos found the SAT more difficult, practice tests paid off and Svolos wasn’t all too surprised at her achievement. She knew she had done “quite well,” hopefully obtaining a 34 at the least on the ACT.

“I think a 34 would have been pretty good,” said Svolos, “But I would have taken it again.” With this being said, of course she was extremely pleased to get word that her first try was the best for both sets of tests.

Carol Svolos, Marika Svolos’ mom, shared a mutual joy with M. Svolos after the headline-worthy news about her 36 on the ACT. “I was just so happy for her,” said C. Svolos. “She was just so excited. It’s really been a lot of fun.” Svolos’ mom also shares the same zeal for her daughter’s ace SAT score.

This isn’t Svolos’ inaugural achievement of a first time ace score; while taking part in the Academic Decathlon that covers a variety of subjects, Svolos scored a solid 100% on the math test, even being awarded a standing ovation.

Svolos tackles upper-level math on a daily basis in one of her math classes, Advanced Math Topics, which she dubs as her favorite. The first year class founded and taught by Greg Sand focuses on college-level math for students who have already completed the math track Central has to offer.

“It’s really interesting to me because it’s the first higher level math class that I’ve done,” said Svolos. “Instead of just getting handed stuff, like plug-and-chugs, we have to prove what we know.”

“I think a 34 would have been pretty good. But I would’ve taken [the ACT] again.” - Marika Svolos

Freshman year Svolos took Honors Algebra 3-4, graduating up to Honors Pre-Calculus/Trigonometry. During her sophomore summer she studied Calculus BC independently, the upper-level calculus course offered as an AP class at Central.

“It was somewhat of a challenge, I did have to work pretty hard on it,” Svolos relayed, “But I found that if I was reading and doing practice problems, it made sense to me.”

The hard work of teaching herself Calculus BC paid off; now she is able to enjoy advanced level Math Topics her junior year, all leading up to her future in college. Although not rock-solid on where she wants to go, juggling between University of Chicago and the California Institute of Technology, University of Chicago is her first choice.

“When I visited the campus I fell in love with it,” said Svolos. “The campus itself was gorgeous, everyone there was so nice.”

And although she is not entirely firm on a college, she knows that she wants to major in math. In her future she sees herself working toward a doctorate to becoming a math professor, also using these skills to conduct research.

University of Chicago has drawn Svolos in with that goal in mind, being a school focused on solid academics for students. “The biggest reason [I want to go] is that they talk about the life of the mind; it’s a school where academics are the number one thing that people are focusing on and doing intensely,” said Svolos.

Greg Sand, teacher of Svolos’ favorite class (Advanced Math Topics), sees a bright future for Svolos in a math field. Svolos will be the perfect professor at a university,” Sand said. “She has an optimal combination of mathematical talent and creative understanding.”

With the future in mind (alongside a hectic school schedule), Svolos manages it all by being an organized individual. While occasionally struggling with a bit of teenage-typical procrastination, Svolos doesn’t see herself as having too much difficulty managing homework and classes day-to-day. “Mostly what helps me is keeping on track with homework, because once you fall behind it’s harder to get back.”

Not only does Svolos have school to deal with, but a family and social life as well. How does one solve the intricacies of a crammed schedule?

“Well kind of similarly, I’m a pretty organized person,” Svolos said. “I like to plan stuff out ahead, and it helps me manage it. That way I can see what commitments I have.”

This way Svolos says she can balance her busy school nights, allowing room for free time on the weekends to go to a friend’s house or a party. Svolos makes maintaining impressive grades, a social and family life look like a breeze, leaving nothing but positive remarks on her track. But what is “most amazing,” according to Sand, is that she “performs at such a high level across all academic areas.”

“She is truly an amazing young woman,” said Sand, “and I am honored to be able to work with her for the next year and a half.”

With her 36 under one arm and the 2400 under another with one year of high school to go, Svolos has her mind set on her goals, taking every step in the right direction towards a very optimistic future.

Junior proves Relay for Life is rewarding, and truly makes a difference

BY PRECIOUS GASPARD

Imagine losing your loved one or loved ones due to something that could have been stopped a long time ago by positive thinkers and one event.

“I relay for my grandfather who I never got to meet because he died of pancreatic cancer,” said junior Maya Gogoi, who has been doing Relay for Life since last year.

Gogoi has a known history of raising a large amount of money from last year’s accomplishments.

“Last year I was a team captain and ended up with over \$1,000,” said Maya. “My goal this year is to raise \$2,500.”

So far Gogoi is on the right track; she has earned and raised \$1,600 and looks forward to continuing. She raises and asks for donations whenever she can. She also isn’t afraid to reach out and ask the ones in close proximity to her.

“I sometimes send emails asking for donations to my family and friends,” said Gogoi.

Last year she went to Creighton University and sat in the doctor’s lounge, asking for donations from everyone who came in.

Gogoi started relaying early this year. She applied for the leadership this summer and began planning for the event, attending the first planning committee meeting in September.

Gogoi feels blessed and fortunate to be able to help support the cause.

“I believe that everyone should set aside a little of their time to give back.”

She encourages people to give back or at least join an event. Maya not only raises money, but she promotes Relay for Life.

“I start by asking friends,” she said. Gogoi is a team captain and currently has ten members on her team. They meet once a week to discuss important information.

Gogoi also promotes Relay for Life around Omaha. “A few weekends ago I went to the old market and hung up 60 posters with some help,” said Gogoi. “We will go again next weekend to Village Pointe and Westroads Mall to hang up more.”

Relay for Life is an event held every year to celebrate the lives of cancer victims and to aid in the fight against it. Founded in the mid-1980s by Dr. Gordy Klatt, a Tacoma colorectal surgeon, who wanted to enhance the income of his local American Cancer Society office and show support for all of his patients who had battled cancer.

He decided while circling the track to personally raise money for the fight by doing something he enjoyed—running marathons. He also came up with the idea of a 24 hour event that can save lives.

Continuing his legacy is the talented Gogoi, who is making a huge difference daily.

Relay is an overnight event where groups and teams from different schools and communities come together to walk or run to show support.

This year Relay for Life will be held on April 27 at the Omaha Sports Complex.

First relay starts off with a ceremony and then the survivors take part in the survivors lap. This lap is a period of time were all of the survivors are invited to circle the track together.

Next there is a caregiver lap for the ones that have given care to cancer patients.

Later after the caregiver lap is the opening lap were every one and relay teams are welcomed to walk together.

There is also the luminaria ceremony that takes place after dark. Candles are lite inside of bags filled sand bearing the names of each person touched by cancer and participant often walk in silence during this ceremony.

The Fight Back ceremony helps close the event. Relayers take their final lap and pledge to take action when it comes to spreading the word about the awareness of cancer research, treatments and preventions.

It is also a personal commitment to do simple things such as getting a screen test or quitting smoking to help save lives and fight against cancer.

As a symbol of the battle against cancer, during the overnight event every team or group must have at least have one member on the track for the duration of the time since cancer never sleeps.

Students can get involved with Relay for Life by going online and joining a team or just coming as a individual or donating towards the cause.

Many feel compelled to help in anyway possible which is why Gogoi take the lead in making sure she makes a difference.

Students from across OPS participate in life changing weekend



PHOTOS COURTESY OF KARA HEMSLEY/ CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHER

1. Ross Harding performs with a jovial spirit amongst his new-found peers. 2. Augustus Welch and Tal Margalit anticipate each coming moment of InCluCity. 3. Brevan Jorgenson enjoys time to sit down and talk to friends. 4. Grace Ferris and friend enjoy InCluCity life. 5. Central students among others share a laugh.

BY EMILY BECK

Central students were among the large group of high-schoolers who attended a weekend InCluCity retreat March 1-5. Held on the campgrounds of Carol Joy Holling Conference and Retreat Center in Ashland, Nebr., sophomores and juniors from Abraham Lincoln, South and Central gathered for a weekend of fun, games, discussions and mind-opening activities.

According to its website, InCluCity is a “cutting-edge, time-tested, human relations and leadership program” for students residing in Nebraska and Iowa.

Its main goal is to eliminate things like bigotry, prejudice, stereotypes and discrimination, which teenagers must face in the everyday world.

The program also strives to aid students in constructing friendships with students from an array of backgrounds. Students and staff partake in a lot of talks that involve various ‘isms,’ such as racism and sexism. The goals are to get everyone to understand them and learn different ways to fight

them in everyday life. Kids are also able to open up about their own life experiences, often sharing stories that they have not share with anyone else.

“You learn so much about yourself and other people,” said Kara Hemsley, a junior who has attended InCluCity three times and has been on staff. “It gives you more empathy toward other people and their situations.”

Hemsley spoke of how close people are able to feel to each other in just a few days’ time.

She said that everyone feels comfortable very quickly. And things often get emotional—she’s seen guys cry without shame. Overall, Hemsley thinks that InCluCity is an experience that everyone should get to have.

“I used to be very soft spoken and not able to come out of my shell very often, and I find myself now trying to do more leadership opportunity type things, like running Diversity Club,” she said. “It’s allowed me to be myself. I’m not as worried about embarrassing myself now.” Juan Mora, sophomore at Northwest High School, has also had a positive experience at InCluCity. He said that the best thing

about it is “the way we get to shape ourselves in a community where everyone is tolerant of each other with their interests and culture.”

Students who have attended InCluCity before are encouraged not to get into the specifics of the activities—this ensures that the experience won’t be spoiled for students who will go in the future.

Attending the retreat during the school year is free for students, but there are also sessions in the summer.

Scholarships are available, but Hemsley said that the program won’t turn down kids if they can’t afford to pay the whole tuition.

“You can meet new people and expand your level of comfort,” said sophomore Augustus Welch. He reached a new level of comfort in his own skin that he had never felt before InCluCity. “It was such a life-changing experience. I advise anyone of any gender, race, sexual orientation or anything else a person can be to go.”

And Hemsley agreed. “It’s opened my eyes,” Hemsley said. “It’s a life-changing experience.”

Commencement speaker try-outs

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

Each year at graduation a commencement speech is awarded to one graduating senior. If interested in becoming the commencement speaker at this year's 2012 graduation ceremony, the student must fill out several forms which include: CHS Fine Verification, CHS Administrative Input, and depending on how many teachers the student has, CHS teacher recommendation.

Important dates to remember involving the speech are March 28 (recommendations, administrative input and fine verification are due), March 30 (two copies of word processed speeches are due by 8 a.m.), April 3 (oral speech tryouts at 3:10 p.m., must be 2-3 minutes in length) and April 5, when the selected class speaker and runner up will be announced.

Commencement speeches have a maximum of three minutes.

Central ACA DECA competes at State

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

Over 800 students, about 44 student teams, from across Nebraska participated in the Academic Decathlon program on Feb. 17th and 18th at Creighton University.

The theme this year was The Age of Empire: European Imperialism. In mid-March of last year the USAID (United States Academic Decathlon) announced the theme of this year's competition.

At the end of the 2011 school year, the novel the students read was Heart of Darkness. That is where they picked up the curriculum in Aug. 2011. After that, they just studied for their upcoming competitions.

The first scrimmage was in Lincoln, where they competed in all events except interview, speech, and essay. Months later was the district competition at Creighton Prep. Omaha Central placed third overall here. And soon came the State competition at Creighton. The Central Eagles placed fourth overall and third in the Super Quiz.

Students were tested in 10 areas: economics, art, language, literature, math, music, science, speech, interview, and essay. Each team member competes in all 10 events. Only six scores count for the final team standing though.

The Super Quiz was where the participants were given seven seconds to respond for the questions. This usually has a type of pep rally atmosphere. This was the only part open to the public audience.

Omaha Central was a part of the Large School Division, not the Small School Division of course. All of the OPS schools were involved as well.

These ACA DECA students spent a lot of time preparing for the competition as well. Studies show that students spent over 72,000 hours of studying for it.

Central, itself, had Sat. study sessions as well as late nights in Mrs. Reed's, the teacher of ACA DECA and AP World, room. Students got to have a sneak peak at the study packets available for the competitions whenever they weren't busy with another thing. They could only ask questions that could be answered from information directly from the packets, so really everything had to be memorized.

Marika Svolos, junior, won several awards. Each participant was important though and few others won awards leading Central.

The State Champions will soon compete from April 25th to the 28th for all categories of the schools. A national final will be held for the top scoring school.

Sophomores excel at Science Olympiad

BY KENDALL PANAS

Placing fourth in the Henry Doorly Zoo Regional Science Olympiad competition, sophomores Augie Welch and Lindsay Wilson practiced hard to earn their title.

On Feb. 25, Science Olympiad teams from all over Omaha gathered for the Regional competition. "I like the competitions the most," said Welch. "We get to hang out at the zoo or the UNO campus four times a year."

At practices every Wednesday, Welch and Wilson study their subject of competition meticulously.

Out of the many fields of competition to choose from, the two picked to do experimental design. "We were given a cup of rollie-pollies, some paper towels, and some water and we had to design an experiment from there," explained Wilson.

The duo created an experiment to test the bugs' reactions to different environments. We put them on a wet paper towel and counted how many times they moved in a minute, said Welch.

After designing this lab report and conducting the experiment, Welch and Wilson were evaluated at fourth place. This was the second to last competition of the year.

According to the Central Science Olympiad web page, the next scheduled competition will be on April 21 at UNL. This will be the 25th annual State tournament. "I think we'll do really well in State," said Wilson.

Welch has similar predictions. "We might get into the top three in State," he said. The duo recently inducted a new and promising member to their team, sophomore Emily Beck. Until the State tournament, the team will continue to study hard.

Senior academics excel, top of class through years at Central

BY SETH ARTER



Top of the 2012 senior class, Adam Lacroix has been working hard pretty much since day one.

Lacroix says he was a lot more quiet in his earlier years, however, finishing out his senior year, he sees some pretty big changes in himself as a person.

But it is "pretty much the same" when it comes to his studies—he's always been good at academics and he takes his school work very seriously.

Adam does have a few driving forces when it comes to being so successful a student. His family has pushed him to work hard.

"It hasn't been too stressful," said Lacroix. His parents and teachers at school have helped him along his journey of high school.

Greg Sand is one teacher in particular who has helped Adam a lot.

"He has given me lots of opportunities to do more and push myself," he said. Adam finds that one of the main reasons he likes and respects Sand so much is because he really connects with math, and even considers it one of his best subjects.

One would think with all of Adam's success, he would probably have a really strict learning environment implemented both by himself and by his parents.

However, that is not the case in this situation. Lacroix likes to spend time with his family and friends.

He also likes to watch T.V. Lacroix also likes to be involved in extracurricular activities.

In his sophomore and junior year, Lacroix was involved in Aca Deca.

He has also been in band all four years. He plays the alto sax.

He would like to continue some extracurricular activities into college as well. He really wants to be involved in musical activities as well as a few academic organizations.

The successful student is "excited to be moving on" but will miss all the memories he had at Central. So far, he has applied at UNL, University of Chicago, Northwestern, Washington University in St. Louis. He's also applied for three smaller private schools like Olaf, Carleton, and Gustavos Adoluhus. He's been accepted by Lincoln and Gustaves which is located in St. Peter Minnesota.

Lacroix wants to major in math or physics. He's not quite sure about what he wants to do for a career yet.

However, he does like engineering. Lacroix has received a dean scholarship to Gustaves and is awaiting a call back from the other colleges he's applied at.

GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

High school future leaders attend U.S. Leadership Institute Conference in Chicago, Ill., attended workshops and forums

BY ESAU RENDON

From February 16th to February 19th Central Seniors Noemi Morales, Brandon Tovar, Esau Rendon, Katherine Ortega, Tania Abundis and Brittney Kennedy embarked on a four day trip to the city Of Chicago to attend the 30th annual United States leadership Institute conference.

Students were eligible to attend the conference after completing a series of meetings that lasted 10 weeks in which they took three sessions on city government, three sessions on county government, three sessions on school government, and one session on financial literacy.

At the conference students engaged in workshops and forums that tackled issues faced by Latino students. They also were able to meet professionals and other persons of notoriety like newscasters, politicians, entrepreneurs and CEOs, among others. Noemi Morales like most of the students participating said she enjoyed the trip enjoyed herself saying " I loved the whole unique experience of meeting all these

important people and hearing their life stories it made me feel motivated to better myself. Because of the trip I have decided to pursue education farther from a Bachelors Degree."

Students paid little or nothing for the trip and were asked to bring money for shopping, food, and incidentals. The program also lets members participate and volunteer after the meetings are over mostly during meetings of other GLDP members.

Members of the program also attended a graduation dinner before the trip to Chicago that had Dr. Juan Andrade as a speaker, Andrade also co-founder and President of the USHLI and one of the two recipients in history of the Presidential Medal.

On the first day of the trip students arrived early at 9:30 a.m., shortly after their arrival and after unpacking students were taken on a tour of downtown Chicago.

Students made a short walk from the Downtown Chicago Sheraton Hotel to the Water Tower Mall were students had lunch and shopped.

On the walk back to the Hotel students made quick trips to other flagship stores that are

ation.

He says that he really doesn't have a strict study environment at home. Lacroix has learned to set his own studying environment at home.

He studies best when he's not near a T.V. or his phone.

Lacroix isn't the only Eagle in his family. He has a younger sister named Emma who is a sophomore at Central.

He also has a younger brother who is in seventh grade.

Lacroix likes a lot of classes he has taken. He says he is mostly a numbers and logic person. He does his homework best when he is at a table.

Although Adam is very hard-working, he likes to procrastinate and sometimes does things at the last minute.

It may be easy to think that Adam could be under pressure.

Surprisingly, that's not the case. "I don't think I'm under pressure by others to do well" the overachiever said. He likes math so much that he is taking an elective math class called "E Math."

This is Lacroix's favorite class. He likes it so much because of the "various" and "random" math facts. He likes the "fun environment."

The Central senior has achieved several academic awards. He recently did a competition for AMC and was one of five that qualified for the AIME competition.

Like the rest of us, Lacroix did have a class that challenged him.

Junior AP English class with Marcy Mahoney was his most difficult class, he said. The reason he likes her class so much is because she absolutely challenges him. He loves that her class is so difficult.

In his free time, Lacroix likes to spend time with his family and friends.

He also likes to watch T.V. Lacroix also likes to be involved in extracurricular activities.

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He has also been in band all four years. He plays the alto sax.

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Lacroix wants to major in math or physics. He's not quite sure about what he wants to do for a career yet.

However, he does like engineering. Lacroix has received a dean scholarship to Gustaves and is awaiting a call back from the other colleges he's applied at.

Central language students practice their skills, communicate with others at Concordia language camp

BY STEPHANIE PAUL

On Friday, March 2, a group of 45 Central students who study French, German and Spanish boarded a coach bus to attend the Concordia Languages Village, located in Bemidji, Minn. The camp is hosted by Concordia University.

The camp lasted through the weekend; students departed around 9 a.m. on Sunday, March 4.

Over 200 other students from North Dakota, Wisconsin and Minnesota joined the Central students for fun filled foreign language games, songs and activities.

They also learned native dances from whichever country their chosen language descended from. The students also enjoyed international foods, made jewelry and went snowshoeing.

The trip up to Minnesota took ten hours. The students got invited by their foreign language teacher. If they were invited they would have to have good grades, a good attitude, and no discipline problems were in order to go.

Only freshman, sophomores, and juniors went to go represent Central in Minnesota. The kids that went on the trip had to pay nothing to attend because the foreign language department received a grant which covered the fee of the coach bus and the weekend camp.

Out of the 45 students, 15 of them were German students and were invited by Erica Meyer the German teacher and the Department Head

for foreign language department that has been the head for five years now. Out of over 200 students from the Midwest states 80 of them are German students.

Meyer encouraged many of her students to go on the trip. She also went on the trip with the students as a chaperone. She went on as a chaperone because she says "the kids have fun so I thought it would be fun too." Her students prepared by learning and studying the German in class.

Micah Grenzlein is a French teacher at Central went to the camp this year. He says "it makes the student to use the language. It's one thing to read out of a book and another to use it in real life. It's amazing to see the students confident in the language."

Even though she did not go this year Ashley Ogburn is a Spanish teacher for Central she says "the students that go on the trip should see it as a great honor to go on the trip the student can see a side of Spanish they don't get to see in the classroom."

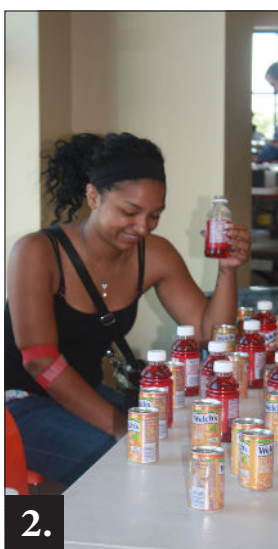
One of the students that went on this trip is Isaac Pavkovic a freshman. He went on the trip because "I wanted to get excited for learning a foreign language."

Central students have been attending the Concordia Language Village Camp for four years in a row. But, the camp has been running for 50 years. They have summer camps and retreats that are run throughout the year, with family actives and just kid activities.

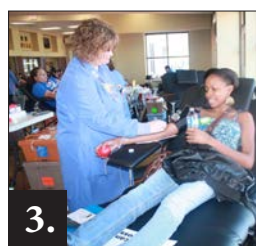
The foreign language students had a blast with a once in a life time event filled with friends and fun actives, that they will never forget.



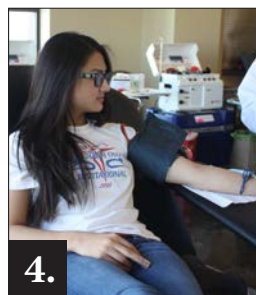
1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

1. Chikadibia Ebrim, senior, calmly sits and talkss with the nurse, waiting to donate blood. 2. Senior takes a breather after donating, sipping on a bottle of Welch's juice. 3. Teela Parker, senior, watches as her arm is pricked for blood. 4. Sophomore, Lillia Hutchinson, monitors her arm as the blood is being taken. 5. Corbin McMahon spends the last few moments after donating blood watching the bandage being placed on his arm.

Central contributes by participating in annual Blood Drive

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

Central High School JROTC students hosted an American Red Cross Blood Drive for their other fellow classmates on Friday March 9th from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the gym lobby.

Many students signed up and were ready to "help others" while others said they either "never thought of it" or "don't like needles."

To be able to give blood on that Friday, you had to sign up on a signup sheet and what time you wanted in the courtyard usually during lunch. A 16-year-old had to have a Red Cross consent form signed by a parent.

The American Red Cross accepts blood donations only from donors. Blood cannot be manufactured of course.

All of the donors at Central were given a pass at their requested time when they could come and give blood. They then went to the gym lobby to prepare for it.

The donor had to have a photo id available when they went down to the gym lobby. First they had to read over regulations informing them of what is going to happen. They also had to read over terms and conditions. After that they were given a number to get called into the cubicle.

The doctor was then there and asked the participant any other general questions like their weight, height, name, birthday, etc.

The doctor then checked the amount of iron the donor had in his/her blood so they were applicable to actually give blood. The iron level had to be 12.5 or higher, nothing less. A girl had an iron level as 12.4 and was denied availability to donate blood.

