The Register

A High School Newspaper Practicing Professional Journalism

2nd Place Best Paper at University of Nebraska, Omaha's 2012 Media Conference

Friday, May 11, 2012

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Central High School

central.register@ops.org

124 N. 20th St. Omaha, NE 68102

402.557.3357

Students attend special lecture

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

Dozens of science students went to a climate change lecture given by expert Dr. David Harwood on April 17th at the Joslyn Museum to learn about the change of the ecosystem throughout the years and what might happen in the future.

Harwood is a research director and trav eled to Antarctica in a new geological drilling program called the ANDRILL program, trying to recover stratigraphic records from the Antarctic region. Others including students followed the program in their research to document this ongoing effort.

Science teacher Matt Hamill set the whole lecture up. Before the lecture began, he suggested waching Secrets Beneath the Ice: Is Antarctic Ice Hiding Clues to Our Planets Future, the movie of Harwood's journey in Antarctica, in his classes and then having them write just a few questions down that they had so he could email some to Harwood. He also suggested this to the other classes to do as well.

"I thought it was a great opportunity for students to meet an expert in the field, what I really enjoyed. Which is why I made him come, he's an expert and there's still a lot of controversy on it making it so-so for Americans on the subject," said Hamill.

Many science classes went including Hamill's physics classes, Jane Colling's phys-ics classes, Matt Aguilar's physics classes, and a few Aaron Strain's freshmen biology classes. But after that Hamill still had 40 open seats for the lecture so he sent out letters for anybody that wanted to attend.

The lecture was held at the Joslyn Art Museum free of charge thanks to Nancy Round, faculty of Joslyn. The lecture was also two hours long for the students during

Hamill met Harwood from a worksHop for teachers on climate change at the zoo about two and a half years ago. What Harwood did was present about Antarctica in general and his project.

At the lecture on April 17th, Harwood talked about many things from his trip to Antarctica to the actual struggle of climate change in the past and future decades.

Students found out that this isn't the first time carbon dioxide levels have been this high or it hasn't been as warm. The data has been only two or three years old. But with the Inconvenient Truth, a documentary on climate change, in 2006, we could see millions of years with Harwood's research, which could also predict the future in billions of years. They could also see how much sea ice

and Antarctica's ice could melt.

The research of his lecture showed that the rate of change is so different which makes it a challenge. The earth has had five million years to go into change and now in 100 years, more change N can say the outcome, they can only make pre-

But the climate change is even worse for plants and animals, not for one of them, but for an entire ecosystem. One thing is linked to another in the ecosystem.

"Global Warming is real and I have very little doubt of that. People are playing a significant role in driving it. Some people think it's real or unreal but do humans play a role? The models don't match if you don't put humans in it. The science is very overwhelming," said Hamill.

Passing the Baton

Teachers and Administration of Omaha Public Schools, as well as citizens and businesses of Omaha have praised the choice of Nancy Sebring as new Superintendent of OPS.



PHOTO BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/REGISTER

The new Superintendent, Nancy Sebring, prepares for the 2012-2013 school year as an important part of Omaha Public Schools.

BY EMILY BECK



Following the announcement of the retirement of Dr. John Mackiel, superintendent of Omaha Public Schools for 15 years, the hunt for a worthy replacement earnestly began.

After considering several applicants (among them ReNae Kehrberg, OPS's assistant superintendent for curriculum and

learning, and Dan Nerad, superintendent of the Madison Metropolitan School District in Wisconsin), it was announced on April 2 by the Board of Education that Dr. Nancy Sebring, the current superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools, would be the woman for the job.

She has spent the last six years leading DMPS (which serves roughly 32,000 students, about 18,000 less than OPS), making significant advances in student achievement and increasing graduation rates despite extreme

Named a "heavily recruited superintendent" by Des Moines School Board Vice President Dick Murphy in a story by the Des Moines Register, Sebring has been scouted by big names like OPS and the Boulder, Colo. school district; her own district attempted to entice her to stay with contract bonuses, but those efforts fell through. She was ready to move on to new challenges (the reason she gave for leaving DMPS).

Those challenges will surely meet her as soon as she arrives in Omaha, but Sebring will be ready. With her years of extensive experience in curriculum instruction and development, the superintendent knows how to deal with issues that come with "being the largest district in the state, and having issues related to urban education."

Sitting down to a phone conversation with Sebring, I was very nervous, unsure of what to anticipate. From what I had gathered from our emails (as well as what I had read about her), she was a kind, personable and enthusiastic woman—and I seemed to be right.

She was very eloquent and informative and, to my surprise, felt inclined to ask me about myself firsthand. We spent a good several minutes discussing my interests (mainly journalism), of which she generally cared

was sold right away.

And it seems that she's also been sold on Omaha and OPS, both of which she had many excellent things to say—from her own experience as well as what others have told her. "People are really proud of the district and the work that they do," she said.

Regarding her departure, Sebring said that "it's very bittersweet. I have really loved working in Des Moines, and it's a great district." While she has spent time living in Colorado, Iowa is her home—she grew up on a farm in Central Island—and she said that it will be a little hard to leave. But she won't be very far away.