The doctor did this by pricking the donor's finger. The prick was not from a needle though. The donor got to pick what hand and what finger to test it on. Some donors mentioned that this was the hardest part of the whole thing.

Every blood donor is given a mini-physical, checking the donor's temperature, blood pressure, pulse, and hemoglobin to ensure it is safe for the donor to give blood.

After all of the hard parts were accomplished, the participant then had to go onto the computer and were asked a lot of personal questions like if "you have left the country in the past three years," and "have you had sexual relations with a guy that has had sexual relations with another guy,"

and also if "you have taken certain types of medicine," and more.

Usually half of the donors are male and the other half are female. Only five percent of eligible donors across the nation donate blood.

The doctor then took the donor to a dentistry looking bed to get prepared for the actual donation. He again asked general questions like height, weight, name, birth date, etc.

Antiseptics were then put onto the donor's arm where they were taking the blood. The donor also got to choose which arm they wanted to give blood from. No matter what, it would be on the inner side of the elbow.

The doctor had to use a blood pressure cuff to make the donor's vein pop out and easier to find and be available for the blood donating. The needle to proceed with the blood donating was not like a regular needle, it was much fatter than the normal ones.

You could've watched while the blood was going through or you could've looked away. It was all to make the donor feel comfortable. This all took around 10 minutes, but the whole process took over an hour.

Everyone's reaction to it was totally different. Some fainted, some got a little dizzy, and some were totally fine. It all depends on how you take it and how you feel about it. There is no actual pain though. If something went wrong with the donor, all of the doctors would do anything to help them.

Each donor donated about one pint of blood, saving three lives that will need blood later on. One donation can do so much to help anybody.

Every two seconds in the U.S. someone needs blood.

More than 38,000 blood donations are needed every day and a single car crash could need up to 100 pints of blood.

After all of the donation and hard work was over, the donor went to a table and received a snack and a drink to recover and prevent wooziness.

Next year, the JROTC kids and Michael Melvin, the department head of military science, might not host the American Red Cross Blood Drive. Consumer Sciences might host it next year.

After the donation is complete, then the doctors will process it, store it, and then distribute it to the ones in need.

"I saved three lives. It's a great thing," said Junior Haley Meier, donor. "I'm definitely doing it again."

"I saved three lives. It's a great thing. I'm definitely doing it again."

- Haley Meier

Holocaust speakers visit Central, move crowd to tears

BY ESAU RENDON

The Holocaust left many people with nightmares and images that scared its victims; people who had to witness it were emotionally scarred for the rest of their lives. On Feb. 28th Holocaust liberator Roy Long spoke in Central's auditorium and March 8th Holocaust survivor Robbie Waissman spoke about his experiences in Word War II.

Long spoke about his passage from France to the concentration camp Gunkirchen Lager, which was located in Austria, the atrocities he had witnessed, the effects the war had on him and how his life was after the war.

Long is a Blair, Nebraska native who studied at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and found his way into the army through a mandatory Reserve Officers Training Corps.

Long had landed in Omaha Beach, and together with the other members of his division fought against Nazi militia up to Austria where he and his division liberated the camp of Gunkirchen Lager.

It was there in the camp that Roy saw dead bodies and the Holocaust's victims in unstable condition. He said that they were so starved that they couldn't eat anything except liquid soup since eating too much could have negative effects on them.

Later on the survivors were back to eating normally.

He answered questions after his initial message, but didn't answer everything—and rightfully so; some questions might have struck bad memories or been too much for the emotional perils that the Holocaust inflicted on Long.

Asking questions was also difficult to Long's tinnitus (constant ringing in his hears) that he received due to a cannon fired by him in the war.

After the speech students were eager to take pictures with Long.

Senior Noemi Morales said, "I was glad to have taken a picture with him, it's special to me because I value that my generation is one of the last to hear the stories of the Holocaust's witnesses firsthand."

Survivor of the war Robbie Waissman sometimes is in disbelief that he survived the conditions of the camp Buchenwald. Waissman's survival was one of few teenag-

ers and children who survived the war, as many children were quickly killed or cremated.

His tattoo number was 117098.

Liberation didn't occur until April 11, 1945. On that day Waissman also saw his first black person. In awe, Waissman thought he was an angel.

In disbelief he touched the Jeeps of the soldiers and the soldier who liberated him, whose name was Leon Bass.

Today Waissman has deep appreciation for Bass and the two recently spoke together in Omaha and Wahoo.

Waissman talked about some of the terrible conditions that were present in the camp.

The people held there were Jews, Jehovah Witnesses, politicians who stood up against Hitler and homosexuals.

Waissman also included his life post-war; some of it took place in Paris, where he rehabilitated alongside the boys he knew from the camp, and in Canada, where Waissman became a Canadian citizen.

Waissman has lived in Canada for more than fifty years and has been married for over fifty years with children and grandchildren.

Waissman recalled a document made by the French government that called the children of the camp psychopaths and said that they wouldn't amount to anything and were not going to live past 40 years.

He is proof that the statement of the document was not correct; those children also included Nobel Peace Prize winner and Knight of the French Legion of Honor Eli Weisel, and one of Israel's chief rabbis, Lulek Lau.

After telling his story Waissman answered questions as Long did.

He also showed a video of when he was reunited with his liberator after the war.

Waissman said that he loved the crowd and felt that it was his secular duty to share his experiences and included that he is outraged about genocides that take place today and have taken place after the war.

Central students left the auditorium with heavy thoughts on their mind about how their actions and support effect the world around them for not only themselves, but future generation.

Senior Jayde Balentine said that his words toched her deeply and made her want to contribute in the fight against genocide and bigotry.



PHOTO BY ESAU RENDON/REGISTER

Holocaust survivor Robbie Waissman spoke about his experiences in World War II in Central's auditorium on March 8.



PHOTO BY ESAU RENDON/REGISTER

Holocaust liberator Roy Long answers Central students' questions on Feb. 28.

Re-imagining Shakespeare: Film series contributes to Omaha's arts scene

BY EMILY BECK

During the month of February Nebraska Shakespeare, Aksarben Cinema and D. Scott Glasser of UNO teamed up to present Shakespeare on the Silver Screen, a series of four films shown on each Tuesday of the month.

This year "Julius Caesar," "Much Ado About Nothing," "Romeo and Juliet" and "The Boys From Syracuse" were the selected movies.

While it appeals to Central students, it was also a big deal for the Midtown Omaha community, as well as UNO students.

Shakespeare on the Silver Screen is in its second year; the idea was tested out in April of 2011, and it was decided that the event should be expanded to a month-long series.

"The intent was to make Shakespeare more fun, and that really works with film," said Nellie MacCallum, marketing director for Nebraska Shakespeare (responsible for setting up the collaboration between NS and Aksarben)

Pre-show appetizers surely didn't hurt attendance; area businesses Wohlner's, Jones Bros. Cupcakes, Godfather's Pizza and Mojo's took turns providing the evening's food.

"Our attendance is up almost 300%," MacCallum said. The profits are shared by NS and Aksarben Cinema—since NS is a non-profit organization, the funds help keep the plays presented during the Shakespeare on the Green season free to the public.

MacCallum added that discussions held after the show kept attendees engaged.

Glasser, who teaches a class called Shakespeare on Film: The Art of Interpretation at UNO, played a large part in those discussions. Along with NS Artistic Director Vince Carlson the two have led them, providing background information, little-known facts and varying interpretations of the plays, as well as answering audience questions.

Glasser has been involved with NS for many years; he serves as the Artistic Associate Director and has directed 10 of the company's productions.

He thinks highly of the metro's creative standing, particu-

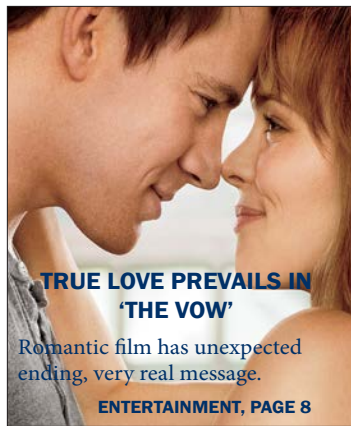
larly admiring Aksarben as a new supplement to it.

"Aksarben Cinema is a wonderful addition to the Omaha artistic scene in comfort, service and their reaching out to the metropolitan community," said Glasser.

Throughout the year, NS engages the community with differentiating performances. One of these is the production of Romeo and Juliet with the Omaha Symphony (called Music Alive!) held at the Holland Performing Arts Center, which honors English 1-2 classes from various schools in the metro attend every January.

The organization also holds a sonnet-writing competition in April and puts on Shakespeare on the Green in midsummer, which is well-known throughout Omaha. They close out the year with Shakespeare on Tour, a traveling cast that puts on performances for schools throughout Nebraska and western Iowa.

Glasser, NS and Aksarben Cinema plan to continue Shakespeare on the Silver Screen in coming years, making sure that the age-old works of Shakespeare live on, whether they are onstage or on a silver screen.



Old-school dances should come back



MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

A Column by JENNIFER ROONEY

Long dresses. Exotic music. Accessories galore. Snazzy heels.

No, it's not homecoming or Prom. Think again. It's far from it. The dance moves seen at these occasions evolve from provocative to disturbing to unreal.

What happened to those old types of dances that were romantic and respectful? They're not long gone.

In an old romantic movie with the usual prince and princess, the prince would take the princess's hand in a dance that would surely not lead to anything else.

In any movie that doesn't depict insane all-night parties, the man and woman are shown in a sweet dance that's respectful and, as they would say, "woos" the woman.

Now, if you have ever seen the show, "Dancing with the Stars," you would know what kind of moves elicit cheers and smiles from the crowd.

The dance moves range from the waltz to the samba to the tango, and even to the rumba. I'd have to say that the jig, jitterbug, hustle and quickstep, for example, are also acceptable.

There are so many dance moves that have also left an earlier decade and have yet to come back. For example, I've seen the shuffle and shimmy.

At homecoming and Prom, everybody still does the Cupid Shuffle even if they don't know it at all. They try.

People have brought some dance moves back, but not all of them. Yes, I'd have to say myself; some should stay long gone: for example, the chicken.

I don't even understand why some people think that's a cool dance move. Because it's not.

Old dances live inside each one of us even if we don't know it; they surely live inside our parents.

I definitely have to say it's a little awkward seeing my parents try to dance like people from this generation. I don't think it's at all right.

I'm not saying that all of the dancing these days is wrong and atrocious. Some people just move their body around with the music. That's most likely fine, because they're catching the rhythm and just moving with the beat.

Think about it like this: when you dance, would you want everybody to see what you're doing? Before you have respect for something, have a little respect for yourself.

At any homecoming, you'll see hundreds of teenagers compacted together and, for lack of a better word, grinding. Now I'm not saying that all teenagers dance in an atrocious way towards others.

At times, being there and seeing these types of things, I just feel used to it because this is what every dance is like nowadays. Other times I just don't believe how our generation has changed to dance like this in front of everybody.

Some people think that the sweet movies when the man takes a woman to a "ball" are very romantic and the way they move on the dance floor is even more romantic. Why don't those things come back? I believe they should.

Adults sometimes don't respect us as teenagers because they base their opinion off of just a few teenagers. And this is why they don't respect us to have dance parties without supervision. How about we let them trust us and respect everything including ourselves.

Bring the old mannered dance moves to this generation because trust me, most girls will probably love that even more and trust you more.

It will all work out in the long run for not only you, but more people in this world.



PHOTOS BY ESAU RENDON/THE REGITER, PHOTO COURTESY OF LESLIE HILL

Passion pushes senior in performing arts

BY ESAU RENDON

Henry Fonda and Dorothy McGuire are probably two of the most important performers to have walked the historic halls of Central High School.

Undoubtedly they have attained prestige, with Fonda becoming an irreplaceable name in the history of American cinema and McGuire's talent being unable to be overlooked (so much that it earned her a nomination for an Academy award as Best Actress).

Surely when it comes to Central and the performing arts, we have history in it; desiring to add to that history is senior Emily Hill.

Hill has been extensively active in the performing arts at Central throughout her four years. She currently is enrolled in upper level drama and choir classes and has taken on many key roles in plays. In total she has added charm and charisma to more than ten productions in and out of school, and has had three leading roles. Most recently she shined in the role of Dolly Levi in Michael Stewart's "Hello, Dolly!"

She recognized that it's her last year here at Central, and while the most prestigious performing arts colleges are located on the East Coast, Hill plans on staying close to the house of the Eagles with plans to attend Creighton University. However, she also has plans to move out of Nebraska with hopes of making it to the legendary stages of Broadway.

Hill understands that her dream will cost her a lot of effort, and often jokes that after college she will get a job as a waitress somewhere in New York City. However, Hill said that all of the work will be worth it if she can pursue and live her dream job.

Something that is causing her somewhat of a fright is the current job market. She admits she is scared but she is still determined to pursue her dreams.

"TV and society glorify performers, but unless you are a Hollywood actor, people aren't going to come up to you and ask for your autograph, and chances are you won't get paid as much. Musical theater is done out of love and passion for the art, not always for the publicity, fame and money."

Hill has no intent of becoming absurdly rich and famous; those two

characteristics are absent in her. But what does remain strong and omnipresent in her being is passion and overall love for the fine art of musical theater.

Hill demonstrates that passion and love that is imperative to pursue her career in musical theater often; it all started after she first witnessed her older sister Chelsey Hill perform in the world of the performing arts, shortly before her teen years.

Later, Hill's interest remained strong at the beginning of her high school career, but it wasn't until her sophomore year that she decided musical theater would be her future career. Shortly after her realization, she joined her sister Chelsey in plays and activities that related to her passion.

Later Chelsey graduated and left for Creighton University to major in Musical Theater, and Hill felt she had big shoes to fill.

She had become the kind of girl her sister was after her departure; it was almost as if she had taken her place. Knowing this, one might easily infer that Emily is out to be just like Chelsey. However, that is not the case. Hill said that although they are in the similar fields they are still very different.

"She is more serious and contained. I am more comedic and outgoing," Emily remarked.

Still like Chelsey, Emily has been prominent in the performing arts department with many awards and recognitions awarded to her, one of them being the Nebraska Young Artist Award.

It is without a doubt Hill will pursue success in this difficult field regardless of economic turmoil, hopefully ending up on Broad-

way. However, she didn't list that as her only goal; she also plans to help other thespians and performers to accomplish their dreams. She desires to "help people escape, if only for a moment, their daily lives through the art of musical theater."

Throughout her 17 years of life she has shown that her interest is strong and sure to stay, demonstrating this from performances in front of stuffed animals as a child to her first role as the backside of a horse in "The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe" to the lead role in "Hello, Dolly!"

One thing is for sure: Hill has flourished and become a storm, one that will not let the economy or East Coast competition get in the way of her dream.

“Musical theater is done out of love and passion for the art, not always for the publicity, fame and money.”
- Emily Hill

One Direction will keep listeners "Up All Night"

BY MEKENZIE KERR

Nineties girls grew up with N'Sync and Backstreet Boys as their music heartthrobs and teeny-bopper tunes. From posters of these pretty faces to waiting in line for their next pop release, these boys had it on lock when it came to fame and glory.

Now there are five new faces for the girls of the 2000s and former 90s pop fan girls: One Direction.

Hailing from the United Kingdom, Niall Horan, Liam Payne, Louis Tomlinson, Zayn Malik and Harry Styles have strutted their way into the hearts of girls from Europe to the United States. The quintet auditioned as individual acts on Season 7 of Britain's version of The X Factor, and through the process they eventually became a group of five, placing third on the show.

1D released their debut "Up All Night" on March 13 to North American fans, previously released in Nov. 2011 to Europe. Boasting 15 songs on the deluxe edition album, it is clear that good looks and charm are not the sole reasons 1D has risen to fame across the globe.

While some view singer Styles as the powerhouse vocalist of the boy band, "Up All Night" showcases each individual singer's vocal talents. "Taken" introduces Malik's smooth voice as it stands alone through the first moments of the track. "What Makes You Beautiful", the song famous for being the first released single, empha-

sizes their individual gifting as singers, but also showcases their ability to mesh and harmonize vocals.

Each individual voice seems to be the right fit for the obnoxiously teenage lyrics that get the girls going. Mishaps of ties with your significant other in "Taken" or helpless devotion paired with the utmost admiration in "Everything About You", it is clear that this is a run of the mill boy band. While the lyrical content is sappy in consistency, and does not provoke "deep thoughts," one cannot expect much more from an A-typical boy band.

It can be appreciated that 1D's lyrics are still sweet as ever, wholesome and "magical" - typical to pop bands. The boys belt tunes, that sung face-to-face, would make any female's heart swoon ("Yes, I like the way that you smile with your eyes/It's everything about you/Everything you do"). Although the categorization into the genre 'pop' on iTunes should be a warning that lyrical content, while heart-warming and dreamy, does not dive much deeper than the shallow end of a pool.

The trend of semi-unoriginal does not stop at lyrics, but occasionally into instrumental content. "Taken" sounds like an unmistakable rip-off of Fergie's "Big Girls Don't Cry", with slowed down tempos of a guitar for the first 20 seconds. Other songs, not so similar to past big hits, are mindless beats created through the use of guitar, drums and keyboard. And while many of the beats are not entirely deranged or eclectic as

many artists strive to be, 1D's efforts should not be sold short.

"What Makes You Beautiful", "Stole My Heart" and "Everything About You" make the perfect match for a summer play list as immensely catchy, fluent beats, original to 1D. "Up All Night" is a hip-hop reminiscent pop song that would get any relaxed session going.

Advocates of puppy love, clean cut and quirky their suave style and sumptuous lifestyle completes 1D's image. All five of the guys are clean cut and handsome; Lord knows that if these five boys were not the hot shot, good lookers that they are they would not be getting as much fame.

As a musical pop sensation and attractive males, 1D is a band worth "fangirling" over.



PHOTO COURTESY OF DISNEYDREAMING.COM



Senior feels stereotypes and expectations get in the way of being yourself

I want to be a hipster. I heard that word one time and it sounded cool. But what is a hipster?

Is it how tight your jeans are? Is it how many songs you have on your iPod that are unheard of? Does it have to do with something on Facebook? Is it a group on Facebook? Or is a hipster too cool for Facebook?

If I want to be a hipster, should I travel the world and take a bunch of black and white pictures, or should I be a quilter, more conservative hipster? Maybe more on the quirky side? Wear some big, thick-framed glasses. That sounds cool. I could just sit at home all day and read.

Wait. So not hipster. A hipster should be more like a rock star.

Like a leather-wearing, bad-ass rock star who doesn't give the time of day. Or is that too extreme? Maybe I could give the time of day some of the time if I were a hipster. I mean, nice is nice.

I wouldn't want to be rude or harmful to anyone or anything ever (except that one time I had to push that little girl down on the sidewalk on the day after Thanksgiving sale- but that's a different story!)

In fact, I love every living thing, big or small!

I know, I'll become a vegan! I'll club sandwiches, not salads (vegan club sandwiches, of course)! I always wanted to play an animal rights activist. I feel like animal rights activists are hipsters, right?

Gosh, I just want to be a hipster so badly!

Hipsters don't go to the mall, do they? Darn it. I love the mall. Maybe I can be one of those sarcastic, everything-is-stupid type of hipsters. Is that a thing? Like, I could go to the mall and

mock everything there- just walk around and mumble about how lame everything is? I could make fun of those stupid "mall people" that walk around for exercise. I could chuckle at the preppy girls in Uggs walking into the American Eagle. I could roll my eyes at the obnoxious, gawky pre-teens running around the Forever 21 store as I try on some clothes "just for a gag" and maybe buy them "because they are so cheap, anyways."

But if I am going to shop at the mall, I should probably compensate for it by shopping at (ew) thrift stores.

I hope I can find some name-brands at the Goodwill. Those clothes smell so bad... anyways, maybe I can try American Apparel. That sounds pretty hip-star. Get it?! Like American Apparel, stars and stripes... America. Oh man... I will have to clean up my comedy if I want to be a hipster. But all the hipsters I have met aren't really all that funny. Never mind--the comedy is perfect--back

to the fashion.

American Apparel. I hear they pay their workers fairly.

That's nice, right?

It will go perfectly with my animal rights activist mantra, granted I go for that type of hipster. But hold on... I could have sworn that I heard something on that one hipster radio station here in Omaha about "big business" and "bad" or something like that.

Trying to be a hipster is so confusing! I am utterly lost.

My friend once told me that, "a hipster sets the trend, and then the scene kids follow it."

But what is a scene kid? That word sounds kind of cool too. Are they called scene kids because they are like "on the scene?"



I LOVE THE 80'S
A Column by TABITHA PANAS

Omaha band's album a success

BY TABITHA PANAS

The local Omaha band Cursive has always been one of my favorite groups. Their crashing guitars and emotionally heavy lyrics that lead singer Tim Kasher scream on the band's albums *Domestica* and *The Ugly Organ* (two of my favorite albums) I have always loved.

The hard-core rock sound combined with the deep tones of Greta Cohn on cello are often played through speakers in my room or off of my iPod in my car.

However, I have once heard someone say about writing music, "Keep it simple, stupid." And that is one piece of advice I would have given this band had I the opportunity to speak with them before they re-

leased their most recent and their strangest album yet: *I Am Gemini*, recorded in the summer/fall of 2011 at Omaha's ARC Studios and released with Saddle Creek Records.

While I enjoyed the different, complex instruments and melodies that sound quite different from the previous six albums that this band has released together, I did not enjoy the lyrics and plot of the album, which was filled with stories and metaphors attempting to be intricate.

It was just lyrical overkill. The album was supposed to tell a story of two twin brothers who were separated at birth, with one of them good and one of them evil. I believe that Kasher wanted these twins to represent the good and bad sides he sees in himself, but I was not sure. Many called this album moody and playfully sinister, but it bordered on ran-

dom and strangely creepy.

Overall, it just didn't work. And if the plot of the album isn't random enough, Kasher also embedded into the lyrics of certain songs, other various themes, including Greek mythology, the book of Genesis, schizophrenia, Frankenstein and cats.

Yes, cats. One lyric that he screamed: "Hereee, kitty, kitty!"

I have always enjoyed the random, quirky, morbid or depressing lyrics Kasher has contributed to the band's sound, but a grown man calling out to a cat at randomly pitched tones is just a little too much for me.

However, Kasher does explain his theme of his album to the Omaha World Herald. Kasher told reporter Kevin Coffey, "I've always linked an album to a group of short stories." That being said,

the idea does not seem quite as random and far-fetched, once explained.

While the lyrics and the theme of this thirteen-track album were a bit overdone, so were the instrumentals--but in a good way this time. The fast paced rhythm bass and heavy guitar chords were definitely to my liking.

They had a similar rough feeling as provided in previous albums, while adding in clever riffs and a playful, exciting sound that was overall fun to listen to.

Their first track, "This House Alive" is the only song that starts out slower paced but gradually builds to an exciting pure guitar rock playing with chromatic scales and clashing chords.

Overall, I would give this album 3 out of 5 stars, for poor ideas eloquently executed.

ALBUM REVIEW



CURSIVE



PHOTO COURTESY OF CURSIVEARMY.COM

Temple Run provokes addiction, still a fad

BY SAN JUANA PARAMO

"In pretty much every treasure hunting adventure movie there's one specific scene in which the plucky hero finally gets his hands on the treasure, but then has to navigate a maze of booby traps in order to get out alive. Temple Run is this scene and nothing else. And it's amazing," said SlideToPlay.com about the application which has been the second top free iPhone app this year.

Created by husband-and-wife team Keith Shepherd and Natalia Luckyanova and developed by Imangi Studios, the game centers around Guy Dangerous, who steals an idol from an ancient temple. In their efforts to steal the idol, monkeys pursue each explorer commencing a "run" without a finish line. The objective of the game is to avoid all possible obstacles and collect coins along the way.

"It's really fun, yet hard" said freshman Alyssa Purdy, who is guilty of sometimes playing in class. Most students have found themselves sneaking a run here and there in the middle of class, proving Temple Run to be a very addicting game.

"There's too many kids wasting class time," said Biology teacher Jennifer Preissler. "I catch at least two students every day trying to sneak a run." Though Preissler does agree that it is quite addicting, being an avid Tem-

ple Run player herself, it distracts even those near the person who is playing.

"It's annoying when people play it in class," said Dani Jorgansen. "It's something to take up time, like a hobby, and not play in class." She called it "just another game" and thinks it will be forgotten as easily as it was introduced.

"Everyone plays it, so it would be impossible to find someone who doesn't," said Alex Bielewicz, who believes it will be the next big thing after Angry Birds.

For those who don't know what Temple Run is, I would simply put it as a fad (one that needs to go away). A group of freshmen even called it lame.

Since its release in December of 2009, Angry Birds has had over 12 million purchased copies, making it the most downloaded app of its year. After its release, Rovio (the company that developed it) has come up with various versions of the game, from holiday seasons to the movie Rio.

Though the game centers itself on birds being slingshot at pigs, it doesn't compare to Temple Run.

Though they both do seem to have many avid players who just can't stop, many have been stating that one will take the place of the other.

Many have given up Angry Birds for Temple Run, and there is no denying that Temple Run has made its mark in the app world.

VIDEO GAME REVIEW



TEMPLE RUN

KENT BELLOWS PROVIDES CREATIVE OUTLET FOR CENTRAL, OMAHA YOUTH



PHOTO BY JENNIFER ROONEY/THE REGISTER

The Kent Bellows foundation is an art education program started in memory of the Omaha artist. The program serves youth in the Omaha area, and many Central student participate.

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

Do you have an artistic talent that you wish to share with other people, even artists of your own age that have the same ideas as yourself? The Kent Bellows Studio and Center for Visual Arts is a great place to get started and follow advances into your own artistic ability.

The Kent Bellows Studio and Center for Visual Arts is basically an art studio for high school students of all backgrounds to exceed higher quality in their artwork from help with the finest professional artists in the metro. It is open to youth grades eight through twelve. And, no it is not an in-school activity.

There are also many programs to get involved in inside the studio. The Artist-in-Residence Program, Studio Thesis Program, Clay Arts Program, Gallery Internship Program, Arts Collective Program, Urban Arts Program, Art Survey Workshops and the Pre-Professional Program are all open options. Usually there are about two to six people to a class with a mentor to help all of the students out. Usually the student takes 20 hours a month of their time in these classes.

Now someone might ask what do all these programs do, and what makes them different from each other? Well, most of them have work that will be exhibited at an end-of-semester art show. All of them are different though. The Artist-in-Residence Program is the most advanced course that you could take in the studio. This program lets you work closely with other young artists and your mentor where you design your own projects. This allows many hours of open studio time as well.

If you have trouble finding your inspiration for your work this program is the right one for you. It is the Studio Thesis Program. This one's focus is to finding your own personal inspiration and strengthening your artistic skills. You, as well as your fellow classmates will work with the mentor that you have each day to build an individual style.

The Clay Arts Program is just how it sounds, ceramic, and lots of it. This program encourages students' interdisciplinary exploration.

It takes an inclusive approach to the ceramic skills that a student may have. You would do discussion, preparation, and experimentation all together. This mentor will share their personal art-making habits, beliefs, style, and more. Some things these students might get out of this class are being able to have professional studio practices and how to express their ideas through objects.

Now if you're really looking for a career in the art industries than the Gallery Internship Program is the deal for you.

You would do a lot of hands-on work with an experienced curator that could help you throughout the way. You would visit local galleries and

But what scene, where? Maybe the downtown scene? No, downtown is filled with hipsters...

Sweet! Downtown is hipster! So all I have to do is go sit around downtown and then people will think I am a hipster. Or maybe they will just think I am homeless. I should probably wear my name-brand clothes I have found at Goodwill to clear up any confusion. And I should hold a guitar.

That idea is perfect! I could go for the hippie-guitar-playing hipster. That has got to be a thing!

I could not wash my hair and let it get all ratted up for a couple of days.

I could even go all out and braid some feathers into my ratted-up hipster hair. But would the feathers clash with the whole vegan animal rights activist deal? Darn. Someone help!

Or maybe... maybe I don't need anyone's help at all.

Trying to be someone you're not is hard.

And everyone in high school does it at some point, some more than others. People even do it in real life. They try to be professional when they aren't.

Or they try to act young by wearing things from places like Wet Seal when they are clearly over 40. Honestly, the coolest thing is to just be yourself! Once you are truly at peace with who you are as a person, nothing else will matter.

So live your life everyday doing what you want to do. Wear what you want to wear. Listen to whatever music you enjoy listening to, even if that music is on the radio. Watch Sponge Bob Square Pants if that is your sense of humor.

There is no way you can make everyone happy, so you have to start with making yourself happy, and let everyone else fall into place.

investigate their meanings while acquiring technical expertise, of course.

The great team-working students would probably join the Arts Collective Program. This will let students engage with the other young artist to create a collective identity and produce community based public and social artworks. This includes installation. For the art exhibition at the end of the semester, these people will make a multimedia project as well as a performance.

The Urban Arts Program deals with investigating cities with art aesthetics, hence the word urban. This will then teach the students how to create art for public spaces and showing. This culminates with the collaborative of the artwork in public locations outside of the studio.

The Pre-Professional Program provides freedom for all artists and curators that deserve it. They will also gain the skills to someday be professionals in the art industry. In this course, the students will investigate other artists, experiment with various methods that may help achieve their goals, and they will work closely with a mentor like as if they were in a job shadowing environment.

There are as well Art Surveying Workshops at the studio. These will survey multiple art disciplines across some different locations that include textiles, blacksmithing, sculptures, and printmaking.

Now the Kent Bellows Studio and Center for Visual Arts does have a meaning behind it. Kent Bellows was a master of realism and this was his studio until he died. He was born on June 26, 1949 and died on Sept. 14, 2005. He is a Nebraska-born artist that was first exhibiting in New York in 1985. He just wanted to turn his studio into a studio for younger artists that had the same talent and love for art that he did.

And if some of the artwork if so astonishing and brilliant, it becomes pieces that people can letter buy from the studio. I would think that if your artwork is purchasing worthy then you have a real talent and this is the place to be.

Now not everybody can get accepted in to the courses.

The admission process starts off with filling out an application and then after setting up an interview. Usually people have to submit a short essay, as well, and it's always great to bring some of your own artwork into the interview for the mentors to get a first look at what you may be able to perform and accomplish.

The Kent Bellows Studio and Center for Visual Arts is located on 3303 Leavenworth St. They usually like calls first from people to set up some things.

You may look more onto their website if you have further questions. Now if you have a real heart and talent in art and would maybe like to do this for the rest of your life than I think Kent Bellows is the place for you.

OPS shows off culture at the ESL Roadshow

BY ESAU RENDON

Saturday March 3rd was my first time attending Generacion N or Generation N.

I didn't really know what to expect, only that I would be introduced to dance routines, songs and performances with roots in cultures from all around the world.

The name is in Spanish, and would suggest to some that it would consist of solely Hispanic acts. The show, however, boasts culturally rich and flamboyant routines, even though it had primarily Latino acts in the beginning. Reasonable being so, since it was started by the Latino Leaders members, however, later, Asian Leaders and African Leaders started joining in the one-of-a-kind worldly experience and all Omaha Public High Schools are eligible to participate in the show and apply for the scholarship made up of ticket sales.

All those cultures shined on Saturday and were easily the highlight of my weekend. Although, Central High School has been home to the talent show in the past few years, this time it was South High School's turn to host.

The first performance, a dance done by about thirty girls that looked to draw inspiration from India, I infer that these girls were from Nepal since it is a neighboring country.

The dance was strictly cultural but it was also very modern, the girl's choice of costume demonstrated that.

I was left in a culture appreciation shock and the crowd seemed to share my appreciation for the girl's dance, demonstrated by oohing and cheering.

Later in the show I saw acts that weren't as cultural but still very dynamic. Junior Heyley Riviera singing "Rolling in the deep" left the crowd, especially the younger spectators, displaying their appreciation very verbally.

However, even more expressive was the crowd's reaction to Caroline Silva from Bryan High School when she twirled batons, waved streamers, balanced a ball and showed the audience just how flexible she was with a very acrobatic performance.

To me her performance evoked the energetic and colorful Brazilian culture and the exciting spirit of Carnival. The music that was being played only helped in getting the crowd's reaction, which sounded like a mixture of Bossa Nova and Carnival type music.

Amidst the large wave of talent Central Eagles were not excluded and did not fail to impress.

Acts by Central Eagles included a dance by the Ritmo Latino Dance Group, Break-dance battle, and a Traditional African dance.

At the end of show I realized that I had witnessed a beautiful collage of many different cultures; cultures that represent the diverse student body of OPS.

It seemed to me that all the acts were very different from those of a typical talent show, I was very thankful to have attended.

HUNGER GAMES THE NEW CULT CLASSIC

BY EMILY BECK

In a world set in the distant future, North America has collapsed due to famine, war and fire; in its place is Panem, a nation divided into twelve different districts, each with their own main point of export/industry. Everything in District 12, the last and poorest, is permanently covered in coal dust; nearly all of the district's men slave away daily deep in the coal mines, and citizens starve to death on a regular basis while those residing in the Capitol live in ease and luxury.

As the book opens, readers are immediately thrown into the life of Katniss Everdeen, a fierce 16-year-old girl struggling for survival. She must steal away to the forests that surround District 12 in order to find, shoot or trap food. Luckily she is able to make ends meet with the help of her best friend, fellow hunter Gale.

Katniss, like most in District 12, has had a difficult life; her father perished in a mine explosion, striking her mother with paralyzing depression that rendered her useless for months and left Katniss to take care of finding sustenance.

She has been left bitter, hardened and distrusting of most people, and has a particular hatred for the Capitol. This only increases when she is thrown into the Hunger Games in order to protect her younger sister, possibly the only person she has love for.

The annual Hunger Games are a televised event in which 24 tributes (two from each district, a boy and a girl) are brought to an outdoor arena and forced to fight to the death until only one is left standing.

The winner is then rewarded with a life of ease, and his/her district receives prizes throughout the year, which largely consists of food. The Games were erected after the rebellion that occurred in response to the oppressive rule that the Capitol held over the districts—there used to be 13.

BOOK REVIEW



THE HUNGER GAMES

A war began, and all of the districts were defeated except the thirteenth, which was blown to bits. The Hunger Games came out of all that—as a reminder of how powerful the Capitol really is. So powerful that they can steal two children from each district every year and force them to fight to the death for entertainment.

Panem is completely and utterly controlled by the Capitol, whose Gamemakers created the Hunger Games as a constant reminder of the obliterated District 13, which rebelled decades earlier and was destroyed by the Capitol.

I love the way that Suzanne Collins narrates this book. She often uses clipped, cold sentences, which perfectly translates into the character of Katniss (who is, for the most part, a cold and serious person). They also work very well for emphasis and drama (although they can become tiresome).

The way that this story is told is fantastic, endearing and enticing. Intertwined with the happenings of the book are flashbacks that let the reader into Katniss' past, and you're able to see why she has been molded into this intelligent, skeptical and cold person with a cutting survival instinct.

I really don't have any critique for this book—it's a must-read for people of all ages. It's a thrilling, rousing story that makes your blood pump and causes you to ask yourself "what would I do if I were Katniss?"

It's one of the most powerful books I've come across. Clearly I'm not the only one—the world has become crazed over this book.

I first heard of The Hunger Games as an eighth grader; all the students I knew were trying to get their hands on a copy of the book, regardless of reading skill.

Everyone can find something to love about it, whether you consider yourself a reader or not. This book really isn't gender-specific either; there's violence, love interests, desperation, action and adversity, and it instills such a fire in you that you want to fight yourself.

It's one of those books that manages to pull you in and leave your heart pounding and your palms clammy.

Omaha needs to keep up with the times, get a step ahead

I spent last summer galavanting around the premises of six different states from the South to the West. From the red, dusty, clay hills of Utah to the sandy, "SoCal" beaches of San Clemente, Calif., I overwhelmed with the fashion culture shock in a mere two thousand miles.

Being from the corn-ridden fields and tan, rough plains of Nebraska, fashion anywhere in the state is nothing to boast about. "Hype beasts" and "hipsters," or derivatives of those, are the dominant trends.

There is nothing wrong with any fashion trend, even if you're wearing it simply because it is "what's in style." The thing is that the days I choose to dress a little creatively (i.e. not in dark wash skinny jeans with a loose-fitting tee shirt), I get the girls' famous "up-and-down".

I knew fashion in Nebraska, or at least the halls of Central were lacking in acceptance and creativity with the looks I got while wearing a shirt I created. With a red tee that cost me 99 cents under one arm and a pair of scissors under the other, I took a YouTube tutorial and made a mock of a fringe shirt, saving myself 28 dollars at PacSun.

Not to defend or qualify my fashion choice, but I've seen many blogs and firsthand accounts of girls walking around on Southern Californian beaches with outfits identical to my own on that day.

Obey and Diamond Supply Co. are two brands I admire, but

loathe the fact that peoples' apparel comes from the selection of five shirts at PacSun or Urban. I don't care if you shop there, or if you happened to get your brands from retail vendors, it is just that many people only know those brands years after they've been out. Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with it, but I personally believe in being cultured, whether a veteran or newbie, is an important thing when claiming to "love" something.

Rep the brands you rep, wear what you like regardless of the condescending looks. Fashion, more than a statement, it is a reflection of who you are and it is one of the most powerful non-permanent ways to portray an image of yourself.

More than "hyped" up brands, fashion creativity within Nebraska is lagging, and, maybe like the brand name, designer-news, we are just simply, indisputably late. Yes, late.

Johnny Lace, a photographer, combines Omaha's stereotypical "hype beast swag" and "hipster" style to create a bullet of a fashion statement that looks completely rad. Although I am pretty sure if a guy walked in with oxfords, patterned thrift store pants, and a Crooks & Castles tee, they'd get more weird looks than I did. But his choices are impeccable.

Maybe it's geographic location and being the most land-locked state to account for it. Fashion-wise Neb.'s population will be forever lagging in open-mindedness and brand name gurus. Thank goodness my time to move out is coming soon enough.



THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT
A Column by MEKENZIE KERR

Dip into French Cuisine



PHOTO BY PRECIOUS GASPARD/REGISTER

BY PRECIOUS GASPARD

Craving a taste of France? Located at 301 N. 175th Plaza is a café known by others as the Brunch spot, but in my house it's Mimi's café, that perfect Sunday lunch outing.

Like any other restaurant, Mimi's serves breakfast, lunch and dinner, and even if you want breakfast for dinner, they'll cook it for you no matter what time of the day.

It's the perfect place to go to have a nice conversation with whoever you're with, or if you just like taking the kids out (although it can be very loud depending on the day and time you decide to go).

They offer a full bar, with TVs showing nothing but news and sports channels.

It's very family friendly and all of the servers have great manners.

If you're in a rush to eat, Mimi's probably isn't the best place unless you make reservations.

They take a very long time to serve you their food, but it's only because the chef treats each meal with care, patience and great taste.

It is pretty affordable for one or two people, with entrées around \$10- \$15.

Before I first visited the café, I thought it wouldn't be all so great -- until I took the first bite of the spinach artichoke dip.

It was nicely textured and the taste was magnificent, and I usually don't eat artichoke dip.

If you're on a diet you shouldn't order this, it's filled with a whopping 1437 calories. That's almost a day's worth!

Also the chicken pot pie is a whole deep dish pot pie, also filled with 1403 calories, the only good thing about the pot pie is that it's so big you won't even be able to consume the whole dish in one visit.

The proportions are good sized for meals; you always leave with a container in your hand.

They have a variety of entrées and meals, but the menu is limited on certain days. If you want what you had last time, make sure that they have it on the menu. The quality of the food is great and the fruit is always fresh.

I think the price range is acceptable because of the good quality you get from the food and service. The seating is phenomenal, whether you are in a booth, table or at the bar, the atmosphere never changes. Even the bathroom has high standards.

This French oriented restaurant has had history under its belt; in 1978 the first Mimi's Café was built by John J. Simms, who named the restaurant after a woman that went by the name of Mimi.

The fact that he named it after a woman is interesting because when I think of Mimi's Café I think of my grandmothers cooking. Although Mimi's has a taste of France, it has been labeled as an American restaurant.

Overall Mimi's Café is a really nice place to go and eat with your family or even by yourself.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



Mimi's Café



PHOTO COURTESY OF WERNER BROTHERS

The Vow promises a romantic tear-jerker

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

What's a Valentine's Day without a little love? How about a great love story that will probably guarantee tears for girls and the "Why am I here" quote from the guys and one that has two great stars from some of the top romantic movies in the media. "The Vow" is your movie then.

"The Vow," which came out just in time for Valentine's Day, stars Channing Tatum as Leo, previously seen in "Dear John," directed by Lasse Hallstrom, and Rachel McAdams as Paige, previously seen in the famous "The Notebook," directed by Nick Cassavetes.

But the real stars are behind the movie because, if you didn't already know, this movie is based off of true life events which makes it even more powerful and inspirational.

The director was Michael Sucsy. "The Vow" starts as Paige and Leo, who are happily married, coming home from a late night date.

Nobody is on the roads because it is very slick and slippery from the snow so they decide to sit at a stop sign.

But, then that careless decision turns out to something so dreadful and something, they will hate for the rest of their lives.

Paige decides to take off her seatbelt wanting to kiss Leo, but as she's leaning in, a truck comes behind and crashes into them which makes the car also run into a light pole leaving Paige and Leo both unconscious, but only Leo still in the car. Paige had gone through the window.

The whole story is based off of their vows to each other during their wedding that happened years before the accident.

"I vow . . . that we will always find a way back to each other," said Leo. One simple line made their whole life at that one moment even if they did not know it.

After the sudden crash, Paige does not remember the last five years of her life, which all involve Leo. She doesn't even know who he is and at that point believe she never will. They try to act in their same lives like nothing had happened, but it does not work because she has no idea what that was like and how it was like.

After that does not work, Leo tries to make Paige fall hopelessly in love with him all over again exactly how she had before. So they go on a "first date." To her, it was just a date, but to him, it was another happy moment with his wife that he loves.

Some things go terribly wrong with Leo and Paige throughout the movie, including her kissing her ex-boyfriend that she was engaged to before Leo.

It all turns out with them never speaking to each other with the line of "I hope one day I can love the way you love me," said Paige. After all of this, Leo does say "You figured it out once, you can do it again" and walks away.

But, that is not the end. Things go through Paige's life that once did before and these moments turn into six months that leads her back to Leo at that very moment of the accident.

I believe that the "The Vow" was a great movie and can show what love really means in the world. Leo really loves Paige and would go through anything to have her and get her to love him. Channing Tatum and Rachel McAdams really did a great job as well as Michael Sucsy putting this story together to make it a great movie.

"The Vow" is all about "moments of impact that will change your life forever." Was it all meant to be for Leo and Paige to be together or was it meant for them to be apart? I highly suggest this movie if you love the type of drama and romantic films.

Be ready to cry your heart out for this inspirational love story that has already changed two peoples' lives.

MOVIE REVIEW



THE VOW

Junior questions decaying value of 21st Century TV

While passing time during the television commercials for the 5:30 reruns of the classic sixties Western show, Rifleman, I casually flip through the channels neighboring it waiting for Chuck Connor's (sigh) face to reappear on my little screen. TV Land and ME tv are two of the best channels in regards to the content, showcasing classic, good 'ole fashioned humor shows from the fifties to the seventies. But as I peruse channels from MTV to ABC, images of sex-clad, A-typical, societal "norms" and views on life come alive before my eyes, solidifying why 96% of television is trash.

Family-friendly humor is widespread in almost all of the shows from back in the day. Infinitely famous shows like 'The Brady Bunch' or 'I Love Lucy' are knee-slapper comedies about the trials and tribulations of life. Shows upheld the capability of entertainment while holding steady to clean, classy virtues. Although married, Lucille Ball and Dezy Arnez in 'I Love Lucy' always hit the sack...but separately.

Flash forward to current 21st century television where barely-clad women and bulky men cloud screens across America. "Family-friendly" television is a thing of the past, a virtue sparse to shows, a gem among coal, replaced by frauds, the trashy humor and jokes about things formerly "unmentionable."

I won't deny cracking a smile at a sexual innuendo or becoming enthralled in a love-affair when I'm wasting hours of my life as a couch potato, but I will do so very sheepishly. Whereas these things serve their purpose as "entertainment" (and I shall use the word lightly), the legitimate quality of shows are both overly absurd and bogus.

Maybe you still are not seeing the, dare I say, flaws in popular, award-winning television shows. So, sit back, and let me break it down in a very pragmatic, "Mckenzie Kerr-esque" light.

Gifted with muscles in all the right places and beautiful to the right degree, hair with all the strands in the right places, the face of a Greek God and surrounded by 25 love-hungry women. 'The Bachelor' is a regular show that has been eerily airing for 15 seasons on ABC, making its way into the homes of millions of women around the United States.

But what are these women (and men) really wasting an hour on? 25 women with the competitiveness of wild animals for their game, all macking on a guy to hopefully become his wife. 'The Bachelor' only edifies the image of a man so many women hate: the player who gets what he wants, whether emotionally or sexually.

Ideally women, whether they admit it or not, truly want an emotional connection with a guy. Blog after blog, post after post, story after story you hear women regretting past relationships and longing for a stable connection with a guy who wants more than their body. If that's the honest to God truth, then why do you fawn over 'The Bachelor'?

Prospectively, this mid-twenty-year-old guy is just hamming it up and having sexual liaisons (cough, mindless hook-ups) with 25 women over the course of a few months, choosing them in accordance to their performance...and maybe even personality.

(And besides, men like Robert Redford, Don Grady and Chuck Connors were ten times more of heart throbs in their prime than the men on today's shows.)

Don't even get my started, with the absolute insanity and absurdity of idiotic shows like 'South Park,' where it's a swear word paradise strewn with genitalia, sexual jokes galore. Sure, it makes you laugh, but you're laughing at things that maintain the humor level of a middle school boy...cheers to maturing, right?

'Teen Mom' is another show that is parallel to a kick to my gut, alongside '16 and Pregnant'. This duo has become a glorification of teen pregnancy, teaching the moral: "Get pregnant, get on TV!"