Her Experience

All those involved in Omaha should be reassured that Sebring is ready to tackle OPS. Her vast resume includes Language Arts course teacher in Nevada, Iowa, Human Resource Development Specialist in Humboldt, Iowa, Middle School Principal in LaSalle, Colo., Assistant High School Principal and Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction and Development in Fort Collins, Colo., Douglas County (Colo.) Deputy Superintendent and Superintendent of Des Moines Public Schools

Throughout the last few decades Sebring has moved up from position –and at last she's made it to Omaha.

What Sets Her Apart

Needless to say, Sebring is a very involved individual. She is also incredibly friendly and personable: an ideal spokesperson as well as a leader and an innovator. Her impressive background in teaching and administering is not at all unusual for someone in her position-but her experience with curriculum instruction is.

Superintendents did not necessarily come up through the curriculum and instruction ranks...typically they were teachers and coaches and principals. They didn't spend a lot of time in a department on their route into the superintendency.

"Since No Child Left Behind in 2001, the skill set of what a superintendent needs to be able to do has really shifted to instructional leadership...and knowing how to address academic problems in schools," Sebring said. "Historically superintendents, I think, were more managers.

Continued to 'SEBRING' on Page 2

Central students add to 'Champ High' by taking state in DECA their competitive event, students will present a business plan or idea, write a research paper on a topic that varies from year to idea, write a research paper on a topic that varies from year to in Principles of Finance. More than 15,000 students will aspire higher at the International DECA Conference for leadership,



This year, Omaha Central High School has the boy's and girl's basketball state championships under its belt, along with a state champion wrestler, Ronald Wells. But when Principal Dr. Keith Bigsby says that Central takes "great pride" in "our outstanding academic program...and

co-curricular activities," he truly means it. Central continues its winning streak as two students, Brita Sjogren and Giselle Tran, were state champions in their divisions at the State DECA Conference. These two students, along with six other qualifiers, will go on to the International Conference in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The State DECA Conference was held from March 15 to March 17. Students competed in a wide variety of marketing divisions that required them to be academically prepared, com-munity oriented, and professionally responsible. Depending on

idea, write a research paper on a topic that varies from year to year, and/or take a marketing exam and compete in a role play. In DECA, a role play is an activity where students present ideas and plans to a judge.

In order to qualify for the International Conference, students had to place in the top three of their division. However, students are allowed to compete in two competitive events at State, and if a student qualifies in two events, he or she must choose only one event at which to compete at Internationals. Therefore, students who did not place top three in their division had the chance to qualify for the International Conference.

This year, Central had eight students qualify for the International Career Development Conference from April 28 to May 1 in Salt Lake City, Utah. The eight Central qualifiers were Ja-cinta Christiansen in Professional Selling, Anna Di Ruocco in Marketing Management, Keygan Foster in Automotive Services, Henry Gentle in Hospitality and Lodging Management, Emma Harwood in Sports and Entertainment, Brita Sjogren in Principles of Business Management and Administration, Giselle Tran in Human Resources Management, and Pauel Wasnieski

competition, and networking.

DECA also values its many business partners and mentors. Harry Gaylor, a marketing teacher at Central, was one of the recipients for the DECA Outstanding Service Awards. Gaylor was awarded the Award of Merit for his many years of teaching marketing at Central High. State champions Brita Sjogren and Giselle Tran both had their own DECA experience. Sjogren said, "I joined DECA because several of my siblings before me...en-joyed it. I wanted to have the same experience." Sjogren is also on the girl's varsity soccer team. Unfortunately, a soccer match conflicts with the International DECA Conference. Sjogren said,

"I'm sad I didn't get to go...but I'm looking forward to next year."

Tran joined DECA her sophomore year, last year qualifying
for the International Conference in Orlando, Fla. Tran talked about her DECA experience, saying, "I love DECA, and I'm psyched for Internationals in Salt Lake this year. DECA teaches students the importance of interpersonal skills. Being judged is scary at first, but I started to have fun just going in and talking to someone I had never met.'

The Register

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

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

Editor-in-Chief: Mekenzie Kerr Exec. Editor-in-Cheif: Katherine **STAFF**

Advertising: Kendall Panas News: Tabitha Panas Entertainment: Esau Rendon Sports: Stephanie Paul

Opinion: Jennifer Rooney Writers: Emily Beck Precious Gaspard Seth Arter

Contributing Writer: Giselle Tran Contributing Artists: Duncan Reed

Special thanks to Jeremy Gipe, for letting us burn his childhood toy. Advisors: Hillary Blayney Ali Hodge

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

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

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

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

Columbia Scholastic Press Association (CSPA). The Register is an 11-time Best-in-Show

winner for large newspapers at the JEA/NSPA national conventions in San Fransisco, 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

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

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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.

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 Blavney 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.

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.

If you would like to write a story for

Rock the Nest raises money to help make Central High School wireless

Since 2008, Rock the Nest has helped Central seniors obtain various college scholarships. Prior to 2008, Central had an annual auction. The fundraiser, put on by the Omaha Central High School Foundation, is back again this year with a new twist. This year's goal is to create "21st century learning classrooms" by helping Central to go wireless.