While schools and parents generally teach the values of abstinence and safe sex, the double standard is set with the general media indirectly promoting pregnancy for minors. The first episode I watched of 'Teen Mom' and '16 and Pregnant' only boosted my ego in an uncommon way, making me pity the teenage-female-fool who chooses to keep the baby in a caustic environment while partying the nights away. All I can say is, "shaking my head."

Being an adoptee, I am on a daily-basis of intense gratification and unspeakable, infinite thanks to my biological parents for putting me up for adoption. And sure, they don't get a show as a thanks or as a way of showcasing them for doing the ultimate deed, but they actually had my best intention at hand, and steered me in the direction of a bright future, something these 'Teen Moms' aren't.

I'm not sure if these moms on the show, with the exception of the one mother from the first season, realize that keeping their baby, though extremely hard to put up for adoption, is only setting them up for a lowly lifestyle in regards to the mother's life. (Although I can imagine the heartache and difficulty of teen pregnancy to

begin with.)

Episode by episode of these nationally popular television shows grinds my gears, so much that I choose to turn off the television so I don't have to endure losing precious minutes of my prospectively short life.

I've grown up with a set of moral values that I personally, regardless of peer and parental choices, stick too.

These values encompass, with no pretense of a superiority complex in mind, a value on educational-mindedness and steering clear of sexual relations, which I have found have been slowly molding my preference of television.

Shows that solidify, edify, and glorify a pretense that sexual relationships, basing your complex off of the aesthetic, etc. are completely counter to my set of ethics, thus driving me to insanity that this is the "meatiness" of the media that almost every teenager is absorbing, whether with a purposeful intent or not.

Television is also a mindless past time, and the creators of shows are losing their sense of creativity.

Action, blood, gore, sex, scandals and middle-aged women with fake breasts must be on the minds of everyone in the Hollywood show scene, being that society is being down-graded to a lower IQ pulp as we roam channels on our television.

I'm not sure if it is the taste of today's entertainment viewers or societal-based humor, but television is continually floundering.

I can only imagine the basis of television in the coming years, turning into content more comparable to my dog's business in the backyard, than Emmy-nominee status.

Mexican-American restaurant proves a true ethnic, authentic experience



PHOTO BY ESAU RENDON/REGISTER

BY ESAU RENDON

Located on 24th street, the site of many other Latin American restaurants, Don Gaby's surely must be one of the leading competitors on its extensive and bustling strip.

Owned by the Alferes family, Don Gaby's may not be as ritzy as the famed Pujol restaurant in Mexico City or as easily accessible as Taco Bell, but Don Gaby's certainly is good at what it is supposed to do as a restaurant, which is to provide the customer with a fantastic gastronomic experience.

This quaint and welcoming joint takes pride in its history and rich culture, which is clearly displayed on the walls of the restaurant with old family portraits and a painting of La Virgen De Guadalupe.

All of these things give a sense of history, making this quiet little restaurant special and unique.

Adding to this family-owned restaurant's uniqueness is the diner setup, making it easily available for customers to view their food, which is prepared fresh every time they order it.

The setup also adds an American style of eatery and makes it clear that the restaurant has Mexican-American owners.

Diners can watch their food being prepared while being introduced to a complimentary basket of salsa and chips, although I must admit they are store bought, which took away a small portion of the restaurants one-of-a-kind charm.

After the appetizer of chips and salsa, food will be delivered to your table, with most of it consisting of rice and beans as a side.

One can expect many different flavors, from zesty lime in the tacos, spices in the chicharron and cold, inviting sweetness in the horchata.

Along with its dive-like charm, customers might have stopped by for what Don Gaby's menu calls the "world famous Gordita," which consists of two cornmeal patties that create a sandwich, with ingredients varying from simple rice and beans to more flavorful options like chicharron (cooked pork rinds in green or red salsa), tinga (shredded chicken with tomato sauce and potatoes), pulled pork

and nopalitas (cooked and cut cactus with a red sauce and onions), all for the modest price of \$2.75.

Another of Don Gaby's best things to offer is their tacos al pastor (marinated pork meat in two tortillas) and their Aguas Frescas (which in Spanish means fresh waters but really are a small selection of homemade drinks form natural components like horchata, a milk-like sweet drink made from rice and Jamaica, a drink made from hibiscus flowers), all sold nearby by competitors but not nearly as good or at least not with the same price and the same generous amounts.

That seems to reasonably be the force that makes customers fill the booths and chairs on any given Thursday night.

Don Gaby's should be recognized for its very generous and budget-friendly prices, ranging from \$1 to \$8.99; its proximate competitors seem to be left in the dust in that portion of the cutthroat restaurant business.

The prices are also perfect for students and any being with a skinny wallet, looking

to find an unlikely eatery full of loud and vibrant cultural flares in a hidden hot spot.

It is that same hot spot location that contributes to the success of the restaurant; by providing a location that seems

to be busy virtually all hours of the day and everyday and providing a culturally rich environment allowing the business flourish.

Sure the restaurant may be quaint and even of dive quality but the restaurant proves to have an endless supply in character, culture, and overall moxie.

Not to mention the perfect location. It is an authentic and genuine experience that makes one quick to want to dine there.

It is the place to on the 24th street strip that has remained evident given that it has been there for over a decade and running strong, enticing clientele from all parts of the city.

Time after time, Don Gaby's proves to be a great family restaurant, one that's unique qualities set it apart from any of the restaurants in the south Omaha 24th street area, other Mexican restaurants, and restaurants in Omaha.

It is an undoubtedly a jewel of an eatery, offering a gastronomic experience without the high price.

RESTAURANT REVIEW



DON GABY'S

Young Artists' Night at the Holland Center a big success for Central and community

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

Lights. Camera. Action. Is it another musical? Is it another play? Is it another jazz combo? How about none of the above? How about a night where all sorts of performing artists in Nebraska come together to put on a show for an audience who are just as excited as they are? They call this Young Artists' Night.

Young Artists' Night is a musical theatre show put on by teenagers wanting to show their talent off around Nebraska at the Holland Performing Arts Center. It's really just a big talent show, technically. As some people would say, a little like our very own Roadshow here at Central.

The age group was from 15 to 25. Sixty talented people auditioned around Nebraska, but only 18 made it and were a part of this great night. Two of them were from Central. This included seniors Emily Hill and Jacob Wilson.

This is Wilson's second year participating and Hill's first year. But Hill did not participate in it last year because she was

not able to. Many students around Nebraska were involved. This included college students such as UNO students and high school students such as teenagers from Papillion.

This show really is a good way to find kids who are passionate about music theatre. "It gets your mind set in what you want to do," said Hill. She also stated that this was one of the reasons that she decided she wanted to go into theatre when she is older.

The show was on Feb. 19th, beginning at seven and ending around nine. The performance was free admission, and anyone could have gone to support not only our Central students, but all of the many talented students across the state.

To be a part of the show yourself, you had to audition your own original songs.

After you were told if you made it or not, there were practices about three days a week, usually three hours each day. The days were usually Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday. The practices were at the Holland itself and included their own individual performance and group practices.

Dave Barrus is the guy who put this whole thing together

and should be thanked. He is a former Broadway performer and now lives in New York as a teacher. Hill stated that she knew Barrus previously; his work was one of the reasons that she got involved (also because her sister had done it too). The Holland staff was a big part of the production as well and should also be thanked.

There were 25 acts all together; three of them contained chorus acts. Hill was involved in all three chorus groups: she sang a duet with her sister, was involved in a trio, and in a quartet.

The whole performance together was awarded a standing ovation and lots of applause.

The entire Holland Center was packed just for this event. Everyone did such a great job and were proud of each other for their performances.

If you would like to see it again or even for the first time, there should be in the next year to come. So be part a of the audience and enjoy the talent!

"It was a really good show and everybody put a whole lot of effort towards it," said Hill.

Sophomore feels video games are a colossal waste of skills, time

I have never understood the appeal of video games.

Maybe I don't think that sitting in a darkened room with a controller and a glowing screen for hours on end isn't fun because I didn't grow up doing it. Some kids were handed Game Boys when they were practically still teething, and they've continued going from electronic to electronic since then.

Don't get me wrong: I've played games before. The only exposure I've had has been through my cousin, who is quite the gamer. My distaste for this form of entertainment all began with Halo 2. I remember standing behind my cousin as he, sprawled out on the floor, stared at the television screen with a deadened, glazed-over gaze and expertly moved his fingers over his black Xbox controller.

I must have hung around him for quite some time, because I was eventually handed a controller, given a brief explanation of the buttons and told to play. Probably for a laugh or two.

I was thrust into a world of camouflage and half-destroyed cities, and I had no clue what was going on. All I knew was that I needed to look for the aliens and shoot them, and shoot them I did.

It really wasn't bad—in fact, I thought it was kind of fun, running around and killing all the aliens I could seek out. But it didn't carry any substance for me. It was just some fake little

world where you could shoot things that didn't actually exist.

I think that that's what some people find so appetizing about games—the fact that they aren't real. They're a way to take out your aggression or simply escape from your own world for a while. And isn't that what music and movies are for, too? I would say that's what entertainment is for, period.

I'm not a fan of the violent ones; some of my male friends have attempted to teach me to play shooting and war games, but I've never managed to buy into it. I get bored after about 20 minutes, but not before getting wildly frustrated because of my lack of skills.

After playing games like Dead Rising (where you're stuck in a town of zombies and are forced to creatively kill as many as possible while trying to accomplish missions), I felt downright guilty for being responsible for all of that artificial death. Is that weird?

Our brains are over-stimulated as it is. And psychological studies done have shown that seeing violence desensitizes us to it—which makes us more likely to be violent ourselves. Some violent games can even increase one's aggression, and that isn't healthy.

Besides that, I just think that video games are yawn-worthy. Sure, they can entertain for an hour or so—but I've never gotten so into one that I wanted to waste the day away in front of my television. Not when endless shooting, confusing controls and



THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT
A Column by MEKENZIE KERR

BIG MOUTH STRIKES AGAIN

A Column by EMILY BECK



A TOUCH OF GOLD:

While Oscar season has already passed by, it's still an exciting time of year. Film Streams plays Oscar Live-Action Shorts, and they never disappoint. Located at 1340 Mikey Fahey Street in North Downtown (you can see it from Central), Film Streams has two theaters and presents first-run independent and foreign films, documentaries, classic films and themed series. Since 2007 (the year Film Streams opened) the Oscar Live-Action and Animated Shorts have been shown every January/February.

REVIEWS WRITTEN BY EMILY BECK



Germany/India.
Directed by Max Zähle and Stefan Gieren
25 minutes

Raju was a unique collaboration—it featured a young German couple visiting India to adopt an orphan. Right at the beginning one sees an alley, deserted except for a man carrying a sleeping child, who hands the child to another man. This turned out to be foreshadowing to the end of the film. The German couple goes to an orphanage and is introduced to their new son, a four-year-old Indian orphan named Raju. He clicks with his new parents right away, but the next day while at a marketplace with his new father, Raju disappears.

I felt a lot of sympathy for this father—he panics and immediately begins searching for Raju, showing his picture to

anyone who will look. But no one has seen the boy. The couple goes to the police station and both are reassured by a detective that their son will be found, but they're quickly discouraged when a worker adds Raju's picture to an already-full bulletin board of missing children.

The father continues looking tirelessly for Raju without luck. While riding in a taxi he spots a boy running down an alley wearing the shirt that Raju was wearing when he disappeared, and he quickly gets out and runs after him. He follows the boy into a building, only to find that it isn't Raju.

But the building that he finds is for missing children, and he finds out that Raju and the other children from the orphanage were stolen from their families. The next day Raju is found, but his father is plagued with the knowledge that he isn't actually an orphan. He tells his wife the truth, but instead of giving him back she wants to keep him, believing that they can give him a better life than he could find in India. The two must come to a decision.

This film was beautifully done; I always find India to be

an interesting setting because the cities are generally huge, crowded and fast-paced—your eyes are assaulted with rushes of color and sounds that you aren't familiar with.

A great thing about this film is that it sheds some light on events that actually occur (kidnapped children being adopted).

MOVIE REVIEW



RAJU

It proves that right and wrong isn't all white and black—there's an incredible amount of gray space there. Viewers are prompted to ask themselves "what would I do? What would be the right thing to do?" Is giving the child back to his family morally right if you know that he'll grow up in poverty if you do? Or is keeping him the best

option because you know that you can give him a better life with greater opportunities? Overall, this film had a very serious mood and the talented actors made it memorable.



Reviewer's Choice

Norway
Directed by Hallvar Witzo
25 minutes

Tuba Atlantic was, in my opinion, the best. It features a bitter 70-year-old man (Oskar) who finds out that he only has six days to live. Used to living by himself, he's startled when a young girl (Inger) rides up to his secluded house on a roaring motorcycle. Part of her school's Jesus Club, she

is his "Angel of Death" and must stay with him until he dies. Oskar harbors a bitter hatred for seagulls, so most of his days are spent attempting to murder as many as possible in creative ways (he

has a machine gun with a special name).

The film plays out in several humorous scenarios: viewers see Oskar stuffing a stick of dynamite in a big fish's mouth, lighting it and thrusting it at Inger while telling her to throw it to the seagulls, as well as Inger putting something in Oskar's drink to make him sleep for 24 hours, accidentally stealing one of his last six days.

Aside from the humor, there is seriousness in this film—it's called *Tuba Atlantic* because of the

MOVIE REVIEW



TUBA ATLANTIC

large instrument that Oskar has on his property, which he built with his brother as a young adult. The two haven't spoken in 30 years, and Oskar wants to reach him before he dies—by blasting the giant tuba, whose sound will hopefully reach New Jersey, where his brother lives.

I loved this film. It was perfectly balanced with humor and sorrow, and the Norwegian language is really entertaining to listen to. I thought it was cool to mix the young girl and old man characters, and the plot was incredibly unique—where else have you seen a story that involved

giant tubas, motorcycles, seagulls and machine guns? In addition, the dynamic character of Oskar was really great to watch develop throughout the film, as well as the friendship that forms between Oskar and Inger. Viewers get to see the old, hardened layers melt away, revealing a sweet man who has had a long and difficult life. I think the film was trying to teach that friends can be found in unusual places—sometimes we have to give others a chance, supplementing that is the idea that we won't live forever.

film; the acting was fine, but the plot was very predictable (although there was a small twist that added delight to the film).

I believe that *The Shore* won the Oscar because it balanced emotion and humor rather well, probably appealing to the older set. And it conveyed a message to the

audience reminding us that even after huge mistakes and many years of estrangement, true friends will still always love and forgive you.

Unfortunately, I was left out of most of the humor, seeing as I've never set foot in a Catholic

mass—but I did still get some laughs out of the film.

The overall atmosphere was warm, humorous and a little awkward (in a good way).

I definitely cringed at several points—you feel sorry for Stillman and his perpetual OCD.

Viewers will probably favor this one because of its unique and amusing plot.

His friend sees just how crazy the time machine is making him, so he decides to take matters into his own hands. I really enjoyed this one. It's short, sweet and funny, with a clever and fresh take on time travel.

I thought that the actors fit the parts really well, especially the man who played Stillman; he had a perfectly neurotic look in his eye for most of the film.

Before the mass, the altar boys receive a particularly humorous pep talk from one of the members of the church, similar to that of a soccer team during halftime in a locker room. The viewer won't expect what happens after that—but let's just say that Damian won't be getting to watch his favorite football team anytime soon.

I did enjoy this short film, but I felt that there were a lot of jokes that only Catholics would get—laughter kept erupting from a certain spot in the audience

MOVIE REVIEW



THE SHORE

America.

The daughter takes it upon herself to reunite the three, producing humorous and emotional results.

The setting for this film was

breath-taking; I'm glad that the filmmakers included so many shots of the Irish landscape because it lended a lot of believability to the film.

While this film was enjoyable, I didn't feel that it was Oscar-worthy.

It felt a little dragged-out, and I found myself waiting for it to end so that we could move on to the next

is barred from enjoying his passion—football (or soccer, as it's called in the United States).

His father, a strict man, tears down all of Damian's posters and forbids him from playing or watching the impending European Cup, in which his favorite team is playing. After three months he is offered a chance to "redeem himself" by serving as an altar boy during a very important mass, much to the priest's dismay.

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during "Pentecost," and I assumed that those people grew up in a Catholic church and understood the pains/seriousness of being an altar boy.

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mass—but I did still get some laughs out of the film.

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Ireland
Directed by Peter McDonald
10 minutes

Pentecost features a young boy (Damian) who has been selected as an altar boy at his Catholic church. After accidentally causing several minor injuries to the priest, he

a year redoing several unfortunate encounters that happened that day. These events include an awkward meeting with an ex-girlfriend and a dry cleaning fiasco.

The problem is, Stillman just can't seem to get these right, and instead of letting them go he does them over thousands of times.

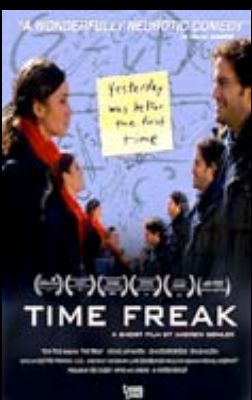
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MOVIE REVIEW



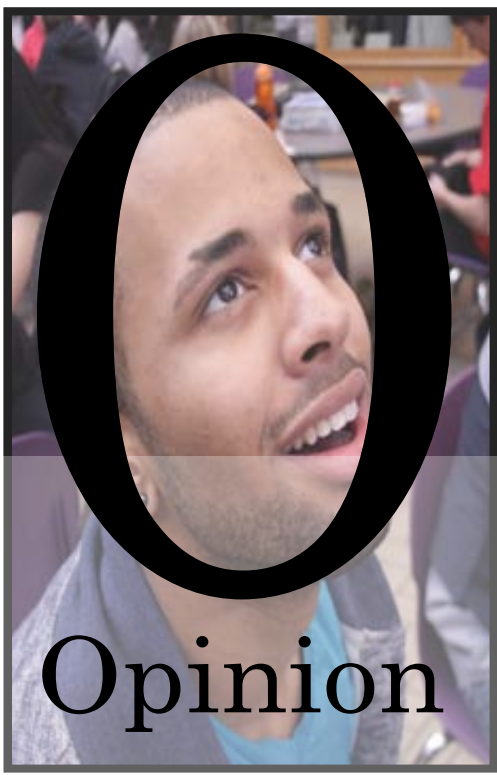
TIME FREAK



United States
Directed by Andrew Bowler and Gigi Causey
11 minutes

Time Freak was a comedy about a man (Stillman) who is able to invent a time machine; when his friend comes looking for him after three days of not seeing him, he finds out that the neurotic Stillman has been stuck using his time machine for the equivalent of





PIERCINGS, GAUGES AND TATTOOS A SIGN OF THE TIMES OR A WASTE OF TIME?



OPINION, PAGE 12

OUR MODERN-DAY EQUALITY MOVEMENT

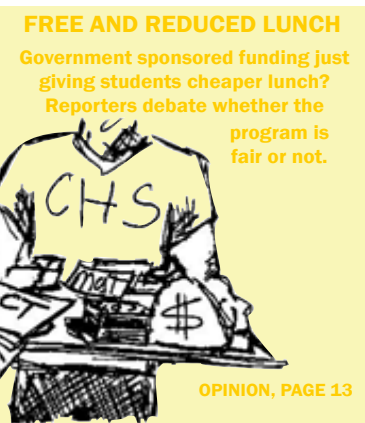
With gay rights becoming a hot topic, *The Register* defends the right to love whomever, regardless of orientation.



OPINION, PAGE 12

FREE AND REDUCED LUNCH

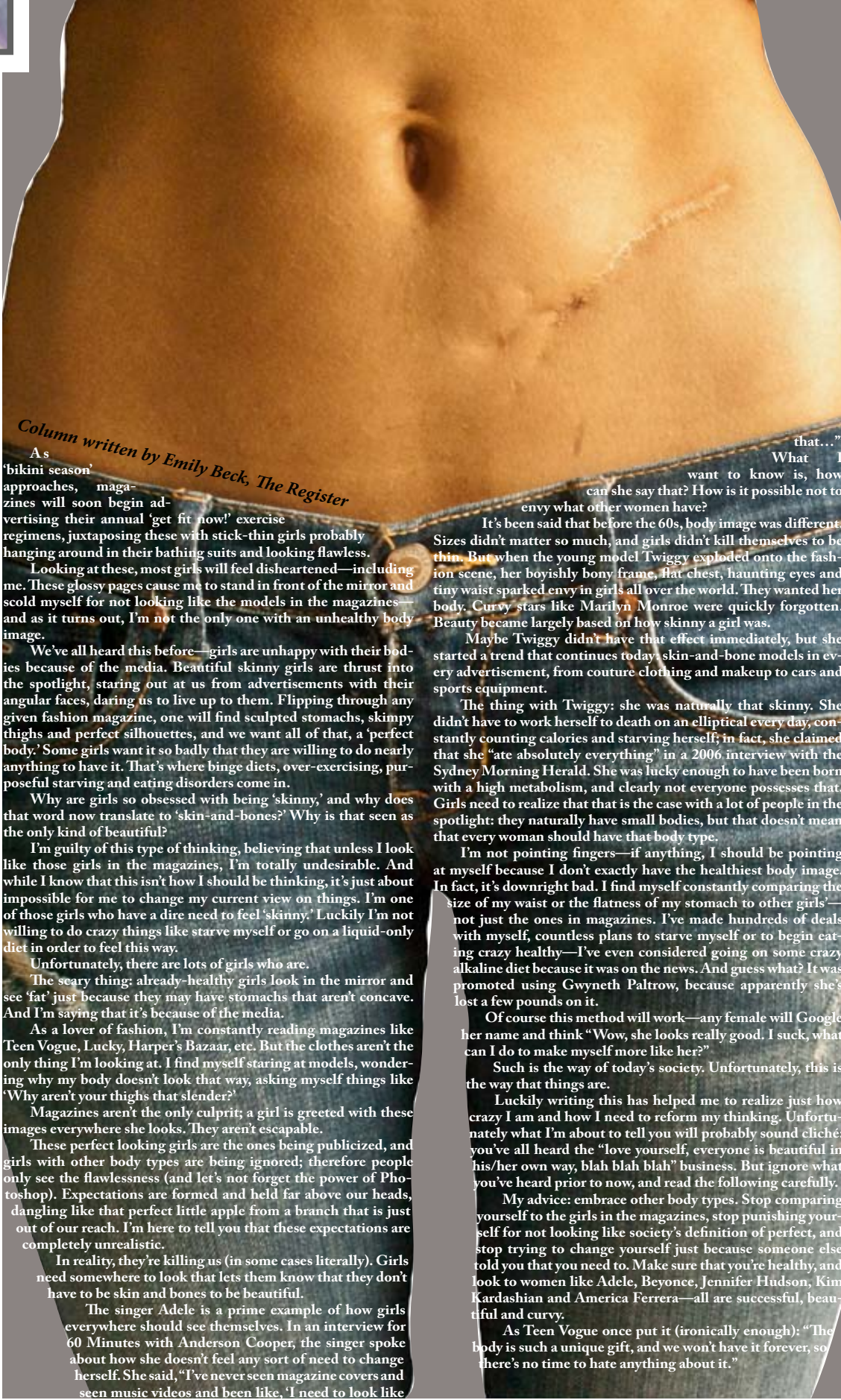
Government sponsored funding just giving students cheaper lunch? Reporters debate whether the program is fair or not.



OPINION, PAGE 13

BODY EXPECTATIONS LEAVE SCARS

As magazines and marketing campaigns gear up to attack girls about their figures this spring, one student calls for the madness to stop, and the loving yourself to begin.



Column written by Emily Beck, The Register

As the 'bikini season' approaches, magazines will soon begin advertising their annual 'get fit now!' exercise regimens, juxtaposing these with stick-thin girls probably hanging around in their bathing suits and looking flawless. Looking at these, most girls will feel disheartened—including me. These glossy pages cause me to stand in front of the mirror and scold myself for not looking like the models in the magazines—and as it turns out, I'm not the only one with an unhealthy body image.

We've all heard this before—girls are unhappy with their bodies because of the media. Beautiful skinny girls are thrust into the spotlight, staring out at us from advertisements with their angular faces, daring us to live up to them. Flipping through any given fashion magazine, one will find sculpted stomachs, skimpy thighs and perfect silhouettes, and we want all of that, a 'perfect body.' Some girls want it so badly that they are willing to do nearly anything to have it. That's where binge diets, over-exercising, purposeful starving and eating disorders come in.

Why are girls so obsessed with being 'skinny,' and why does that word now translate to 'skin-and-bones'? Why is that seen as the only kind of beautiful?

I'm guilty of this type of thinking, believing that unless I look like those girls in the magazines, I'm totally undesirable. And while I know that this isn't how I should be thinking, it's just about impossible for me to change my current view on things. I'm one of those girls who have a dire need to feel 'skinny.' Luckily I'm not willing to do crazy things like starve myself or go on a liquid-only diet in order to feel this way.

Unfortunately, there are lots of girls who are.

The scary thing: already-healthy girls look in the mirror and see 'fat' just because they may have stomachs that aren't concave. And I'm saying that it's because of the media.

As a lover of fashion, I'm constantly reading magazines like *Teen Vogue*, *Lucky*, *Harper's Bazaar*, etc. But the clothes aren't the only thing I'm looking at. I find myself staring at models, wondering why my body doesn't look that way, asking myself things like 'Why aren't your thighs that slender?'

Magazines aren't the only culprit; a girl is greeted with these images everywhere she looks. They aren't escapable.

These perfect looking girls are the ones being publicized, and girls with other body types are being ignored; therefore people only see the flawlessness (and let's not forget the power of Photoshop). Expectations are formed and held far above our heads, dangling like that perfect little apple from a branch that is just out of our reach. I'm here to tell you that these expectations are completely unrealistic.

In reality, they're killing us (in some cases literally). Girls need somewhere to look that lets them know that they don't have to be skin and bones to be beautiful.

The singer Adele is a prime example of how girls everywhere should see themselves. In an interview for *60 Minutes* with Anderson Cooper, the singer spoke about how she doesn't feel any sort of need to change herself. She said, "I've never seen magazine covers and seen music videos and been like, 'I need to look like

that..."

What I want to know is, how can she say that? How is it possible not to envy what other women have?

It's been said that before the 60s, body image was different. Sizes didn't matter so much, and girls didn't kill themselves to be thin. But when the young model Twiggy exploded onto the fashion scene, her boyishly bony frame, flat chest, haunting eyes and tiny waist sparked envy in girls all over the world. They wanted her body. Curvy stars like Marilyn Monroe were quickly forgotten. Beauty became largely based on how skinny a girl was.

Maybe Twiggy didn't have that effect immediately, but she started a trend that continues today: skin-and-bone models in every advertisement, from couture clothing and makeup to cars and sports equipment.

The thing with Twiggy: she was naturally that skinny. She didn't have to work herself to death on an elliptical every day, constantly counting calories and starving herself; in fact, she claimed that she "ate absolutely everything" in a 2006 interview with the *Sydney Morning Herald*. She was lucky enough to have been born with a high metabolism, and clearly not everyone possesses that. Girls need to realize that that is the case with a lot of people in the spotlight: they naturally have small bodies, but that doesn't mean that every woman should have that body type.

I'm not pointing fingers—if anything, I should be pointing at myself because I don't exactly have the healthiest body image. In fact, it's downright bad. I find myself constantly comparing the size of my waist or the flatness of my stomach to other girls—not just the ones in magazines. I've made hundreds of deals with myself, countless plans to starve myself or to begin eating crazy healthy—I've even considered going on some crazy alkaline diet because it was on the news. And guess what? It was promoted using Gwyneth Paltrow, because apparently she's lost a few pounds on it.

Of course this method will work—any female will Google her name and think "Wow, she looks really good. I suck, what can I do to make myself more like her?"

Such is the way of today's society. Unfortunately, this is the way that things are.

Luckily writing this has helped me to realize just how crazy I am and how I need to reform my thinking. Unfortunately what I'm about to tell you will probably sound cliché: you've all heard the "love yourself, everyone is beautiful in his/her own way, blah blah blah" business. But ignore what you've heard prior to now, and read the following carefully.

My advice: embrace other body types. Stop comparing yourself to the girls in the magazines, stop punishing yourself for not looking like society's definition of perfect, and stop trying to change yourself just because someone else told you that you need to. Make sure that you're healthy, and look to women like Adele, Beyonce, Jennifer Hudson, Kim Kardashian and America Ferrera—all are successful, beautiful and curvy.

As *Teen Vogue* once put it (ironically enough): "The body is such a unique gift, and we won't have it forever, so there's no time to hate anything about it."

Skipping proves not so daring task



YOU KNOW YOU'RE FROM CENTRAL WHEN...
A Column by KATHERINE SCARPELLO

"...you can walk out and the security guards do nothing to stop you."

It's third hour, the day couldn't be going slower, and you're bored of learning about factorials in Algebra. You couldn't stand to hear another teacher say, "put your phone away."

You. Need. A. Break.

If only Central had "Mod" scheduling like Westside, then you could be rewarded and get a class period off.

But wait! Why can't I adventure outside, go get something to eat, or just take time for myself? Do I not deserve a break?

Oh, but I do.

But how can I do this? Which door do I go out of? Or better yet, which one do I COME IN from?

Ah, you know what? Who cares. If I get into trouble then so be it.

I grab my friends and head out of the second side doors, legs moving like the speed of light, heart pumping...when suddenly I see the sunlight, I feel the fresh air breeze...and I am outside!

The day couldn't be more beautiful; I can hear the birds chirping as I walk downtown for a quick bite to eat before returning to doomsville.

My time went by too quickly; I realize my 40 minutes are up and have to spend the next two deciding how to get back into school.

Sure, getting out was simple, but won't I get caught easily on my way back in?

There are many ways back inside school, or so seniors say. "The gym lobby doors," "Next to the culinary room there is always someone there to let you in," "Just walk through the front door," they've all said.

My friends and I do nothing halfway, so we hike up our backpacks, take long, deep breaths and walk up to the front doors of Central.

I see the 'C' and the security guards.

My chest feels like a race horse is competing in it; it's pumping so fast I can hardly breathe. I smile at the trusted man keeping an eye on the safety at school...

...He smiles at my friends and I, and wave to us and says, "Have a good day!" as we walk up to our next class.

WHAT??

If you've ever attempted to skip before, you'll know exactly how this feels. You probably have your own story to tell; the one above is just one of them.

Whether you have the same story or not, when it comes to skipping class you and I both know you got into school without getting into trouble.

Freshman year, skipping class was just like the troubled student in the story.

It was a game, all about strategy and luck. The thought of getting into trouble for just a half hour of a break was silly, but totally worth it at the same time.

That is, until I realized how plain and simple it was to not get caught. Getting into the school is almost too simple, and although it may be great for the students who chose to skip, it may not be all that amazing when it comes to our safety, or when it comes down to the "Eagle Way". Skipping shouldn't be so simple, although it's a piece of cake.

And that's how I know I'm from Central.

Looking ahead triggers stressful, frightening thoughts of upcoming year

Every night I pray for longer, less stressful days just so that I can have enough time to accomplish what's already on my plate during the day.

But planning for next year has left me with more stress and anxiety than ever (and no fingernails), as if it that was the actual problem here.

Planning for next year is not hard at all. Let's be honest though: I'm just really scared out of my skin for my junior year (supposedly the hardest year of high school) and what's going to come afterwards.

It's not because it's the most challenging year in high school, but because I don't want to grow up just this second. Filling out my registration form for next year's classes is slowly but steadily stripping me from my childhood and forcing me to grow up.

I came to this conclusion as I was having a talk with my beautiful and optimistic mother; we were talking about our personal feelings and how stressed out we are, and then I brought up registering. She encouraged me to keep doing my best and that she was there for me; instantly a weight was lifted from my shoulders and I could breathe.

It was comforting remembering all of the fantastic and loving mother-daughter times we've spent just talking to each other about anything and everything.

I realized that after my junior year comes senior year, and then I will be graduating, and my plans after graduation will leave me with barely have enough time to talk to myself.

And my mom is by far the only person I can ever fully confide in. Who will I talk to when I'm away from home?

It's hard to admit this, but I silently cried inside when my future was playing out in my head. I don't want to leave my family entirely! We might have our ups, downs and very annoying moments, but leaving them behind will be the hardest decision I'll ever have to make following high school graduation.

My dreams include joining the Air Force, and if I have to leave my family for six to seven years, then so be it.

Following your dreams is a little bit more important than missing your family (says my dedicated ego), but the outcome of following my dream will help me be able to help my family in the long run.

Don't get me wrong, I want to leave the nest and explore the sky, but I want to have my cake and eat it too.

I think it's hard for almost every teen to truthfully say they will miss home once they leave. It goes along with the "I'm grown

just because I've graduated and you can't tell me what to do" faze which will eventually lead to you calling your mom everyday just to let her know your thinking about her.

I know from experience that it will happen. I went on a three day field trip and called her day and night. My day would start off with either a text or call to my mom and end with two to three calls to talk to everyone. Now that's a dedicated daughter.

Sounds a little creepy, but my relationship/friendship with my wonderful mother is particularly strong because of our honesty with one another and she almost always has a solution to my problems and I'm afraid that it will change when I graduate.

Hopefully I am just overly worrying about this whole situation because I'm pretty sure my mom will be the one stressing more than I will.

One thing I am sure about is that she wants the best for me and following my dreams is what's more important. I guess the morale of all of this is to not think about anything while filling out your registration forms or else you will end up with no finger nails. Oh, and don't base your life off of movies, it makes you paranoid.



CREEPY STARE
A Column by PRECIOUS GASPARD

OUR OWN MODERN-DAY EQUALITY MOVEMENT

While this generation's fight for gay rights has been criticized and compared to that of the Civil Rights Movement, the fact still remains that discrimination cannot be tolerated in the American culture, and everyone, regardless of who they love, deserves equal treatment.

Look back to the times of the civil rights movement: there were riots, violent groups like the Black Panthers, marches and protests—millions of people were fighting for a cause. This movement is characterized as a thing of a generation gone by, but a lot of people don't realize that a similar movement is going on right now—history is being made as we speak.

A bill allowing gay marriage was approved by members of the New Jersey Assembly on Feb. 16, who are waiting for an expected veto from the state's governor. Members supporting the bill must now get enough votes to overrule the veto. And so the struggle commences.

Here at the Register, we wholly support same-sex marriage, as well as complete gay rights. We believe that the people on this Earth all have a right to fulfill who they are meant to be, and to love whomever they want. We also believe that everyone, regardless of sexual orientation, should have the same rights.

EDITORIAL
• • • • •
The OPINION of the Register
Staff

It's Not Unnatural, It's Not a Choice

The struggle between oppositionists and supporters of gay rights has become a bitter battle. It's developed into a highly controversial topic, tying together religion, politics, law and basic human rights.

So why do some oppose gay rights? Why are people so against it? Is it because of discomfort, religious views, or the belief that homosexuality is unnatural?

It actually isn't abnormal in nature—according to a National Geographic News article from 2004, homosexuality has been recorded in penguins, sheep, fruit bats, dolphins, primates and many other species. While scientists aren't completely sure why this is, it's proof that homosexuality isn't some weird thing that humans have made up. Animals of the same gender do have sex, and some even have mates.

As an example, look at the two male penguins who reside at New York City's Central Park Zoo: they've bonded for life, "while ignoring potential female mates."

According to the article, "They display classic pair-bonding behavior—entwining of necks, mutual preening, flipper flapping, and the rest."

While scientists have speculated about the reasons for animals who have same-sex partners, we don't believe that people choose to be that way: being gay isn't a choice that you sit down and make.

It's simply how you were made, how you came out. In reality, we think that if being gay was something that a person decided to do, he or she wouldn't bother—clearly it presents all kind of unnecessary scrutiny, discrimination and trouble, so why would a person even want to subject him/herself to that?

Why Religion Isn't a Good Argument

There are many interpretations of the Bible, and a lot of the time it's nearly impossible to know what is true and what isn't. People believe that homosexuality is an 'abomination against God,' and parts of the Bible do in fact support this—but the Bible also condemns people who commit adultery, as well as 'fornicators,' or persons who have sex but aren't married.

In the modern world of media, pre-marital sex is conveyed as something that's okay. Look at any romantic comedy—men and women have sex without being married all the time! The Bible condemns this just as it condemns sexual acts within genders, so how exactly are they different?

The thing that bothers us: hypocrisy seems to be evident in a lot of religious arguments against homosexuality. Some churches support gays and some don't—or they support the people and not the act. But some Christian churches are totally against gay people—and isn't this contradictive to what said churches believe?

While there are countless denominations and beliefs within the world of religion, Christians typically believe in Jesus and his teachings. In the New Testament, Jesus arrives and summarizes all of the laws of the Old Testament into two: love God above everything else, and love everyone as you love yourself.

So where does it say 'hate gay people, deny them equal rights and discriminate against them'?

The main point here is that humans shouldn't be pointing fingers at other humans and reprimanding them for being immoral. If you believe that there is a higher power responsible for judgment, why do a job that isn't yours? Isn't your job to try to love everyone, regardless of differences and shortcomings?

A Modern-Day Civil Rights Movement

The 1960s was a turbulent decade, filled with passionate advocates who fought to the finish for civil rights; many literally died for the cause. While gays aren't treated as badly as non-whites were in some Southern states, the discrimination is still lying under the surface, bubbling dangerously.

The discrimination against African Americans in the South was completely open and outright, but inequity against gays in today's world is obscured.

Yet it's still there: while it's against the law to not hire or fire an individual based on age, sex, race, religion, etc., it isn't against federal law to fire that individual on the mere suspicion of homosexuality in most private workplaces (although it is illegal for federal government workers to be discriminated against, according to the legal website Nolo.com).

Where's the justice in that? Why hasn't that law been revised to include sexual orientation? Fortunately some states have passed their own laws prohibiting this kind of discrimination in public/private work places, but we think that some federal laws need to be revised in order to protect the rights of gay citizens.

Gay marriage is also an issue—while it's currently legal in seven states, same-sex couples are still unable to get some of the benefits that heterosexual couples get. Married

gay couples are able to get some state benefits—but federal benefits, like Social Security, immigration, veteran/military and tax benefits are denied them. This makes life considerably more difficult, and changing these laws/creating new laws to include gay couples will take some time.

Working to reform these kinds of things are what advocates are fighting for, and they will continue to fight until the battle is won.

In Conclusion...

This fight is tearing people apart—but we don't think it should. While everyone is entitled to his or her own opinion, we believe that others' opinions should also be respected, even if they're met with disagreement.

Obviously this is a difficult thing to do—but we're telling you that you don't have to agree with us. We just have some questions.

While some may believe that homosexuality is wrong, why translate that into hate? Why treat that person as something less than a human?

Do sexual preferences affect other aspects of one's personality, such as judgment, intelligence or morals? Would being gay mean that you couldn't do a certain job as well as a straight person? Does it mean that you deserve to be denied rights that other citizens have? We at the Register say no.



GRAPHICS BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

Young people today make their mark in a different way



PHOTOGRAPHS BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER AND STEPHANIE PAUL/REGISTER

One day this year in my homeroom, my friend and I started to talk about the size-four gauges that she wears and how big she wanted to go with them. Soon after, my teacher got into the conversation and decided to voice her opinion.

My teacher, we'll call her Ms. Homeroom, began to offer us her opinion. She said that she sees gauges as unimportant, and piercing should not be in the body at all. But while she was saying this I noticed the very dangly earrings she was wearing, which seemed hypocritical to me.

As she continued her rant on piercings, she also stated that face piercings are the worst offense. My friend, with the stretched ears and cartilage piercings, attitude slowly changed as Ms. Homeroom's opinions were made.

Eventually my teacher began in with the "when I was in high school," noting all her peers who had similar piercings to nowadays. All I could think about was how young she was; she seems younger than 30 and not a day over 25. When I considered her age, the thought, 'shouldn't she agree with us on body modi-

fications?' also sprung into my head. Although I personally don't like the phrase "body modifications," piercings are not modifications if they're what the person wants or believes in.

I brought up the fact that after my generation grows to the adult age, piercings and gauges will be socially acceptable. After I said that, I decided that I was through talking about this topic with Ms. Homeroom. I would have assumed she'd take a clue when I turned to my friend and started talking about a band we both liked. I noted how I thought the lead singer's tattoos were adorable; as soon as that came out of my mouth Ms. Homeroom piped in again. Apparently tattoos can't be "adorable," they only can be "hot" and "sexy." Okay, I have to say that they can be hot, but they have to suit the person wearing them, same goes

for piercings.

Her opinion angered me even more, so I stated how tattoos can be cute to some extent depending on placement, my friend in agreement. Ms. Homeroom eased up with her opinion, claiming tattoos are better than piercings, but still pointless. Tattoos, no matter on who, should have a more significant meaning behind



I HAVE A QUESTION
A Column by STEPHANIE PAUL

Homework on weekend a recipe for failure



MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY
A Column by JENNIFER ROONEY

It's Friday evening and I throw my backpack in my room, change my clothes, and grab my keys, ready to head out the door to do something exciting, a nice change of pace to my daily school week. Soon enough it's Sunday, and what have I not even started? My homework.

All weekend I have either gone to work, done something school-related like a basketball game or concert, helped my family with something ridiculous or gone to someone's house for a few hours. Nothing really productive.

But Friday all of my teachers had given me buckets of homework, including projects, research papers, reading assignments, math homework (that I never understand) and a test I have to study for: all due on a Monday.

Sunday night after I get home late from work, I am not going to remember these things and I am not going to have the motivation to get all of this done in a little amount of time.

Why do most teachers always give students so much homework on a Friday night with the annual "You guys have all weekend to get this done" statement? And we, the students, always ask "Do teachers plan this out together to ruin our weekend or something?"

The weekend is for us to get away from school for two days because we've gotten pretty annoyed with it for the past five days, due to stress from other classmates, large quantities of homework and teachers that never make sense.

Now don't take all of your teachers for granted. Some of them understand that our weekend is for catching up with things and working to pay for more things for school because some of us don't get everything handed to us. And some of them also understand that we do have a life outside of school.

Yet most students do not realize this about teachers either, which is why some of them hide from them if they ever see them in a public place. Some of them have a life as well.

We get enough of school during the week, and sometimes even in the weekend (for example a morning that we have to take the ACT or SAT). We do not want more things piled up on top of us.

Yes, we did get ourselves into these things. We signed up for all of the classes and applied for our jobs and decided to do extra-curricular activities, including sports or clubs, and decided to run our life this way. The thing is that sometimes we get a little stressed out because of what we have made our obligations. We need a break from some of them at times.

What's even worse is what standard based grading has done to us too. Admit it, we all dislike it and wish for the regular 0 - 100% grading scale back. This creates more stress for us too because it's even harder to get an actual level five over the top work.

Some people just have no idea of how much we high school students actually do and accomplish. Some of us actually have way busier lives than most people.

Most of our schedules are to wake up early, go to school, do after-school extra-curricular items, go to work, then finally get home late and not be able to finish all of our homework. Why? Because by that time we're so tired and don't have the motivation to even take our assignments out of our backpacks.

And you know what? The next day we do it all over again.

So the weekend, to us, is heaven just for a few days. We still have stress compressing us down and worries flying through our head though. So at times we need people to cut us some slack and not throw everything at us at once, intended for us to get done in a small amount of time.

Granted, we still get it done, but it's either not our best work, we cancelled something in our schedule to get it done or we stressed out about it all weekend and cut corners to finish.

So sometimes the students, including myself, need a little break and don't want a tremendous amount of homework thrown at us during a weekend filled with many other things to get done, whether school related or not. So, please, let us finally get some sleep and relaxation time.

A good idea for teachers could be not to have only a few days to get a whole research paper accomplished.

We have many other classes and many other out-of-school responsibilities to get done as well. Now, I'm not complaining; I'm stating that some teachers should not fire so many assignments at once.

The weekend will then be a time to catch up on other responsibilities and our own-out-of-school life.

Try stepping into our shoes and see what we really go through, or at least remember what being a full-schedule teenager was like.

TRUANCY LAW TURNS LAZY INTO CRIMINAL



CARTOON BY DUNCAN REED/CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

LB 800, a law approved by the Governor in April 13, 2010, has brought out the worst in parents, students, administrators, and county attorneys in Neb.

This law states that any student who misses twenty or more days, excused or unexcused, must be reported to the county attorney. Rather than letting the schools deal with the students, the truancy cases must become a legal problem.

Many believe that this law is a tad excessive. Yes, something needs to be done about the excessive absenteeism in schools, but LB800 is taking it to the extreme.

Students with serious ailments who need time away from school are not excused from punishment. Already, thousands of Nebraska students have been reported to their county courthouse for discipline.

Pooling truant and troubled kids together with students with valid reasons for missing school is not acceptable. A child sick with cancer shouldn't become a "problem student" in the eyes of the government for missing twenty or more days of school.

This new law is not only inaccurate in who is to be reprimanded, but it is also a waste of tax dollar money. To bring each truant child to court in order to determine if they are in danger of missing out on education is basically throwing away money.

Truant students should be reviewed by their school administrators before shipped into the legal department. Taking each case of "truancy" to the legal system is a big waste of time and money; not to mention, these students would most likely have to miss school to attend their court hearing anyways.

Recently, a bill was created to help shift the responsibility of the truant kids back from the legal department to the school administrators. Despite

support from parents, students, senators, and teachers statewide, the bill was rejected.

A good portion of these truant students are probably not even "trouble makers". Plenty of Central students miss over 20 days of school for things such as family events, illness, personal health, and many other reasons.

These "truant" students should not be grouped together with the actual problem students. Sending these cases to court could scar these students in the long run; court hearings and legal issues such as truancy stay on student records.

With Standards Based Grading, all minutes tardy accumulated by a student are added up towards a full absence. This policy has been put into effect in attempt to reduce excessive tardiness.

LB800 allows for too much intrusion into family and personal life. After a student misses a certain number of days, a warning letter is sent home.

Sometimes, students just need to miss a day of school. It shouldn't become a huge hassle every time an absence occurs.

The truancy problem in Neb. should be addressed more by the school administration and family. Bringing the legal system into it is a huge unnecessary hassle.