Rock the Nest hopes to top last years event, which earned \$18,000. Social hour began at 5:30 p.m. and dinner at 6:15 p.m. Trivia started at 7:15 p.m., and ended by 9:30 p.m. For the evening's meal, there was a large buffet with a good selection of food. Apart from dinner, there was much entertainment.

After dinner Dr. Bigsby spoke of Central's success. He mentioned the achievements of this year's girl's basketball championship, girl's soccer, the vex robotics team and how great all the other clubs and activities are.

Bigsby also talked about the day when Harvard University came and inquired about Central. They were nothing but purely impressed by Central: "There is no comparison...this is the finest downtown high school I've ever seen," said Susan, a representative from Harvard.

Lastly, Bigsby presented five students from Central who have achieved wonderful successes. Seniors Dawaune Hayes, Avrie Welton, Adam Lacroix and junior Marika Svolos were praised for their academic and extracurricular achievements throughout their high school careers.

Despite the chilly, rainy weather, everyone seemed to have a lovely evening. Anne Lloyd, parent of a Central alum, as well as Lyn Bouma, Central choir teacher, both agreed with Central's plan to "go wireless." The



PHOTO COURTESY OF CENTRAL HIGH FOUNDATION

Alumni from many years attended the Rock the Nest dinner, hosted to raise money to make Central High School wireless.

two also liked that this year's Rock the Nest was a fundraiser for the school, and not just for scholarships. "It benefits the kids more this way," Lloyd said. Bouma said that "I think there's an up and downside...this maybe has a more enduring legacy.

The weather wasn't perfect, but overall the night was successful and

Sebring praised for work with urban education in DMPS

"SEBRING' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

They were the public face of the school district, they were out in the community, they were visible; they were ambassadors in a sense. And probably the biggest responsibility they had in those days was to get a budget passed and approved...

Sebring is responsible for not only budgeting and representing the school district, but also exhibiting the abovementioned instructional leadership; this term refers to one's ability to "provide direction, coordination, and resources for the improvement of curriculum and instruction," according to Education.com. Her job is to target problems within schools while putting the appropriate tools into teacher's hands to allow them to solve said problems.

In many ways, Sebring isn't a just managershe's a problem solver, a reformer, a luminary and a friendly face to turn to. Her open-door policy proves that she isn't some unreachable, far-off and unfamiliar ruler—on the contrary, she is a completely open leader who will meet or speak with anyone who has something to inquire of her (even a lowly high school journalist).

This prevalence in the community doesn't just come from Sebring's knack for fixing problems—the favor that she is regarded with comes largely from her personality as well as the way in which she has reached her position: through endlessly taxing, but ultimately rewarding and beneficial work.

A portion of her career was spent working in specialty programs like Title I, English Second Language and intervention programs (the latter being programs which target specific problems and improve them) with teachers and students of all subject areas, grades and ages.

'There are not many people in a school district who have had the opportunity to look at the district from every level, at every program, and really think about how the pieces come together," Sebring said. "Most people in a school district only work on one piece of the organization.

But Sebring has had the unique exposure to just about every angle of a classroom. She wants students to thrive-and not just when it comes to academics.

"In Des Moines...one of the reporters said 'What do you do in your spare time?' and I said Well, I go to school activities like football games and school plays.' I was a little surprised that they would ask that, because I thought, well isn't that what you should be doing?'

"By and large, I'm kind of separated from students. If I don't go to those activities and things that are going on in their schools, I don't get to meet students and families." And that is Sebring's mission—to be as involved as possible in the lives of her students. Because even though she isn't the one instructing them or personally administering them, she holds a lot of power over what's happening in their lives, and desires a connection with them.

Supporting Big-City Students

bebring's specialty seems to be urban education, which is another reason that she is a perfect fit for OPS. The challenges presented in this sort of environment are disparate from any other but she knows exactly how to handle them. She knows how much potential urban students have, and she's determined to utilize that capability.

"I think urban students in particular get short-changed; people make assumptions about them that are just so far off and not accurate. And I feel like I'm kind of their champion, I hope.

Growing up in a family of educators, Sebring was learning to hone her leadership skills from the very beginning. The rural landscape that surrounded her family caused them to place their main focuses on school and church-so her parents scarcely missed any events that she or her siblings were involved in. In a way, Sebring now offers that same support she once received from her family to the students of her district-many of which may be unable to get that patronage from their own parents or families.

But for Sebring, "that was family life for -and that's still my life.'

Overcoming Adversity

Sebring has truly worked her way to the top, beginning her journey in education during her

teenage years with a job aiding the custodial staff of an Iowa high school. From there she procured a teaching job, and has since moved her way up from one position to the next in Colorado and Iowa school districts. Along the way Sebring has learned much about leadership and what she must do in order to be successful-and that often involves overcoming heresy, controversy and

"We're public figures, and so people have the right to express their opinions about how we do our work," Sebring said. "But I believe that the results speak for themselves."

Amidst the financial struggles that DMPS faced in the worst of the economic recession several years ago, Sebring was no stranger to complaints and critical comments. An example: people would see that buildings were being renovated while teachers were being let go, and voiced their anger publicly (by turning to newspapers, for example). They asked questions like 'why can't you use that money to give teachers jobs instead of fixing buildings?