The court system should be reserved for actual problem students. Students who have declining grades as a result of their truancy should be the ones referred to the court, not the students who miss school for vacations or family issues.

Neb. citizens continue to protest and oppose LB 800, though no significant changes have been made yet.

Though truancy has become an issue in Neb., LB 800 is a tad harsh. Money and time are being carelessly wasted, yet not much improvement has been made. The law needs to be tailored and customized more in order to actually benefit truant students' education.

EDITORIAL

The OPINION of the Register Staff

Kickbacks from free and reduced lunch fair, or unfair advantage?

PRO The program helps families who can't afford the expenses of high school.

Times are hard for families in the current economy. It's even harder for parents and, subsequently, high school students. Financial problems within families only get bigger while having to pay for extra expenses inside and outside of school. There are programs through the federal meal program that are there to help families in need to alleviate the worries about having to pay for lunch: but along with free lunch comes other great accessories.

You might be wondering how does getting free lunch or reduced lunch associate itself with getting a free voucher for taking a test or college related stuff. It's a method of helping the less fortunate become fortunate and to be able to have the choice of college. Also, because the only meal a student receives during the day is school lunch

How Does it Help?

Free or reduced lunch has been offered in OPS since 1994, and numbers have increased since then. Free lunch is offered to 48% of students, while 10% receive reduced lunch. 71.5% of students categorized by race in OPS this school year receive free or reduced lunch. The program has a great amount of amenities to go along with being a part of this program.

For an example: John's parents make an estimated amount of \$27,000 annually. That might seem like a lot, but with five kids John's parents are struggling. Free lunch comes in handy for his family; with all of those kids going to school, lunch money can add up and be used for other things.

Let's say John is junior in high school. If he didn't have free lunch his parents would have to pay for him to take the ACT or SAT along with test prep, but since he has the program under his belt, the cost for the test to be taken twice will be covered.

He also doesn't have to worry about paying a large amount of money for transcripts as he applies for colleges.

What is also great about free or reduced lunch: big field trips don't cost as much and financial aid will most likely be awarded.

How to Apply and Qualify

Free or reduced lunch isn't offered to everyone, but you don't have to be poor to qualify. Your parents simply have to be earning a certain amount of income and be caring for a varied amount of children in your household. If you have one child enrolled in school, you must make \$14,157 annually (at the most).

If your family has five children in the home and all are enrolled in school, the parent must make less than \$34,000 annually. Also, at the beginning of the school year parents must fill out information on the application to give back to the school. If this form is not completed at the right time it can take a lot of extra work to try to get into the program.

Why Free or Reduced Lunch is a Great Opportunity

Although many people don't know this, there are more scholarships available for people who have free or reduced lunch. It might not seem fair to someone who doesn't qualify, but it gives students a chance to get somewhere positive in life. Free or reduced lunch might seem illegitimate to some, but it has been the biggest blessings to struggling families.



CARTOON BY DUNCAN REED/CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

CON Free and Reduced Lunch a good program, but should be modified.

Even though in today's economy money is tight for parents, students, teachers, etc. there are other possible ways to ensure financial stability involved in school programs today. Free or reduced lunch is one of them, however it should be modified and broadened within the salary limits, as well as limiting the products on the list of the program.

What is free or reduced lunch?

The National School Lunch Program is a federally assisted meal program operating in public and nonprofit private schools and residential child care institutions. It was designed to provide nutritionally balanced, low-cost or free lunches to children each school day. The program was established under the National School Lunch Act, signed by President Harry Truman in 1946.

How many people get free and reduced lunch?

For the 2011-12 school year at Central High School, 48% of students get free lunch, while 10% get reduced. Since 2001-02 school year, free or reduced lunch student population has increased from 49.6-71.5%. If your family has one child enrolled in public school, your parents must make at the most \$14,157 annually. If your family has five children in the home and enrolled in the public school, the parent must make no more than \$34,000 annually.

What are the benefits with Free or Reduced Lunch?

When being eligible for free or reduced lunch, students get a plethora of deals. Not only is lunch a smaller wage than usual, but school field trips, ACT or SAT testing, and much more eligibility for scholarships and financial aid are rewarded.

Why should Free or Reduced Lunch be modified?

A deal for lunch is a phenomenal idea because food is a necessity, and some families truly cannot afford to pay for their children's meal. The other parts in the plan however, should not be included, or at least to an extent. School field trips, for example should not be on the list of things being downsized in price. These activities are a privilege, and are not required. Why should certain students get a discount on going to see a museum while others do not? Just because one student's parents are married and have full time jobs, while another's does not should not make or break their ability to see the exhibit.

What about taking the ACT two times for free? Why is it okay for a high school junior or senior who, on average, takes a full schedule, after school activities, and works one to two jobs on top of that must pay \$50 each time taking the ACT as well as test prep, which is on average an additional \$150?

Not to mention, school sponsored competitions. When enrolling in the scholastics art competition, a fee of five dollars is due to each piece of work submitted. If submitting a portfolio, a fee of \$15 is due. Students on free or reduced lunch are not asked to pay.

There are other examples within the things included with Free or Reduced Lunch, and the list could go on. The program should still exist, however should be modified for not just parents, but students who pay for things included within the program, or modified to raise the limit on income for family salaries.

STANDARDS BASED GRADING

THE VOICE OF CENTRAL STUDENTS

WRITTEN BY TABITHA PANAS, THE REGISTER

Here at Central, Dr. Bigsby is pretty clear about the expectations, however, the system in which students are graded is not.

When I go into my first class of the day, kids are already loud and obnoxious. Although it is not even 8 am yet, students are play fighting, yelling across the room, and not even beginning to open their backpacks to begin learning. Despite the disgruntled atmosphere, most students in the class have a good grade, myself included. I had an A first semester without ever turning in one homework assignment. Occasionally I wonder how I earned an A with such little effort. Did the teacher follow the rubric correctly? Maybe I just earned a lot of Life Skills points (however that works).

My very next class of the day is quite different. It is an honors class and the teacher openly states that she does not follow all of the parts of standards based grading. Her system is a combination of standards based grading and her own way of grading with specifics that I will never remember when I need to. On the very first day, it was announced that home work is always a part of our grade in this class and that turning in work late greatly decreases the value of the assignment. This class is a challenging subject for me as it is and with the strict grading it becomes even more difficult for me and while this teacher does not follow the policies that would help me, she does follow the policies that hurt me. For example, the level fives on tests are very difficult. It is material that we haven't quite touched on in class, or material that we have to make distant connections to to understand.

The past couple years have been strange going from class to class. It seems like every teacher picks and chooses ideas or concepts from the grading system to follow and then throws the rest out. You never know how your grade is going to turn out until you receive your first report card. You might be nervous for your grade in one class because you haven't turned in any work and then find out you have an A. On the other hand, you might feel completely confident in a subject to find out that you have a C.

So how does Standards Based Grading help students? It doesn't. It is just confusing to the student population and gives all of the power to teachers. They can choose to grade as strictly as they want if they dislike a student or grade very leniently as well. How could this possibly benefit students? Knowing what is expected of you is key to success and getting good grades. Many will say that the Standards based grading system is more consistent and precise than in previous years, but it is just the opposite. How could being graded on a scale of one to five be more precise than a percentage system.

Lets say you take 50 question test, and you miss five questions. It makes sense that you have a 90 percent on the test, which was always a B in the old grading system. You can't get more precise or consistent than that. The new grading system is like judging the olympics. You jump through some hoops and then the teachers all hold up different random numbers. Its all opinion.

Another reason that this system was implemented was because too many students were passing high school without enough education or skill, which is a serious problem. However, this new system is passing more students than in previous years, meaning it had to have saved some students who would have otherwise failed.

This doesn't benefit students in the long run. It has kept a lot of students from failing, but is that a good thing? Students should not pass a class simply from writing their name on the paper.

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If that is all that is required to pass high school, than a high school diploma means nothing. This also is bad for the community. If public schools are just going to pump students through this system more smoothly and use this grading system to help them do so, then students are going to come out rough. Students who normally would have failed high school and had to take extra classes to catch up will now just slide into the workforce uneducated and unprepared. This system is going to fail a lot of students later in life by not failing them now.

If they really want students to make real-life, above and beyond (level 5) connections, then we should have a real-life grading system, not a made up scale of one to five evaluation of our performance. In college, students are graded based on percentages and not given points for writing his or her name. This is going to come as a shock and a major set back to students when they find themselves in college, where doing work outside of class counts.

Many students are going to graduate on time in May with no help from the grading system. Many students in the graduating class of 2012 had almost straight A's their freshman and sophomore years. When the grading system was implemented their Junior year, it affected these students grades drastically. They could hardly attain any A's due to the unfeasible requirements for level 5 work, and their GPAs dropped. Many of these students had always been a hard workers and had counted on all of the homework they did to give their grade the extra boost up to an A. However, with homework no longer counting, they struggled.

Even still, many Central students got used to the grading system and the mind set that this grading system has given me as well. Luckily, most parents don't freak out when their students get C's because there has been a lot more of those on student's report cards. Good thing late work doesn't count because students don't ever turn in assignments on time anymore, but It's okay.

We are no longer held accountable for not doing homework, so we have more free time after school, which is always nice.

Is this a good thing? Students have become lazy these past two years and are only getting lazier. Central students are hard workers but when presented with the opportunity to be lazy by being told that the homework they do does not count, they will be lazy (like any normal person would, right?) However, I know that many still possess the capability to kick it into gear and work night and day for their grades, but at the same time, I'm not sure exactly how many. A lot of students have grow tired and work a lot less. Will they be able to get out of the habits of procrastination when they get to college?

And what about the Freshman and Sophomore classes? They will have had this lackadaisical grading system for their whole high school career. Those years were the years that solid study habits are developed. Without those building years, there would be no way I could handle going to school, working two jobs, and tutoring students in Algebra all on top of the amount of studying I have. Is this new grading system going to teach the underclassmen the same time-management skills that are so crucial or will they just be hopelessly lost when they get to the real world?

There is no way to be sure this early. We will just have to wait a couple of years and see how students perform in the real world after they graduate. However, then it will be a little late, won't it?

THE VOICE OF THE ADMINISTRATION

WRITTEN BY GAIL FORMINACK, TAC

Over ten years ago, educational researcher Robert Marzano said that the rationale for changing grading practices is that "grades are so imprecise that they are almost meaningless."

OPS administrators and teachers began studying grading practices several years ago and recognized that lack of consistency among teachers resulted in differing expectations and huge variations in grades.

After considerable professional development and discussion, it was decided to eliminate the traditional 100 point scale and replace it with a proficiency scale in which the levels of learning are more clearly defined.

The scales were developed by teachers based upon a scale designed by Marzano. By defining the depth and complexity expected to reach proficient and advanced levels of performance, expectations have become more standardized.

Students are now asked to demonstrate more complex thinking and apply what was learned to the real world, which better prepares them for life after high school. Unfortunately, a misconception developed that Advanced level (5) was "above and beyond" and never taught in class.

Clarification has been provided to teachers to help everyone understand that Advanced performance includes in-depth inferences and extended applications of what was learned, including making connections to real-life experiences or other information that may not have been discussed in the classroom.

Teachers are expected to provide opportunities for students to practice that type of higher level thinking before any final assessment is given.

Some people say that it is more difficult to get an A than in the past, and an analysis of course grades shows there have been fewer As earned since implementing these changes in the fall of 2009.

Earning an A in today's system requires students to do more than recall basic level information successfully.

Standards-based grading helps students more accurately assess their level of college preparedness. The grade inflation of the past resulted in some students being accepted to college without the skills needed to be successful in post-secondary coursework.

One reason grades often became inflated is that a wide variety of factors unrelated to student performance (effort, behavior, attitude, unrelated extra credit) were frequently counted in the grade.

Students concerned about lower GPAs need to continue to challenge themselves to reach the higher levels of performance. They need to put in the effort to complete all work (graded or not)

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and to revise and redo assignments while utilizing the feedback of the teacher.

Standards-based grading also addresses practices that lead to high failure rates, such as the disproportionate weight of receiving a zero in the 100 point scale, and punishments for late or missing work that prompted many students to give up.

By changing these practices, the district committee expected to see fewer students fail and more become successful in the learning process. Failure rates did drop during the first year of implementation, but feedback from teachers indicated that there were problems with the lower end of the proficiency and grading scales.

A slight adjustment was made to the grading scale this year to better ensure that students who pass a course have demonstrated at least partial knowledge.

This allowed teachers one more year to implement the new grading and assessment practices before changing both the proficiency and grading scales for 2012-13.

As is typical with any major change, not all has gone smoothly; however, the district committee is committed to continue monitoring implementation so adjustments can be made and clarifications provided.

Another major misconception is that "homework doesn't count in your grade."

Teachers have been asked to categorize coursework, including that done at home, by its purpose.

Assignments that are designed to assess a student's understanding at all levels on the proficiency scale can count in the grade.

Examples are quizzes, tests, projects, essays, journals etc., some of which may be expected to be completed outside of class. Teachers are still encouraged to assign practice work if students need it, however many of those tasks are only at the Basic (3) level and are not to be counted in the grade.

When those tasks are critical for students to reach high levels of learning, teachers are asked to have students chart and monitor their progress on the learning goal so students see the importance of work completion and associate it with their ability to do better on the assessments that do count.

Students will be more successful in a college environment if they already know the importance of preparation to their learning.

All standards-based grading changes were made to increase the quality and rigor of instruction and assessment in order to better prepare OPS students for success following high school.

Facebook creates another beauty standard, unhealthy

Three hours of Facebook here, two hours of Twitter there and another few hours spent mindlessly surfing the web, trafficking a plethora of sites. As we dedicate hours of our daily lives to social networking sites in this ever-changing technology world, copious amounts of comparisons and "not good enough's" are surfacing through our minds, whether we notice it or not.

Amanda Coleman decided to stop the impeding stress and comparisons that she watched snowball over time from social networking sites by deleting her Facebook. Coleman is a college student and president of her sorority, and noticed a similar trend in comparison after communicating with her underclassmen.

Coleman began to realize that she was often times giving advice or counseling freshmen on their insecurities, crying, stressed out...the common link? Social networking sites,

namely Facebook. She began to see that as girls sat and lavished time and energy over pictures of peers that were "beautiful", eventually beginning to wallow in a hole of self-pity, insecurity and the endless game of comparison.

The definition of beauty is a continually narrowing view, beginning many, many years back. Billboards, magazines, among plenty of other media outlets were stationed around cities for people to envy, but with the upbringing of Facebook and its fellow social networking sites, we are engulfing and drowning ourselves in images of "beauty."

Whether one admits it or not, hours get lost more easily than turning your clock back, when spent on Facebook, and while sitting there, almost every girl begins to compare her face, body and clothing to her friends or her friend's friends. With the simple click of a link a gorgeous girl can flash on your screen, even your timeline might be full

of a tan, fit chicks in bikinis on their summer vacations. These images, among others, are the ones that Coleman noticed began tunneling her peers self-esteem and views on themselves.

From "thinspiration" (or thinspo) blogs that are pro-anorexia and pro-bulimia to everyday basic log-ons of Facebook, we are surrounded by people that we dub "prettier" or "better" than ourselves. There is no set definition on what one's self worth or self-image should be that is "right", but a mere man-made ideal of what that should be, a monster we have built-up.

The more time we waste harboring feelings of self-consciousness and pouring over pictures of girls and guys that we want to strive to be more like, we begin to lose ourselves in the process. Social networking in itself is a waste of time, doing nothing more than connecting you with people, many that you see in person on a daily basis. But to begin developing feelings of sub-par appearance and a lack of self-confidence because of it is the ruin of mankind's ability of self-acceptance.

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Popularity: A pointless, man-made sense of existence

The elementary and middle school years of my life I engulfed myself in 'High School Musical' and a series of other Disney Channel-esque shows, alongside songs that created this cliché idea of what high school was.

Through these digital images flashing in and through my head I created this dreamy image that high school was all about dating, style and most of all: popularity.

Flash forward to eighth grade me, feeling ready to conquer the world and, as pathetic as it sounds, be popular. The word lingered over my head, intimidating and scary, but full of hope.

In elementary school, no matter how much my parents deny it, I was the awkward, four-eyed, tad-bit-chubby Asian who was in those "challenge" classes with only one friend (and we pretended to be dogs during recess). I felt ready to take on the "popularity" contest and beat it out, ten-fold.

Enter my freshman year, where I was disappointed to find out that my future didn't hold much "popularity" in it.

Through my freshman and sophomore years I tried really hard to fit in, to be appealing both aesthetically and characteristically.



THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT
A Column by MEKENZIE KERR

It was a task to imagine myself in the place of the girl who guys make eyes at, or the smartest student of my class, or the one who is recognized for doing Good Samaritan deeds; it was quite the bummer to figure out that I'd never be on the top of any of those scales, among many others.

As I've dove deeper into my high school career, I've come to realize that the whole ideal of "popularity" is completely and utterly man-made, different from group to group and almost nonexistent.

It was brought to my attention during a discussion with a close friend about how myriads of people flocked to a student here, and how everyone loved him. The reply was, "I don't know who that is!" which slowly evolved into an eye-opening moment for me as insight into the realm of "popularity."

Groups of friends exist all around the halls of Central High School. No matter how you choose to categorize them, who may be "popular" to them may be the unheard-of person to another flock.

Simply because you are idolized in one group doesn't mean everyone knows who you are; you may just be an average stranger in the hall to the next guy passing you by. If you feel

like that random stranger in the hall to most people, you may very well be the celebrity of another.

Among many other celebrated television sitcoms and Hollywood productions, High School Musical portrays the popular people as either the smart do-gooders or the hotties who could land any stud they wanted, two semi-conflicting ideas in reality. While some movies claim the fame to the smart-do-gooders, others consider them the "nerds," and the hotties the "risqué crowd."

The lights and make-up only create a façade of what popularity is and how you get there.

Just as things differ from social clique to social clique, the aspects of what makes you popular differ as well.

Who's to say?

Popularity is, at best, nonexistent because the forms of it are so widespread - from place to person to group - making it an untangibly difficult substance, one that doesn't seem to have a pinned-down meaning. But that, at least for myself, proves to be enlightening news.

As much as I struggle with admitting it, I'm influenced by my surroundings and who I'm with, and while trying to find more of my independent taste minus the popularity, it's a relief to know that popularity never has to be a factor, because who really cares?

WiFi introduced to Central, becomes technological investment

“Central is nothing less than the best,” said Dr. Keith Bigsby, our principal who is known for these types of statements. But this time what might he be talking about? Desiring to have a better learning environment for students with this decade’s technology, he’s chosen to accomplish this with the production of WiFi.

As you may know, there is WiFi right now on the second and third floor in the building. We can thank the CHS Foundation for their contribution of this gift, as well as donors like Central alumni, or just people who would like to contribute to making Central a better place to learn.

The administration wanted to wait until next year to put WiFi into the whole CHS campus, but instead had a better idea. Right now the development of the WiFi is still in progress. Because of the state testing that had to be done online, they did not want to wait for months for a project to begin. There was also reluctance with the idea that a reoccurrence of what happened last year (the library had to be shut down for about a whole month) could happen again. That was unacceptable.

“Something’s got to change,” said Bigsby.

So changes began. The second and third floors were chosen to establish the WiFi because that was where the state testing would be done. There will be four days of serious stressful testing too, which makes having the WiFi even more important to all the students, even if they don’t realize it. The library and computer labs are also located on this floor, which makes the whole program even better.

Phase one was just to help all us students with the state testing. And after these tests, it will be checked off and completed. This WiFi really is helping all of the students more than hurting anybody. There’s a better way to get education just by a little

sprout in technology.

After phase one is completed, which will probably take up the rest of this school year, the school will then have WiFi on all floors, including the stadium and basketball court. So wherever you are on the campus, you may access the internet with just a few simple clicks. We are hoping to get this accomplished by next school year.

People were also convinced that the WiFi would not be blocked. Come on, of course it will be. It wouldn’t be the “school’s” wireless connection if it wasn’t. Of course it wouldn’t be 4G network either; even though it won’t be, this will still affect many students in the long run.

Now if your own phone has its own internet access, that’s fine too. Central is trying to find a way to get around phone’s viruses because each phone has its own virus which may affect another piece of technology. Right now Central’s WiFi would not recognize that internet access though, so no worries.

How did all of this happen, and where did this idea begin to come together? Well, first there was a complication of all of the wires that were needed to be put into these classrooms, other than the library and computer labs (because we of course could not put wires in the classrooms).

The trick was to do all of the state testing on the fourth floor, where the landline computers are. After that was accomplished, the computers were to be moved down to the third floor for the testing.

But how would that be done with all of the older computers that would get stressed out over being gathered up and carried down a flight of stairs and around the building? The idea led to laptops.

Getting all of this advanced technology first started with the



The Voice of the Eagles

The Staff of *The Register* understands the opinion of the student and staff body, and are glad to hear their voice as well as share it with our readers.

Response to Roadshow editorial

Dear Editor,

The Road Show is the tradition at Central High School not the acts that are chosen. This year 54 acts tried out for the 98th Annual Road Show. Unfortunately some acts did not make the show. The Road Show has been able to exist for years due to the integrity of the process. The process includes a student attending an informational meeting, completing the audition guidelines contract, and filling out the application form. Upon the verification of the student’s contract and application form, the student is then assigned a tryout date and time.

During the informational meeting, all students are told that the act should be performance ready. Performance ready simply means that if the act is chosen it is ready to be performed immediately. The directors only have to stage the act. During the staging process, the director’s plan how an act is brought on and off the stage and also plan the technical requirements needed for each act during the production.

This year and in previous years, the Road Show directors sought staff and student judges through circular announcements. This year there were 24 judges that were chosen to score the acts for the three days designated for tryouts. On the day of the student’s tryout, judges are given a rubric system developed from standards based grading. Judges are also told not to applaud or to make comments about the act during or following the tryouts. After each tryout day, the judge’s ballots are collected. At the end of all tryouts, the directors tally the judge’s ballots and they look at the scores of the acts from the previous days. The directors select the acts with the top percentages, and they design a show around those performances, carefully considering the desired length of the show.

The article in the January 6, 2012 edition of *The Register* was an unfair attack on one director or the Performing Arts Department. The reality is that one judge or six judges cannot stop an act from making the Road Show. Central prides itself as an institution that celebrates diversity. The Road Show celebrates the diversity of talent that exists and that has existed at Central High School for 98 years. It is unfortunate that the true essence of the Road Show was compromised due to an act not being selected. I am saddened that anybody would think that they were deserving of a spot regardless of the judging process. In the future, I would hope that a student would ask me about the process before making ill-informed assumptions. Life is about celebrations and disappointments. The Road Show was a celebration. The criticism was a disappointment.

E. Dionne Kirksey, Assistant Principal of Activities

Reader feels that Roadshow editorial left unbalanced

Dear Editor,

I did read *The Register* and was impressed with the professionalism of the writing and the wide variety of subjects covered. I did feel that the article on the drama Department regarding the Road show was a little unbalanced. (“Roadshow act staple missing from C-Factor”). There could have been some comments from students who thought cutting the act was ok. The article made it seem very personal and somewhat vindictive.