But what not everyone understands, Sebring said, is how finances often work in a public school system. Money is highly regulated, and funds that are approved to be put aside for certain projects (like renovations) can only be used for those specified things, and not for anything else. Therefore leaders would not have the power to use those funds for things that even they think are more important.

team, not someone who is separate

from the rest of the people in the

organization. With large districts

and mid-sized districts it's about

I see myself as part of a large

large districts and mid-sized districts it's about putting systems in place that support the work of other people. Because you can't do it all yourself. "

The team also worked on implementing intervention programs. If students were failing classes, they wouldn't have to wait until the end of the semester to find out and retake said classes; instead, they could immediately enter into a program to get them back on track to earning credits.

Additionally they revamped attendance and discipline policies in order to make them more consistent and thus more effective. For example, procedures concerning suspensions.

We had these students who wouldn't come to school, and here we were sending kids home for not attending classes. That didn't make sense, she said. So policies were redone, and administrators were encouraged to keep kids in school during their suspensions while doing constructive and beneficial activities instead of being unproductive at home. This required some outside assistance, which wasn't very difficult to procure through partnerships with community busi-

Another tactic used in improving the graduation rate: gathering information on teenagers who hadn't returned to school and utilizing the help of volunteers, who would visit these kids and encourage them to come back.

Overall, Sebring said that "it's a series of things. There's never one magic solution...it's a series of adjustments you make,

putting systems in place, trying to support the work of the adults in the school." And together, all of these tactics have paid off.

Looking to the Future: the Move to Omaha

Above all, it is projected that Nancy Sebring will be an excellent addition to the Omaha Public School District. She's already received many warm welcomes in putting systems in place that support the form of emails and phone calls from Omaha teachers, students, businesses and citizens.

"I think it'll be a pretty easy transition because it's very similar to Des Moines, just on a larger scale. People are very friendly, people are very Midwestern; they're just very open, accommodating, smart...they care about schools...

you know, every community has its own specific character, and so I'm looking forward to learning more about Omaha. I've just heard great things from everybody."

This job seems to have almost been tailored just for Sebring. Apart from residing in the biggest and most bustling city in Nebraska, she will be enjoying the benefits of being geographically in between her two children and their families (in particular her new granddaughter).

She's heard a lot of good things from relatives and friends who have lived and worked in Omaha. "People repeated to me over and over again that Omaha is a very philanthropic community, and that the businesses are interested in supporting the schools and helping families... everyone keeps telling me 'you're just going to love Omaha.' I'm really looking forward to it," she said.

This summer is going to be a busy one for Sebring. Aside from wrapping things up in Des Moines (she has to assist in the search for a replacement superintendent, put together reports on the results of spring assessment scores and supervise building renovations among many other things) her son and daughter-in-law, who reside in Colorado, just welcomed a second child into the world; meanwhile, her other daughter will be married in July. On top of all this, Sebring must seek out a place for her home in Omaha.

Once she is secured here, Sebring will spend a lot of time touring schools and meeting her new coworkers while getting accustomed to new policies and differences in Nebraska's state education. "Even though I'm just going across the river," she said, "it will be different."

But one thing that in a way won't change: the students. Sebring is looking forward to meeting new faces, all of which she hopes to see on graduation days (she loves attending all of them).

"When the graduates walk across the stage I recognize...not all of them, of course, but I recognize a lot of them. I see them in school plays, I see them in choir concerts, I see them on the football field...and for me, that's the fun part. I get to really enjoy what it is students are doing, and how great our students are.

the work of other people. Because you can't do it all yourself. - Nancy Sebring Situations like these show how difficult it can be to hold a position like superintendent of

a public school district; you work yourself to the bone, trying constantly to improve conditions and create productive learning environments with a myriad of opportunities for students, while attempting to please everyone that has a connection to the district—and often this is just not something that is possible to do.

Sometimes you have to be made of Teflon and let it roll off your back, and you just keep going," Sebring said. "Communication is never what you want it to be, and there are never

enough hours in the day.' But there is no need, despite past critiques, to defend herself, the work that she has done or the feats she has been able to accomplish. "They don't have to believe me. I don't have to tell them I'm doing a good job. All they have to do is look at the numbers, and if they're happy with those numbers, then I hope that they attribute that to all of the people who are working very hard in the district. And there are some who make their comments without looking at those numbers, without looking at the results...

What she spoke is true—any negatives comments can be quickly shot down with one look at the data reports. "Our attendance has gone up, our graduation rate has gone up; we've created more opportunities for students, we've created more choices for families, and we've done that even in very difficult budget times," Sebring said.

A True Problem Solver

After noticing a particularly critical problem—that a large portion of ninth graders were moving on to the next grade without enough credits, driving them off-track for graduation-Sebring and her team created and enacted an "Early Indicator System," which created reports outlining concerns such as students' failed classes, discipline issues and absences that were sent to principals every six weeks. This monitoring of progress was a first step in the right direction.

"I see myself as part of a large team, not someone who is separate from the rest of the people in the organization," Sebring said. "With

Senior named Neb. State High School Journalist of the Year, will study print Journalism in college

BY MEKENZIE KERR



"A great stepping stone," is exactly what the State Journalist of the Year dubs her most recent title accomplishment and her four years of yearbook involvement. Senior Jayde Balentine has sacrificed four years of her high school career to the Central O-Book and the sweat, time and stress has finally paid off.

"It was a very awesome award to win because I have worked hard all four years of

high school doing journalism," said Balentine, "and it is just a great opportunity to get recognition for it."

Balentine dove head first into journalism her freshmen year as editor of the supplement, tackling the rings of the O-Book picture by picture, story by story. Tediously working her way to the top of the yearbook food chain, Balentine received the honor of becoming editor-in-chief her sophomore year, and continued working hard into 2012, her senior year.

The Neb. High School Press Association (NHSPA) conducts journalism state competitions annually, awarding Nebraskan high school journalists for writing and overall performance. For students like Balentine, who applied for the yearbook segment of Journalist of the Year, NHSPA requires a professional portfolio containing a compilation of each journalist's work.

While potentially an overwhelming feat for some students, Balentine took on the portfolio entry with ease. She treated it just "like another scholarship", not becoming bogged down by stress with her "onto the next one" mindset.

"My portfolio included all my photoshop work, ads I've done, and in-depth stories," said Balentine, "it was not overwhelming, it was just a matter of putting my things together from over a span of four years, which was probably the most difficult part."

Due in Feb., word of Balentine's win came back shortly in March. What makes Balentine's title as State Journalist of the Year even more prestigious is the fact that she competed against every other journalist in Neb. who submitted their work.

"Considering that it is a competition with the whole state, I was very flattered because it is a big honor," said Balentine.

Five-hundred dollars under her belt and another impressive item to add onto her future résumés, Balentine's journalism interests not only brought in awards, but influenced another journalist personally: her sister, sophomore, Chelsi Balentine.

C. Balentine would not have shown an interest in the O-book without the consistent involvement her sister dedicated to the project. Thanks to Balentine, yearbook "grew on" C. Balentine overtime, whose beginnings started as a simple act of kindness and assistance to her older sister.

And while C. Balentine is involved with O-book and is planning to be in the future, she does not see "journalism as her thing", but admires her sister for her accomplishments in this area.

Balentine, with the support and encouragement from her sister and family, looks towards pursuing her journalism career even further at Northwest Mo. State University where hoping to major in either journalism, public relations or maybe even advertising.

I want to double major," said Balentine, "...or minor, it just depends." Balentine plans to stay involved with journalism in one way or another, strongly considering working on the online magazine that Northwest Mo. State University provides as an option.

"I'd rather be on the online magazine [than yearbook] because I want to go into magazines," said Balentine.

Following her future involvement in her college's magazine, a degree in hand and her four years of yearbook leadership she strives to create her own magazine. Balentine feels many magazines "cater to skinny, white girls" with special 'features' on ethnicities, her aim is to run a magazine "that is for everybody in the world."

"If you have relaxed hair it won't just be another feature [in my magazine]," said Balentine, "there will be things for Asian hair, straight hair, curly hair - something for everyone.

As Balentine kisses high school good-bye without much apprehension, she feels as if she has made her "impression" on Central High School, but hungry for the new experiences in college to "go on and achieve bigger and better things.



Working hard in journalism room 029 since freshman year, Jayde Balentine is always found snapping photos or designing layouts on O-book pages

Judy Storm to retire after 27 years of teaching at Central

BY ESAU RENDON



Over 30 years ago Judy Storm sat in a desk as a high school student Omaha South High School, unthat she would eventually be leaving her im-

pression on Central High School as an educator.

Whenever Storm reflected on her career and future she knew two things for sure: that she wanted to be a nurse or a teacher, and that she loathed the idea working in a cubicle from nine

"I am not a cubicle person, I don't have a cubicle mentality," said Storm, "teaching seemed like a better and more comfortable option."

After she decided to become a teacher and took her career path seriously while attending the University of Nebraska in Omaha, where she received her teaching endorsement in special

She has been teaching for 32 years, and 27 of those years she has been at Central. Although her beginnings were at Indian Hill Junior High and Bryan Junior High.

In those 32 years Storm has gained and given a lot to staff and students. But the time has

BY PRECIOUS GASPARD

ity to function, and when both kidneys are affected it can cause kidney

had to take a lot of medication to keep her native kidney's working," said

Stephanie Jackson, mother of Laffinette and first kidney donor. Her native

"I was very scared when the doctors told me she would have a short period to live," said Jackson. Jackson started seeking more information

about transplants. "I was overwhelmed with all of the things that would

happen to her if I didn't do something quick." Jackson was a match for her

daughter and a few months later she had the transplant and they began the

steps of fighting kidney disease.
"The steps of fighting kidney disease were finding a kidney donor, tak-

ing the old kidney out, and then I was hospitalized and on dialysis for six

months," said Laffinette. Dialysis is the process of taking the blood from

the body and cleaning it in a dialysis machine then returning it to the body.