John Hruska, Central Staff Member

Register looks better, editorial communicates real problem

Dear Editor,

I think the newspaper is awesome and it’s evident that you all have spent much time and effort on it and that time and effort is showing in a great way. My favorite article was the one en-

titled “Senior photo controversy surfaces issues of tact, morals” published in the February 10th issue. It really addressed the fact that teenage girls our age are way too dependent on becoming the “ideal american girl” or being accepted into society’s norm instead of just being themselves. So keep up the good work with the CHS newspaper and don’t forget about the Step Team!

Jameka Montgomery

Reader loves topics covered in The Register, enjoyed reading

Dear Editor,

I honestly love the newspaper, I enjoy the different topics! You guys did an amazing job! I don’t like to read at all but I love reading the different stories in your newspaper. I enjoyed reading the articles, “Senior photo controversy surfaces issues of tact, morals” and “Administration keeps a close eye on seniors.” I really liked those two, but most importantly the topics were interesting. This is the first time that I enjoyed reading the newspaper. When I think of a newspaper, I think of boring, but this one is awesome!

Kimberly Rivera

Gold Slugs info brought to light

Dear Editor,

The article written about Gold Slugs by Mckenzie Kerr is one of my favorites. I have recently been hearing about this upcoming local brand and was eager to learn more. Not knowing who they were or where to find them, I was left wondering, but when I read this article, I was pleased to learn more about them. I will try to find them on Twitter. These three individuals are taking action in what they want to do by making shirts and designing other product which is exciting for me, since I am in the same mind set.

Jesus Salazar

Reader agrees with opinion stated in Senior Photo editorial

Dear Editor,

I agree with the editorial 100 percent! It amazes me how some people choose to express themselves, especially in a school setting. Having a student come to school with photos like that is just doing too much. As a mother, she should not encourage this type of behavior from her daughter. If the mother really wanted to support her daughter, do it in a more professional setting. If those photos were allowed in their school newspaper or yearbook, then she not only would have set a name for herself, but for the other students as well.

Whether she meant it that way or not, I think it was a good move to not let her publish the photos. Some people need to know when to stop when they hit the limit. I think that putting articles like this in the newspaper is a good idea. And you did a good job talking about how you agreed, as well as disagreed. Keep up the good work!

Danielle Wallace

SMART boards. Unfortunately some teachers still don’t know how to operate them at times. You will usually see the students helping these teachers out on this one. But what they are really doing is learning from today’s generation of tomorrow’s future. It’s just a learning environment to all, both students and teachers.

Our main goal now is “building our infrastructure for our next wave of education,” as Bigsby said, “We have to go this way.”

This will be happening and still growing for the next 20 years, even after each and every student in this school is long gone. It has become a 20-year investment.

The overall key is to let students have things like Droids in a classroom so that they are able to discover any sort of research in order to accomplish that A in class. We don’t want iPads though, because those are way too expensive and if one is damaged or lost it will cost over \$100 to access another one.

In years the phone policy will most likely not be a part of the handbook anymore because students will be able to use their electronic devices in educational ways. Education is going this way. “It’s the key to the whole game,” said Bigsby.

Right now some other schools that have overall WiFi are Elkhorn South and Westside. Nobody has complete wireless internet connection though. Millard schools soon won’t be able to compare with what we have.

People may think that this WiFi was a careless and crummy decision because they assume students will get distracted playing around with social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter.

The jist of the wifi situation is to bring the new generation of technology to tomorrow’s education.

Students will be able to gather information in a sufficient and positive way, step-by-step until they go pursue their education journey further and as technological advancements ensue.

Gold Slugs founder finds the story a positive form of attention

Dear Editor and Staff of the Register,

I would like to say that I am greatly pleased with my article about the clothing line, Gold Slugs. I speak for my fellow business partners when I say that it was greatly appreciated for you to actually take the time and be interested in our rising success.

I would really like to give a shout out to Mckenzie Kerr doing the interview and buying a shirt. We can not stress enough how great the social network has done in promoting our line and increasing our popularity outside word-of-mouth.

Overall, it’s all about what we like to do and wear.

Thank you!

Shaq Jones

Reader thinks students should appreciate Smoker’s Corner

Dear Editor,

The newspaper was a great outcome of all your hard work! I think the way you guys organized it was amazing! The article that stood out the most to me was “Smokers corner leaves student questioning.” You know you’re from Central when...

My personal opinion is that moving it across the street is out of respect. Of course Joslyn wouldn’t want their property being trashed. Who would? The Central students should still appreciate the fact that they’re allowed to smoke anywhere around the school. Most schools don’t even have that opportunity.

But the meaning of the article is true...

You know you’re from Central when... you know exactly where smoker’s corner is.

Jasmine Burns

Fan of Gold Slugs appreciates article about his favorite brand

Dear Editor,

I like the fact that we have students doing something good and what they like doing. I have seen some of the designs and I wear them myself! The only thing I would have suggested for the article would have been to ask student what they thought about the clothing. I know a lot of people like it and they do sell out a lot.

Phoenix McGinn

Junior appreciates IB article

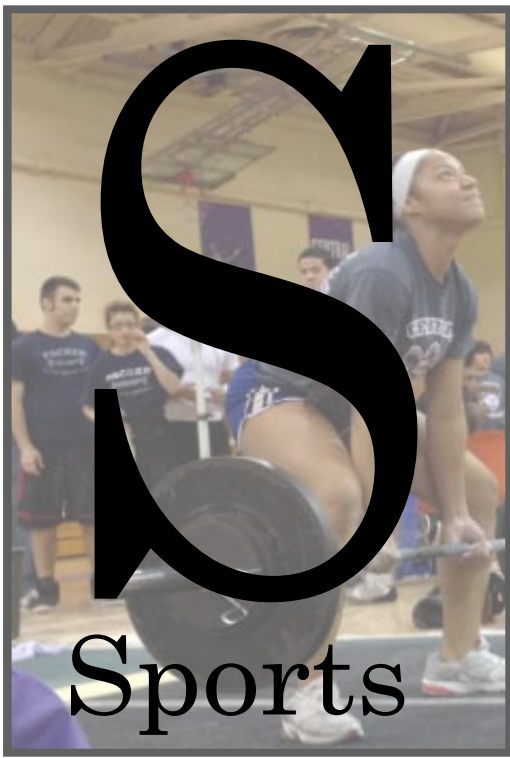
Dear Editor,

I enjoyed reading and appreciated the information in your last issue regarding the IB Diploma Program. Having both the story and editorial pieces helped me understand more about International Baccalaureate and how other students, both in IB and the graduating classes ahead, feel about the implementation of this prestigious degree. Like several of my peers, I had heard about the IB program time and again, but was unclear on how this plan would affect me as a 2013 graduate. I am glad the *Register* staff went so in-depth on this topic so that everyone could have a better understanding of the upcoming changes.


Henry Gentle

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR WANTED

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



STUDENTS BALANCING FATHERS DOUBLING AS COACHES



How do students and coaches balance family relationships and professional relationships?

SPORTS, PAGE 19

SPRING BRINGS WARM WEATHER, AND CHANGES TO CENTRAL SPORTS

Central Eagles represent at State
Keygan Foster and Ronald Wells take the opportunity to shine.

Froemming finishes season following the Tradition of Excellence
Takes home two awards from state.

Golf season starts, anticipating good future for the remainder of year
Team hopes to make it to State.

SPORTS, PAGE 17

NOT TURNING HER BACK ON THE GAME

Senior Anesa Gilreath fights her way through Degenerative Disk Disease to pursue her love of softball.



SPORTS, PAGE 17

Monday, March 26, 2012 Omaha Central High School Vol. 125 Issue 4



Going for the Win: Central Boys and Girls Win Nebraska State Championships

And *The Register* was there for the entire thing. Check out our photos and sports coverage of the important games on the inside pages!

SPORTS, PAGE 18-19

SHARING THE WIN

For the *third time in three years*, boys take the State Championship Title, and for the *first time since the 1960s*, they get to share their joy with the Lady Eagles. Both Boys and Girls Central Basketball teams are Nebraska State Champions.



PHOTO BY DUNCAN REED, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST



PHOTO BY DUNCAN REED, CONTRIBUTING ARTIST

■ 'CHAMPION' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

School. Between vigorous practices, copious amounts of drills and the edification from friends and family, both Eagle teams, hungry and ready, are now beyond satisfied with the legacy and state titles they have managed to corral.

Girls State Basketball Game, March 3rd, Written by Jennifer Rooney

"CENTRAL!!! EAGLES!!!" The Varsity Girls Basketball team won the State Championship game against Lincoln Southeast on March 3rd at the Bob Devaney Sports Center, with a final score of 36 to 35.

The Central girls basketball team has not won a State Championship since 1984, making this year go down in history for each and every one of the players. The seniors on the team were Emily Gamble, Koi Bradley, Mercedes Bender, Briana Rollerson, Jazmine Polk and T'Keyah Stapleton. The juniors were Sylvia Smith-Gatson, Sydney McGruder, Paige Muhammad, and LaNa'e Washington-Carson. The only sophomore was Abigail Niebrugge. And the three freshmen were Megan Gamble, Elexis Martinez and Jackie Beaugard.

"It's history for these young ladies," said Thomas Lee, Head Coach. "It's something everyone will remember. I'm happy to accomplish what we did. I'm very proud of them."

The first game was on March 1st, against the Fremont Tigers. Even though the student section was pretty quiet, the Tigers did not stand a chance against the Lady Eagles.

Within the first 30 seconds, Central had gotten the first basket from Smith-Gatson, making it a perfect start to the game. The first timeout was also on Central at 5:35 in the first quarter.

Fremont may have looked like a smaller or faster team, but they couldn't stand a chance. At the end of the first quarter Central was up 13-12.

After halftime Central was still winning with a score of 26-23. Throughout the game the Lady Eagles showed great footwork driving the ball down the court. For example, Smith-Gatson would make the other team "tap dance" because she would fake so many times.

After the third quarter the Eagles were still leading 43-35. At this point, most of us knew it was their game. Toward the end of the game, Coach Lee decided to put in more of the underclass-

men; everyone got a chance to play.

"The game was over, so it was time to put other people in," said Lee. "Each player did a great job and each one's roll is important. They're all very special and it was a team effort."

The final score was 59-44, putting the Eagles on the next step to win the State Championship. The next game was against the Papillion LaVista Titans on March 2nd.

Everyone was a bit scared for this game, because the Eagles lost to the Titans last year at State, mostly due to injuries.

Although the Titans started that game with the first numbers on the scoreboard, the Eagles were strong enough to fight through it. After first quarter, the score was tied 16-16.

Throughout the game, the Eagles passed the ball frequently to other players despite heckling from the opposing student section. After halftime, Central was down 20-25.

Both Central and Papillion Lavista's student sections would chant "You got swatted!" to opposing teams. There was also lots of falling on the floor and grabbing the ball from each other's teams, causing a lot of fouls.

After third quarter, Central was down 32-28, but that did not stop them. With six minutes left, Central was two points behind. The score would go back and forth at the end, and there was no knowing who would win this time.

Really, the only way each team was earning points was through fouls and free-throws. With 16 seconds left in the game, the Titans made a basket and Central was now two points under, leaving the score 36-38, but that was not the end.

Coach Lee decided it was time for a timeout, and that was definitely a good choice because the Lady Eagles became tied with even a few second to spare. All they needed to do was hold them over at that point.

With much cheering, the game went into four minutes of overtime. At this point, it was a very intense game.

"I felt very confident. Someone was going to come in and make that shot when we went into overtime. I felt we just needed to do what we could do offensively," said Coach Lee.

Continued to 'STATE' on Page 18

Eagles, ranked No. 2, scheduled to play Oak Hill Academy, No. 1

BY TABITHA PANAS

2013 will be an exciting year for the Central High Eagles Boys basketball team, who is scheduled to play Oak Hill Academy in the Heartland Hoops Classic tournament, which is to be held in Grand Island on February 9, 2013. According to the MaxPreps Freeman computer rankings, Oak Hill is No. 1 in the nation, while Central High School has secured the No. 2 spot.

As with Central High School, the Oak Hill Warriors have a rich tradition of excellence. Their head coach Steven Smith has been coaching for 28 years and has turned out 17 players into the NBA, including Rajon Rondo with the Boston Celtics, Kevin Durant with the Oklahoma City Thunder, and J. R. Smith and Carmelo Anthony both currently with the New York Knicks. This year, this private Baptist academy's basketball team was ranked No. 1 in the nation and they have had 28 McDonald's All-American players since the year 2000.

With the Central High Eagles winning five out of the last six state championships and currently being ranked No. 1 in the state of Nebraska, this game is sure to not disappoint. In fact, some have predicted this game to be the single biggest basketball event in all of Nebraska's history. It has a good possibility of airing on channels such as ESPN or Fox Sports.

When head coach Eric Behrens agreed to play in the Heartland Hoops Classic Tournament, he wanted it to be

against a big opponent. "That's what you want as a coach," he says, "to go up against the best." The Warriors, located in the mouth of Wilson, VA, have won the past 44 games straight, while the Eagles are also undefeated. Smith says, "It's great competition for both teams."

Smith said that they are excited to play. "We have been traveling to events for a long time and have never played in Nebraska before," he said. While Oak Hill travels almost every weekend, Smith explained that his team will probably never get the chance to come to the Midwest again. This game is toward the end of the season for the Warriors, and with all the traveling they do, it is a possibility that traveling fatigue could set in. However, Smith said "We are used to traveling and playing in big games where no one in the gym is going to root for us." And this is probably a good thing, because being so far away from their home court in Virginia, the Warriors might not see too many familiar faces in Grand Island, Nebraska.

While both teams have similar winning records and rankings, they are still very different.

Central High School is a public school in Omaha, NE, while Oak Hill is a private Baptist academy from the East Coast; the two are difficult to compare. Oak Hill also includes five grades, starting from eighth grade and going up to 12th. The boarding school also has only about 150 students. Central has about 2,700.

This matchup is expected to bring in fans from all over the

nation. Behrens said he wouldn't be surprised if this game sells out. The Heartland Hoops Classic tournament has been running for five years, but next year will be the first time the Eagles have participated in it. Other games sealed for the Heartland Hoops Classic Event are Northwest v. Kearney Classic, Archbishop Bergan v. Doniphan-Trumbull and Heartland Lutheran v. High Plains.

The Central Boys basketball team and coaching staff, as well as the student body, are looking forward to next season. Behrens explained that they play the same teams in the Metro area every season and confirms that this game "spices up the interest level for next year." While the Eagles plan to focus on the regular season games, they seem to be in fair shape for next year, no matter what kind of game they are playing in. They are losing two starting seniors this year, leaving three returning starters for next year. However, according to Behrens, the team does have a couple more returning players who have started several games this season and will be back next year.

This gives the Eagles a slight advantage when comparing them to the Warriors. Oak Hill will be losing all five of their starters next year. However, Smith says that they still have three talented juniors to start next year, of which are all already division one players.

That being said, many are excited for this tournament. Behrens says about his team, "They want to compare themselves for the best teams out there, and this gives them that opportunity."



Anesa Gilreath looks out over the field she has spent so much time on. When faced with physical adversity, Gilreath pushes through, not letting DDD slow her down.

Varsity softball player overcomes Degenerative Disk Disease to pursue her love of the sport

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

Picture a talented second grader, energized and ready to play some basketball. Then picture that same girl ten years later feeling accomplished, setting forth to play softball, but turns out not being able to.

This talented person is one of Central's very own students, senior Anesa Gilreath, a varsity softball player.

Her story is as important as anyone else's who knows what it feels like to not be able to do what they love anymore.

Gilreath was born with Degenerative Disk Disease. This means her L5 in her spine is dehydrative and deteriorating.

The L5 is in the lumbar part of the spine, meaning lower back. It includes 5 vertebrae, L1 to L5. The disk is supposed to absorb the shock when you run. She takes an epidural to take the pain away so that she can play softball.

Gilreath has been on Central's Varsity Softball team for all four of her years. She has been playing softball since fifth grade. Ever since a friend from her basketball team begged her to join, she's loved it. She has been playing basketball since second grade.

She has torn seven ligaments throughout her whole life. One was from softball and six were from basketball, which is one of the reasons why she stopped playing basketball her freshman year.

She partially tore her ACL and MCL her freshman year, but since it was only partially torn she did not need surgery. She has worn a lot of braces all of

her life, mostly knee braces. She would always try to be careful because "in the moment things just happen," said Gilreath.

Gilreath used to play catcher, but switched to third base after hurting her knee. During her first game as a freshman on Central's softball team, she dove back to first base, bending her finger all the way back; this caused her to have surgery on her hand. She was out for the rest of the season that year.

She never let any of her teammates know she had this disease. She didn't want anyone treating her differently, and she didn't want pity. Her old team knew though, and so does Coach Neel, Central's softball coach, because he needed to. Her best friend was the only one that knew the whole story.

Gilreath would do everything that the rest of the players did. She stated that she would play like there was nothing wrong and that she wasn't hurt. The only thing different was that she had to stop at times after running a lot.

"It hurts all of the time, but I deal with it. It sucks when people have to play for me when I can't," said Gilreath.

Gilreath was going to play softball in college, but only has one epidural left to use. That makes her unable to play. Instead, she's going to major as a pediatrician in pre-med.

At the end of this year, she will be attending a Missouri school for academics, which is a Division 1 school. If she was attending college for softball, she would have ended up going to a Division 2 school somewhere else.

Gilreath lived her softball years and did what she loved, but now it's time to start another thing that she may love just as much. Not even something like a disease can slow her down.

Eagles wrestlers compete at State tournament, individuals shine

BY SETH ARTER

The Central wrestling team showed proof of their hard work at the State Competition on February 18th. Grand Island took 1st, Central took 6th, but individual Eagles performed to impress.

Junior and two time State Champ, Ronald Wells took his own state title this year. Wells had 167 take downs at the State Competition. He has had 427 in his wrestling career.

The talented junior wasn't the only one on the team who worked hard: Senior Keygan Foster holds the record for most falls, wins, and tournament titles ever in Central's wrestling history. The first competition was in 1930.

"That's almost 100 years of wrestling and he has the most wins," said Coach Foster.

There were nine state qualifiers total for this year's competition: Markel Vaughn, Keygan Foster, Mike Gregerson, Ronald Wells, Tyrone Wesley, Shanon Jackson, Kolbie Foster, Jackie Davis and R.J. Jones.

"There were no nerves, everyone had trained hard enough to achieve success," said Coach Jimmie Foster, who was expecting 4-5 State Medalists.

Sometimes the calls by the refs can be harsh. This was not the case for this year's state wrestling as Coach Foster says the calls were appropriate despite the fact that "Sometimes I had to educate the refs about the rules."

Achieving great success always come along

with some hardships along the way. "The main problem was injuries" says Coach Foster.

9th graders Tyrone Wesley, Markell Vaughn, and 10th grader Shanon Jackson encountered injuries during the game. 11th graders Miles Russel and Josh Johnson had injuries but encountered them before state.

Foster said these were problems that cannot be predicted nor avoided. Central gained no points from other teams' violations.

"That type of stuff is rare" and "You may only see that once per tournament" said Coach Foster. Coach Foster said that all the injuries were freak accidents and couldn't be avoided.

With nine state qualifiers and a successful season, Coach Foster thinks the Central Wrestling team will be even better next year.

Swim champ says his goodbyes after four years of hard work

BY EMILY BECK

Senior, Sean Froemming, had the opportunity to prove himself at the State Swimming and Diving Championship at the Bob Devaney Sports Center in Lincoln on Feb. 24 and 25. He competed individually in the 50 and 100 meter freestyle, as well as the 200 and 400 meter freestyle relay, taking home sixth in the 50 and 11th in the 100. The 200 and 400 freestyle relays both won fifth in State, consisting of Lukas Meyer (11), Chris Pospisil (9), Evan White (11) and Froemming. The team won ninth overall, beating out all other OPS schools.

Now that his last swim season at Central has come to a close, Froemming is able to say that he has no regrets for the past four.

A state qualifier all four of his years, the swimmer lives for competition. He doesn't get psyched out; despite the intense competition that Froemming faced at State, he was still brimming with self confidence before his races—and it paid off.

"It's a massive environment. With all that input there is a split second before every race where the entire place falls silent for the start. It's almost

an out of body experience being a part of it," he said.

Froemming has the habit of keeping his mind blank during races, solely focused on encouraging himself and catching anyone who may be ahead of him.

"I love swimming for the competition, the great friends I make through it and the rush I get from winning a race," he said.

He's swam competitively for the past nine years, three of those spent at Swim Omaha; Froemming plans to continue his swimming career at the college level.

He said that several coast schools have already contacted him, but he may stick around in the Midwest. After all, he intends to make frequent visits to his team. "I plan to be involved as much as possible," he said.

"I may be leaving, but there is a group of swimmers that I know will step up next year. The talent level at Central is through the roof and I am proud to leave it to the upcoming swimmers," he said.

Froemming isn't just passionate about the sport; the people he's met through Central's swim team hold a special place in his heart (which is

good, since he spends practically every waking moment with team members from November to February).

"A day in my life during swim season is like a huge family gathering with all my favorite relatives," the swimmer said.

During his time at Central, Froemming has been a strong influence to fellow swimmers.

Senior Jeremy Anderson said that he is a strong leader, has a friendly demeanor and always encourages others. "I'm going to miss him, and I hope he achieves all of his goals."

Former Eagle swimmer Yorick Vinesse, a French exchange student last year, got close to Froemming during his time in Nebraska.

"When I was in Omaha, my greatest times were with the swim team. Sean was really competitive, and I think practicing with each other and racing each other improved the swimming skills and mentality to both of us. Apart from swimming, he is a real good friend and really fun to be around, therefore I hope he'll be able to survive out of the water for a couple months..."

Froemming plans not only to survive, but to thrive.

Regardless of sport stereotypes, junior sees dance as equally athletic

Football. Basketball. Volleyball. Baseball. Softball. What do all of these have in common? They are considered sports. But what do dance team and football have in common? "They perform at the same events." No. They are, as well, sports and should be considered sports too.

Sports require you to be able to perform in the way you can as best as possible. The actual definition of a sport is an athletic activity requiring skill. It doesn't say anything about strength or power.

People debate back and forth if some "sports" should be considered sports at all.

For example, people have considered cheerleading, dancing, gymnastics, and marching band "not a sport."

Being someone that has been a part of each one of these makes me be the person to tell some-

one this is just enough hard work as any other sport, sometimes even more difficult, actually. What makes them any different?

The sports that are actually considered sports nowadays do not require any emotional strength, just physical strength. I'm not trying to talk bad about any sports, but what do you think about when playing football other than trying to hit the person in front of you?

When performing such a sport, like for example, dancing, you usually count the moves and steps you take.

Would you consider climbing a tree a sport? I don't know, maybe. It does require a little bit of skill and strength. But would you consider climbing Mount Everest a sport?

Of course, because it takes skill, and a lot of it. Don't discriminate against some sports that take just as much time and hard work to do.



MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

A Column by JENNIFER ROONEY

Athletic funding a priority at Central

BY ESAU RENDON

With reports of the economy being negative, many schools have found themselves scrambling for funds to keep up with the costs of their different programs. According to Athletic Director Darin Williams, Central has had to cope with ungenerous budgets in recent years.