Each time the blood is returned it picks up more and more waste, it is

important to be consistent with this process because of how serious kidney

tion to keep her body from rejecting her transplanted kidney. "She wouldn't

tions. Those complications included her needing another kidney because

her transplanted kidney had failed due to Laffinette not taking her medication. "I mostly needed another kidney transplant was because I was tak-

ing a lot of medication and I would sometimes forget to take them and it

would make me really sick," said Laffinette. Once again she was having

more complications after her second transplant which had her continu-

second kidney transplant she was granted came from her step father. "I was

very surprised because even before she got sick I had an urge to become a

Again, her family stepped in to help with the transplant process. The

have lived past five without the transplant," said Jackson.

The transplant went well and Laffinette was put on rejection medica-

Ten years passed and Laffinette again began having kidney complica-

failure is considered.

ously in and out of the hospital.

kidney's later failed at age three, leaving her in need of a kidney.

Since birth, Laffinette had been struggling with kidney problems. "She

failure. This is exactly what happened to Laffinette shortly after her birth.

Finding out you won't be able to live your

Senior Ke'Ann Laffinette, now 18, was

brate each birthdax

life to its fullest is the hardest thing to hear,

but the greatest thing in someone's life would

born with a kidney disease, Kidney Dyspha-

sia, also known as MKD. MDK causes high

blood pressure and reduces the kidney's abil-

able to cele

come and she has decided to retire, with 2011-2012 school year being her last.

Storm has had good impressions on her fellow staff members since the beginning.

"She was one of the nicest persons I have ever met at Central and has done so since the first days I had met her," said English teacher Jennifer Stasny.

She has also made a name for herself as the "prom lady", having been the mastermind of 20 proms. "Whenever I have any question about prom I know who I can address it to, Mrs. Storm of course," said senior Emily Hill, "She has been planning Central Proms for the longest time."

Storm has not only done work with prom, but also special education students.

"I teach students who, by the state of Neb. are called 'special'," said Storm, "but I feel that all students are special and all of them learn differently, whether noticed by the state or not.'

She values education and says that the philosophy of education's importance to students is the reason to why she stayed at Central for so

Of course, the philosophy is not the only thing she likes about Central, she also admires the administrators, staff, and students among her

list of her many Central plusses. Storm upholds Central in high-esteem. "I would not have sent my two children to Central

is I did not think it was so great," Storm said. Her teaching legacy has also made an impression on her two children, Jennifer Cooper-Storm, her daughter who teaches at Indian Hill Elementary, and Matthew Storm, who will return in the summer to teach here in Omaha.

"Teaching is not a job for me it is my profession," said Storm. She includes that one of her goals is to reach all students in the classroom, thus she always aims to be creative in her teaching style in order to meet with their different

This creative teaching style is what she has used in the classroom with her special education students. She feel that a creative approach to teaching is always needed to successfully reach all students in the classroom, whether they are classified as 'special' by a school psychologist, the state of Neb. or not.

Storm has built strong relationships with the staff at Central, some of them that even carry on outside of the hallways and classrooms. She has also gained a relationship with the student body over all her years of teaching, and has seen all kinds of students leave from Central. In the end it all comes down to how much Storm loves Central High School and has enjoyed doing the exact thing she has always loved - teaching.

Everyday when I get to Central I like to tell myself that I am going to learn something new,'

And while Storm may be ending her time at Central, she has learned enough to last her a

Students aid English teachers in 'Hike to Help'

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

Many junior English students contributed to a fund called "Hike to Help Refugees" on April 20th at Turning Point. The goal of the event was to help people learn about the many things to aid refugees in need.

English teachers Jayme Prisbell and Jane Luethge decided to do this project for the service learning group for their junior Eng-

"I picked this because the junior curriculum is the American experience and is tied with the refugees which is tied with 'Hike to Help' who wanted to work with our stu-'said Prisbell.

The project is all based off of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

The organization helps refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless people all around the world to find a home and stay alive with the harsh struggles they are going through.

The goal is for protection, providing help and resolving problems for these many human beings across the nation.

One of the biggest factors in aiding these people is assisting them in finding a new home safely or helping them survive in their struggling country. The UNHCR has been accomplishing these things since the 1950s.

Central students helped and were therefore incorporated in the movement to the

helpless people around the world.

Prisbell and Luethge thought of the idea in March and began working on it right away.

The primary goal was to help other people learn about the many different people that need the help such as women, children, mentally disabled, elders, and etc. Thus the learning stations began. The project began in March of this year

where the topic was discussed and the students were allowed to make a proposal of who and what type of people they would like to teach others about, including where those people are now. After the students made their own pro-

posal, they were then given groups according to the type of people they chose. There were four or five people per group that conducted the research. The second part of the project involved

Prisbell and Luethge selecting 50 students each to bring to UNO to start the projects. From there they would gather extra information from a few experts.

They chose carefully, picking people that

they thought could represent Central in a

The students headed to UNO on March 27th, ready to meet with experts.

The afternoon at UNO began with lunch followed by a few speakers to insure that the students all knew what they were doing this for and why it was important.

After listening to the speakers, students were given tours around UNO from some currently enrolled students.

"Read to Succeed. Apply for Scholarships," stated one of the tour guides, trying to give the students the right message and a little advice for their futures in education. Eventually the stressful days of the actu-

al event approached. Each teachers' students were finally there to put their knowledge to

The students had two days in class to complete a poster with their group members. Many stayed after school, came early before school, and took the poster home to have enough time to accomplish it and in an orderly, appropriate fashion. If the posters and presentations were not done by deadline, students were not allowed to participate.

So much work had to be done before the day actually came including filling out about three parent permission slips, gathering information, completing posters, and on top of that, their regular junior English class lessons. The day finally came, April 20th at Turn-

ing Point.

to jump on a bus and be ready to teach what they have learned for the past weeks to several other people.

Once they got there, they set up their posters and extra necessities incorporated in their project onto many tables across the field made for all of their learning stations.

While two people were handling the station, the other few of the group were allowed to walk around and learn about the many other learning stations their classmates made After the event, the students and people

attending were given food and were given a show including speakers, dancers, and a singer. People from the actual UNHCR were attending the day as well.

They gave a few inspiring speeches with two people even giving a cultural dance and inspiring "join in" song.

All though the weather was cold and windy, the students had fun and were even given a t-shirt at the end.

They all then got back onto the busses and headed back to Central.

Although the research and putting everything together was a bit stressful or frustrating for some students they were happy about the outcomes and so were the UN-HCR contributes.

There will also be another "hike" in Sept. of this year.

"It was an overwhelming project in the beginning but it also turned out to be a great project. The students learned a lot. Luethge and I learned lot. And the UNHCR was pleased with the end results," said Prisbell.

Senior surpasses life expectancy despite Kidney Dysphasia donor and give someone a kidney," said Terrance Jackson, Laffinette's step father. Mr. Jackson was more of a match for a transplanted kidney than her biological mother and blood relatives. "We matched at 3.98 out of 4.0, I

felt that god wanted me to give her my kidney," said Mr. Jackson. Everything was going well, but there was a slight hindrance: her family did not have enough money to have her surgery performed.

Laffinette and her family were blessed by Holy Cross church here in aha They conducted many fundraisers, including a spaghetti din the community and her family. "I am very blessed to have had the people I had there for me like I did," said Laffinette. Eventually, the family received enough money raised to have the surgery for the second transplant.

Laffinette's battle for her life didn't stop after the second kidney transplant; she was struck with a stroke afterwards. Laffinette went through aggressive therapy where she had to re-learn how do everything that she was used to doing before her stroke. "She had to re-learn how to talk, walk, and everything she did before the stroke affected her," said Jackson. Laffinette recovered 93 percent with small complications afterwards.

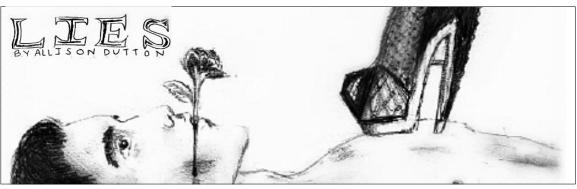
Many say that she is fortunate or lucky but her mother believes that it was her faith and God that brought Laffinette to be able to live today. "It was because of our faith in God and knowing that he is a healing God because he is a God that heals which is why she is here today," said Mrs.



PHOTO COUTESTY OF KE'ANN LAFFINETTE Senior Ke'Ann Laffinette studies through her last few days of high school



Senior excels in couture, preparing for future









PHOTOS COURTESY OR ALLISON DUTTON AND PRECIOUS GASPARD/REGISTER

BY PRECIOUS GASPARD



With dreams that may seem unrealistic to some, they are surely coming true for senior Allison Dutton. Her dreams that at one time seemed unreachable are becoming real as her future plans come together.

Dutton began her adventures of fashion design and art at the early age of five. She occasionally took art classes at the Joslyn Museum to supplement her growth. "I learned a lot of tips to keep in mind while I was drawing, even though I knew how to do it before," said Dutton, "but it kind fo reinforced it for me." Although she has always had a thing for art, she especially blos-

Dutton started out drawing Bratz dolls and cartoon characters; her favorite part was drawing out their outfits-- which she tended to

spend the most time on. Around the fourth grade she designed her first dress, inspired ne of the sketches

"Dancing With the Stars" that she watched with her mother. "It was so simple but yet so beautiful, and I just wanted to be able to do something like that," said Dutton. The design of her dress was

inspired by islands and palm trees. "I didn't get to construct the dress but I did design it and I was so proud of it. Dutton had the full support of her mother throughout whatever it was she desired to take on. "I attribute most of my success so far to

my mother's undying support. Even when my goals seem unrealistic to others, she would always tell them that they were wrong and didn't know where I'm going in life. And I love her for it," she said. Dutton, equipped with a passion for art, realized she wanted to be a fashion designer later in life after going through many phases. Dutton had the plans of being a freelance artist at first, due to the fact that 'there aren't many big artists, most of them are in the past and there

aren't many in today." She wanted to "revolutionize that." Later realizing the artsy field she felt drawn to was not quite right for her, she took on a strong feel for having the hopes of do-

ing animation for famous companies such as Disney's Pixar. "That was a huge dream for a while. I would practice animation during classes and whenever I was at home bored," said Dutton. When that started not to feel right, Dutton got into writing and immediately felt drawn to it, wanting to be an author or to write plays and movies

Throughout these different changes Dutton finally realized that fashion design was tailor-made for her. She had finally made up her mind concerning what she truly wanted to do.