However, Central hasn't seen severe deficiencies in funds in comparison to schools that have lost funding for extracurricular activities completely; in fact, he says we are just getting by, providing players with the basics and what they need to become successful.

Because of the success in making sure that all athletes receive basic equipment and uniforms, budgets seem to be handled efficiently even though only "tight budgets" are available; athletes have been able to make it to every game they have been scheduled to play.

Head Basketball Coach Eric Behrens feels that funding has not been bad, granted the teams aren't granted every luxury, but in the end they are getting what they need.

However, players are and continue to obtain t-shirts and sweatshirts among other non basics; these however are paid by athletes, most of the time by money earned through candy sales and other forms fundraisers.

Assistant Coach to girls Volleyball and Assistant Athletic Director Paul Nielson feels that although school funds do not cover the girl's camps and training programs and many of personal and other non basics, coaches would never deny their team members anything that funds do not cover. In fact, they often use methods like fundraising to come up with the money.

Williams agrees that there are many misconceptions about how the school government handles money distribution; for example that favoritism is shown to sports like basketball because it seems to be schools' favorite, with a large amount of spectators making appearances.

Williams admits that football is actually pretty pricey, actually one of the most expensive at Central. However, it is not due to favoritism but to the cost of equipment (with helmets costing more than \$200).

One misconception Williams addressed is the general belief that ticket sales pay large portions of expense. The truth is that even if the game is sold money proves to be scarce and goes to pay the janitors, referees, coaches, bus drivers and other costs caused by the production of the games. Williams also included that a considerable amount of entries are without cost to many reporters, bus drivers and workers.

Another would be that due to the fact that Central is the largest high school in the state of Nebraska, it would receive a lot more funding. Williams says that this is not true and that the amount of students has contributed to the surplus of teams forming.

With looming challenges regarding funding, schools do not want to rid themselves of these extracurricular activities. Williams strongly agrees. Although education is one of the top priorities, the removal of any extracurricular activities could have negative outcomes.

Golf Season Starts in spring

BY KENDALL PANAS

With many returning Varsity golfers, the Central High Boy's Golf team is expected to have a good season this spring.

Like other athletes participating in spring sports, the golfers attended their first practice of the season on Feb. 27. Due to poor weather conditions, the first few practices have taken place indoors. "We talk a lot about the etiquette of golf and go over the rules at indoor practice," said assistant coach Ben Mihovk.

According to Mihovk, an example of proper golf etiquette is to never cross the line between another golfer's ball and the hole. The Central golfers learned the proper integrity and regulations of golf during these indoor practices.

When the weather allows, golf practices will be held at Shoreline Golf Course, located by Carter Lake. "We normally play nine holes of golf in small groups," said head coach Chad Townsend.

Returning sophomore Ethan Koch is looking forward to this season. He has been golfing since age seven, and this will be his second year on Central's golf team. "I hope to improve and do well enough in districts to get to State," said Koch.

Until State in late May, the Central boy's golf team will continue to practice and improve.

We have a state championship, and race is uninvolved



THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT
A Column by MEKENZIE KERR

Unprecedented basketball adroitness and a flawless record are upheld by the lovely Central High Schools boys varsity basketball team this school year, and they've managed to maintain that standard for the past three consecutive years.

On a recent visit to see one of my favorite persons in the world, I attended a Waverly High School basketball game that her slender, curly-haired, white boyfriend was potentially playing in. If you don't know much about Waverly, Neb.: long story short, it is a town on the outskirts of Lincoln whose entire student body population is the size of my junior class.

Anyways, it was a bit of a culture shock to step onto the court and see a sea of Caucasians. You might think I'm overexaggerating, but I'm not...everyone in the stands? White. Everyone on the Waverly team? White. Every student in the student section? White (with the exception of about five Asian and African American students).

While I hold Central's student population in higher esteem because of the diversity, sometimes our surplus of races has assisted in peoples' narrow-minded outlook on certain things...like our basketball team.

Countless times I've "team-dropped" about our untouchable basketball record and skill to peers in outside school districts. The reply I've heard numerous times is something along the lines of: "Well your whole team is African American..."

Apparently this statement accounts for the explicit idea that African Americans are initially and infinitely more talented than any Caucasian or other ethnicity player out there. But is it racist?

While some may revel and agree in the "fact" (better-stated opinion) that African Americans are more athletic and therefore more profoundly inclined to perform better on the field or court, the truth is that for random bystanders to say that is a bit racist, but only in context of the second definition.

I don't think that the people who say that are racist or are intending to be hateful with their words, but they are jumping to conclusions; just because Central's team consists mainly of African Americans is a bit helter-skelter of a conclusion.

But if you think about it, have you ever seen an Asian quarterback in the Super Bowl or a Hispanic gold medal gymnast? While those rhetorical questions are posed in a racial sense, it makes me think that maybe preference and the media have influenced those views.

Those who rise in stardom for basketball are more times than not African American, with the occasional Caucasian and Asian star (two cheers for Jeremy Lin) thrown in the mix. Maybe that makes the statement fair game that our team is full of winners because they're African Americans, but then again...who says they have more athletic ability?

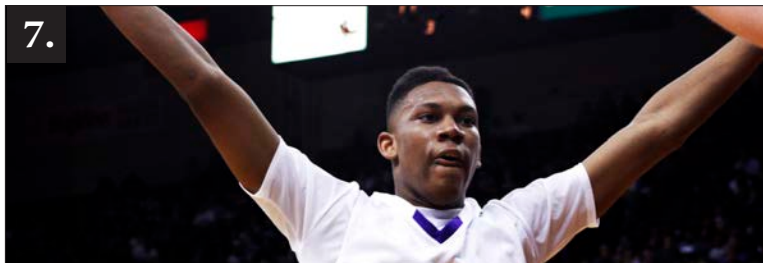
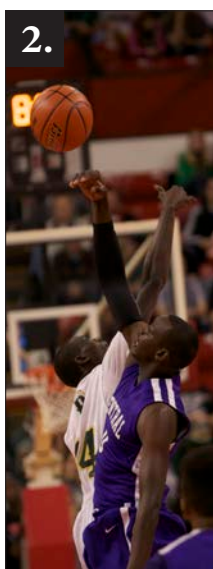
A Lincoln Southeast girl basketball player tweeted something along the lines of, "You have a state championship title...at least I have a daddy." This goes beyond tunneling our team as an all African American team, but also far-stretches and oversteps the boundaries of racism and racial stereotypes.

The rare occurrence of such statements are definitely fueled by a lack of sportsmanship and class, and they should never be made. Not only does this statement display lack of respect, but also the close-mindedness in regards to the race of our girls team.

While accounting our state titles to racial talents and athletic abilities is less offensive to some than statements such as these, it's better to account for our team as a whole.

Central, both boys and girls, corralled in state championship titles for the 2011-2012 school year. Whether talent in certain areas stems from ethnic background, family history or pure luck, our basketball teams didn't make it to state for any particular reason aside from a kick-butt coach, hard-working players who give their all, and a school full of screaming supporters out to celebrate in the prize.

BROTHER AND



PHOTOS BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/THE REGISTER, DUNCAN REED/CONTRIBUTING ARTIST, JAYDE VALENTINE/O-BOOK

1. Darian Barrientos-Jackson gathers his thoughts in between plays. 2. Akoy smacks the ball away from a Bryan player. 3. Akoy roars with victory after defeating South for the State title. 4. Troy Beaugard cheers on his team after a good shot. 5. Colorful-socked players gather for a huddle. 6. Coach Eric Behrens and his players watch the game intently. 7. Tre'Shawn Thurman attempts to block an offensive South player.

■ 'STATE' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

After just two minutes Central was now up three, and we knew this was the end. The final score was 48-40. The Central Eagles won the game, putting them into the big State Championship game.

The last game was on March 3rd against the Lincoln Southwest Knights. The starters were the usual: seniors Emily Gamble, Koi Bradley and Briana Rollerson, junior Sylvia Gatson-Smith and sophomore Abigail Niebrugge.

Coach Lee stated that they use the same starting line-up each game. "They have been the best in their position and they developed chemistry. Everyone is good though," said Lee. They have had two games before, though, where they just had the seniors as the starting line-up.

The game started with Central on offense. The first three-pointer was made by Niebrugge during the first quarter. After the first quarter, Central was winning, 14-5.

After halftime the score was 21-15. Central was still winning. But during third quarter, something had come over the girls that said "Okay, it's time to stop," because they just weren't making as many shots and the Knights were starting to catch up.

When the buzzer went off for the end of third quarter, Niebrugge had accidentally pushed a Knights player, causing a foul to be called on her. While Coach Lee disagreed with the call, #11 on the Lincoln Southwest team was still allowed three free-throws, of which she made two.

"When you're in the heat of the moment you're going to fight for what's right and your girls," said Coach Lee.

After third quarter Central was still winning 27-30. In the fourth quarter, each team began to repeatedly shoot; no one could make baskets.

With one minute and 30 seconds remaining, the Knights were able to attain one more three-pointer, tying the score at 35. With two seconds left in the game, a foul was called on the Knights and Rollerson had two

freethrows. She only needed to make one. The pressure was all on her.

At that time, more than two timeouts were called because something had to happen to end this game in a fair deal. Rollerson missed the first one, but attained the second free throw, sending the Central Eagles one point ahead.

The final score was 36-35, and Omaha Central High School was the State Champion.

Medals and trophies were awarded to both teams, but only Central High got to take home the nets of the court and the feeling of being the best in state.

"I felt relieved. It's a very stressful process to try to win. We accomplished a goal we set out in the beginning of the season. It was a tough game," said Coach Lee. "They were very excited and exhausted at the same time. It was both physically and mentally exhausting for the coaches and players. We played together as a team throughout the whole tournament."

Boys State Basketball Game, March 10th, Written by Precious Gaspard

An undefeated record of 30-0 would seem like a dream to some players, but that isn't the case for the boy's basketball team. This fantasy for many players became a reality in the 2011-2012 season; winning state for the third time in a row is a pretty big deal to some people. With the wins comes the negative and positives of winning.

Head Coach Eric Behrens was very happy and relieved that his team lived up to the high expectations while playing their best. It also "felt nice to win," said Behrens. Junior Kevin Scott expressed happy feelings about winning state; it was his first year playing for Central.

Before each and every game the boys come from the locker room making all sorts of chants, forming into a dance circle with someone in the middle doing a dance. This ritual (as some would call it) has become more and more familiar as the season has progressed.

Father Eagles double as coaches in new generation of Central sports

BY MEKENZIE KERR

"I love you and am so glad to have you as my kid" and "Run ten more laps and then on to the next routine" are not two statements often coupled together for the average student. But for "coaches' kids," statements parallel to these are much more of a reality for daily life.

Coach of the wrestling team, geography teacher and father are three roles that Jimmie Foster serves on a weekly basis. His son, current student and wrestler Keygan Foster (12), shares the same feelings towards each's duel roles.

Coach Foster doesn't feel that being the parent of one of his athletes as well as a coach changes things on the mat; he's striving to be a dad "100% of the time." Coach Foster has been heading up the wrestling team for fifteen years, and has proved himself a worthy coach. Keygan Foster heeds and confirms the fact that his dad is able to be a coach in the practice setting, but a parent at home.

Sometimes being the head coach for your sons' wrestling team proves a bit difficult, occasionally carrying the coaching over to the home. Coach Foster feels that it "depends on the situation sometimes," reminiscing back to District Finals when coaching technique followed him and his two sons home to the family setting.

During the wrestling season Coach Foster is fair and equal to all his wrestlers. "I don't think I'm harder [on my sons], most wouldn't know they were my sons," he said. Coach Foster has a high expectation bar for all of his growing athletes to meet, and does not put more pressure on the two younger Fosters because

they are his sons, but because of the hard work they show on the mat.

While having a parent as a coach may or may not account for higher expectations on the playing field, others like Raina Behrens (10), who attends school where her parent coaches, are less susceptible to harder conditions on the playing grounds but more in the class setting.

"Because my dad has worked here basically my whole life, I've known many of the other teachers since I was little," said Raina Behrens. "I think that causes some of them to hold me to a higher standard."

Her father, Eric Behrens, varsity basketball coach, keeps occupied with his team sweating and working hard for their immaculate record leading them to state while coaching his own son's team; his daughter says that these do consume a lot of his time.

Coach Behrens does a beyond adequate job of incorporating time for his children, namely Raina Behrens. He takes his son along to all of Central's practices and "sometimes they [we] both go scout other teams."

Although consistently busy with the stress of a nationally known basketball team and practices to get there, Coach Behrens balances the transition from coach role to parent role well, according to daughter Raina Behrens.

"A lot of times he tries to coach me in sports, though, on what I should be doing in my game," she said, "but I think a lot of parents do that."

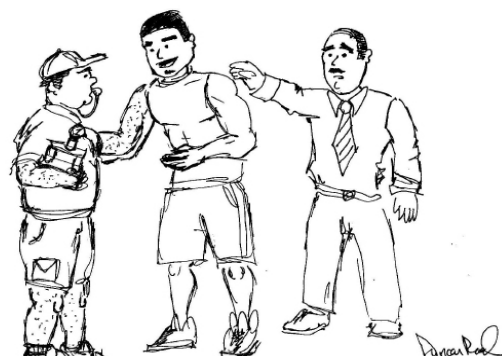
While appreciating and loving your parent, being a "teacher/coach's kid" might make you more inclined to face negative remarks on behalf of your parent for both Foster and Behrens,

but neither have heard anything bad.

"Usually people just tell me how 'chill' he is," said Raina Behrens in regards to her father's class.

Keygan Foster said that from the little he hears, it never affects him. He noted that the most cliché question he gets always starts with "Guess what your dad did?". In reality, Keygan Foster said, "I don't really care."

Changing the caps of coach to parent to teacher is a task perfected through years of experience, which Coaches Foster and Behrens have seemed to master and sift through over the past years of employment at Central High School.



CARTOON BY DUNCAN REED

SISTER CHAMPS

High school sports ruin student's outlook on athletics for fun



GREAT JOB!

A Column by KENDALL PANAS

High school ruined recreational sports for me. From ninth grade on, all sports teams are far too competitive and structured.

I've always been involved in after-school and weekend sports teams. All year round, I'd be on some type of team to occupy my time. My favorites were always volleyball and softball, but on the off seasons I was involved with basketball, soccer, swimming and ballet.

Throughout my years participating in athletics, I have never been what you would call "competitive." While some parents screamed and hollered at their kids from the stands, my parents would give tranquil, encouraging and helpful suggestions. If my team lost, my parents were proud of me nonetheless.

Some people just take sports way too seriously. I mean, it's only a game. The world won't explode if you lose. It's necessary to put effort into these activities, but there's definitely a limit.

That limit perhaps is reached when referees, coaches and even players use strong and vulgar language to express their discontent with the score, setting terrible examples. I mean, what happened to good sportsmanship, and whatever happened to sports being a family friendly activity?

In addition to the bad sportsmanship, members of these sports teams tend to be intimidating elitists, waking up at early hours of the morning to train daily for these sports. Putting forth this much effort is stressful and, in my opinion, unnecessary. I think that sports should be purely for fun, not for "winning" everything.

There is a point at which the fun is disappears. When practicing becomes a hassle, when anger and sadness comes with losing, and when you are simply pushed too hard; this is when sports become less of a fun activity and more of a bother. When there's no fun left, what's the point in even participating?

"Practice makes perfect." This is true. But how perfect can perfect really be? Is it worth it to push your body to painful limits just to win? Not to me; winning isn't everything.

High school sporting events have become less and less for the student's enjoyment; where has all the fun gone? Three hour daily practices and tournaments every Sunday is a tad excessive for me. Now, the only sport I'm involved in is a recreational softball team in Ralston, because everywhere else is crazy, oppressive and annoying.

Correction: Pham to remain head coach

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

The Staff of *The Register* apologizes for the miscommunication of information published in "New soccer coach brings energy, background to the field," in the February 10th issue.

Peter Pham is head coach of boys varsity soccer and Eduardo Suarez is his assistant coach. Pham has no reported plans of leaving this position.

PHOTOS BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/THE REGISTER, DUNCAN REED/CONTRIBUTING ARTIST, JAYDE VALENTINE/O-BOOK

1. Pom Squad performs at half time. 2. Mercedes Bender lines up for a free throw. 3. Abigail Niebrugge gets into a defensive stance while keeping her eye on the ball. 4. Players gather for a team huddle. 5. Dr. Bigsby watching the game intently. 6. Coach Lee gets pumped while giving a pep talk to Sylvia and Abigail. 7. Emily Gamble scrambles, making a quick recovery after losing her balance.

The Central boy's team consists of seniors Darian Barrientos-Jackson, Deshun Roberts, Michael Welch, Michael Carter, Troy Beaugard, Camron Payne, juniors Akoy Agau, Kevin Scott, Tra-Deon Hollins, Deandre Hollins-Johnson and sophomore Tre'Shawn Thurman. They played Bryan High School March 8 and won 56-52. The next night the boys played Lincoln North Star, winning 67-47. They went on to play South High School in the final Championship game, beating them 55-38.

Each game took place at the Devaney Center. The first night the boys played, there weren't many people; however, it wasn't apparent because of the crowd's energy and noise making. The game against Bryan started off with Agau taking advantage with the tip off, beginning the game with an Eagle advantage. When it came down to scores, it was a very close game. In the end the Eagles soared above, beating Bryan by a mere four points. The game was very close, and Bryan could have easily taken advantage of the situation and our lag.

Behrens mentioned that it was very close, and he found it a bit uncomfortable because he didn't think that the scores should have been that close. The boys came out after second quarter and took the lead by one point, and from then on Bryan slowly crept up and was there right when there were only 5.3 seconds left.

The game was tied 52-52, which eventually became 54-52 due to a couple of free throws made by Jackson. They had almost everyone in the student section going crazy, and luckily they hustled to accomplish what needed to be done, finally ending the game 56-52.

Scott was very positive about the win and being 30-0, but he said that they "could have played better." The Eagles certainly did have the fans at the edge of their seats throughout the Bryan game.

Friday's game against Lincoln North star was another success as usual, but this time there wasn't any trouble. "It was a little more comfortable for me, seeing that we were ahead by 20," said Behrens. They certainly played better than the night before, mostly by "playing good defense, taking good care of the

ball and taking good shots." This gave them an advantage over Lincoln North Star. In the first quarter Central took the lead by 5 points and by the end of the second half they were up by 6 points; there was no doubt that they were going to win this game.

It was decided that 67-47 was a pretty good lead; once the game was determined Behrens put in the players that don't get as much play time as the usual ones seen on the court.

"Once the game was decided I wanted to give everyone a chance to play in the game," said Behrens. Roberts gave his teams overall playing with a score of a B. "We really didn't play our best throughout the tournament." Winning 30-0 seems like enough to some people, but the expectations they set for themselves and other teammates are high.

The next game was a no doubt win against South. "I knew we're going to win from the start, I was 100 percent confident," said Roberts. "We went out with a bang and made it."

Central had the advantage over South because of more depth. "As a team, we always have a pair of "fresh legs" where we could have players such as Tre-shawn Truman and Deandre Hollins," said Agau. "South had about five to six starters that they played throughout the whole game and got a lot more tired than we did."

The last game of the tournament against South started out with the South players playing well ending the first quarter tying the game at 13-13. Eventually South took the lead by 4 points in the second half but soon enough the Eagles got out there and started playing better third quarter.

Ending the game with 55-38 and winning the state title for the third consecutive year was the icing on the cake fans that watched in the stands or at home on TV.

"It was a great accomplishment seeing that it's our third in a row and all of the hard work payed off through the season," said Agau.

Having faith in the whole team is how they get the job done.

National signing day proves positive for senior football players

BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO

Wednesday, Feb. 1st was a big day for football fans, players and coaches around the nation in the celebration of national signing day. It was an especially big day when senior players Payton Hogan, Alex Williams and Will Burgess turned their dreams of playing college football into reality as they signed contracts with their future schools.

Balancing schoolwork, playing through the season and trying to get colleges to notice you as a player is a lengthy road to success and hard work, but these three seniors know what it takes to get there.

Williams is a testament that being a star athlete takes more than sweating on the fields, but also hardwork in the classroom. Williams, who signed to Midland University and got a \$20,000 scholarship, makes sure he that works 100% day to day in all areas.

"I just went hard on the field and worked every day in class, because being a student athlete is all about the two," Williams said.

High school and college football are two very separate things in regards to academics and athletic life, and getting a scout's attention of any kind is a huge accomplishment. The fact that three of Central's football players were able to sign to their colleges of choice is a notable task on the players', the coach's and the school's level of achievement.

Hogan, who signed to Wayne State of Wayne, Nebr., is excited about simply getting noticed.

"I felt truly special and honored because for three weeks straight people were coming into recruit...that's something special." Hogan said.

As individuals, the trio looks ahead to their athletic and academic futures playing ball for bigger names.

Athletes balance school and sports with the help of coaches and teachers, make for a successful, well rounded career

BY PRECIOUS GASPARD

"Your team becomes your best friend, your team becomes your family, because you don't see anyone else," said senior Michaela Bigsby. Balancing a sport, schoolwork and other activities can become overwhelming, and both a social life or grades will suffer; however, this doesn't necessarily occur with all of Central's athletes.

Different students have different perspectives on the whole balancing school and a sport aspect, but they have all learned valuable skills in the long run, time management being the biggest.

Bigsby starts her day off with a zero hour and gets out after 7th hour, where she spends 8th and 9th doing homework, then she goes off to soccer practice which is "always scheduled at the wrong time." Soccer practice usually ends late, so Bigsby finds herself at school longer than usual; when she gets home she still has to be productive if she wants to succeed. She goes home to do more homework, eat dinner, more homework and then ends her night by falling asleep usually around midnight.

Having all of that in one day must be stressful for Bigsby, but she manages to keep her composure on top of her schoolwork. "If you know two days before that you have a test coming up, study beforehand," said Bigsby.

Sophomore basketball player, Broderick James, said that he uses his study hall to his advantage, he is worn out after getting home late.

"Practice ends at six and then I have two hours of

homework to do, so I just do the rest during my study hall." The best thing to do if a student wants to be able to manage homework and a sport: get a tutor for the weekends to help with homework. Students can also go into the library or a teacher's classroom after school, utilize their time by doing homework during a study hall, and try to get as much possible done at night.

James said that his coaches and father give him most of his support. "All Central basketball coaches are helpful and supportive, and with that they make us better players." And that is one other important element to balancing the two: getting support from family and coaches.

Sophomore, Luis Miner, is a swimmer; he didn't mind having to work harder because he learned to manage his time efficiently. He also liked the fact that he got to make new friends during swimming season.

Sophomore, Seni Adekunle, who participates in cross-country and track, felt that it was quite easy at some points but when it came to attending meets and studying for a test it didn't end so well.

"But it was easier with the help of family members and managing my time," said Adenkunle. "It's not hard to do. Once you get used to it, your body produces more energy to do more during the day."

Throughout the stressful days and worn-out nights, all students who participate in a sport have mainly adapted a time management skill in the process.

Being involved in a school sport can have positive and negative effects on students, depending on how they choose to use their time and energy.

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