Last year Dutton was a featured designer for the fall Omaha Fashion Week. Her collection was inspired simply by her imagination; Dutton got positive reviews all around on her work. Most of those reviews came from other small designers in the Metro Area and the Omaha World Herald.

To further pursue her dream, Dutton will be attending fashion school Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandizing (FIDM) in

She will leave Omaha in August to begin her first semester of college. The school has many programs to offer and Dutton "feel(s) like this school is perfect for creative continuities," picking up on an "excited vibe."

FIDM was of Arts, feeling that FIDM had much more to offer.

She felt that Academy of Art "was more concerned on what [she] could do for them rather what they could do for [her].

Dutton paid a visit to her future school this past spring break; she was utterly amazed and impressed by how colorful and vibrant the place seemed, which was due partly to the artchitectural design and structure of the building.

Her plans do not stop after college, but will continue after. She plans on starting it out slow because she knows that it is not

realistic for one to become a major fashion designer so soon.

"I won't be this really big fashion designer right after college, I'll have to put in work to get there," said Dutton.

She plans on working her way up to her dream design job: doing costume design for FIDM. After being in her seasoned position she has high hopes of using her accumulated money to buy her own textiles and accesories to start her very own, personalized fashion line.

Knickrehm named Miss Neb. Junior Teen

BY TANZY GIVENS

Central is definitely an accomplished school. With so many state titles, awards, certificates, and students that have achieved so much, students and staff can vouch for that statement. One person that has accomplished a lot for her age is Mary-Beth Knickrehm. She is a 14-year-old freshman at Central who was recently crowned 2012 Miss Nebraska Junior National Teen-

ager.
"I started competing [in pageants] last year. My first pageant was National American Miss (NAM) and I placed in the Top 10," Knickrehm says. NAM is a difficult pageant to compete in and actually win the first few times. With an average of about 60-80 girls in each age division, placing Top 10 in NAM your first time is age division, patting 100 in Thir your institution in the time is a massive accomplishment. "After NAM," she adds, "I competed in the America's National Teenager Scholarship Organization (ANTSO) pageant, and I won my first time. I was super psyched to be with ANTSO,"

People that aren't familiar with pageants may think that it is about makeup, swimsuits, glitz, and bratty girls (Thanks to the show Toddlers in Tiaras). In ANTSO contestants are graded based on their academics, community service, personal expression, on-stage question, formal wear, and their interview with the judges. There is no swimsuit competition. "I wanted to be with ANTSO because they focus on grades and community service, which is really important to me. They don't judge you off of what you look like," Knick-

Though she seems perfect, which she is close to, Mary says she has her weaknesses when it comes to pageantry. "On-stage question is one of my weaknesses because it's really hard to come up with a well-answered response," she says. "Poise and maturity are my strengths. I've matured very rapidly in time," she adds.

What is the first thing you think of when you hear the word "pageant" or even "pageant-girl". If you are not familiar with pageants your mind may automatically think of Toddlers in Tiaras. Knickrehm agrees. "I hate when people stereotype about pageants [and pageant girls]. They think 'rich-pageant girl', glitz, and looking good pictures," she says. ANTSO is 100% against all of that. "ANSTO focuses on the important stuff. But, you do get picked on sometimes." Knickrehm also says that a lot of girls have their parents pay for their pageant fees. "I fundraise all of the money needed to cover pageant costs. My parents don't pay for anything," she says.

It's known that when you win a pageant title you get money, prizes, and more. "With my title I got \$250, scholarships to a few different colleges, a huge luggage set, and various other things," Knickrehm says. She also won the speech competition and an award for her academics.

Now that she has gotten the state competition out of the way, she is starting to focus on the national competition this summer in San Antonio, Texas. "I've been preparing for it by fundraising... a lot. I'm also looking for a new dress and more fundraising. It's a lot of money," she says.

Most titleholders also have a platform. A platform is a cause that the girl supports and tries to get other to support not only during their reign, but afterwards too. "I'm trying to promote my platform more. It's called Serving God's Kids.

 $\bar{\text{It's}}$ a missionary group that my church has. We go to Imuris, Mexico which is about 40 miles south of the border. It's a really rough town that doesn't have many resources. I went last winter to help out and I wanted to go this upcoming summer but it conflicts with nationals, so I plan to go again at the end of this year. I'm going to promote it when I'm being interviewed by the media and also during my interview with the judges at nationals," says Knickrehm

Knickrehm is also involved in many other activities too. She is a mentor at the Boys & Girls Club of

"The kids need role models and a support system. So, that's what I help them with.

I also do a lot with my church by giving back and helping raise funds for them too," she says. Knickrehm also just made the 2012-2013 Central High Junior Varsity Cheerleading Squad too.

If you are interested you can get involved in the

ANSTO pageant, Knickrehm says either visit the website (nenationalteen.com), Google ANTSO, or to just contact her. "I will get them set up with the state director, Kimberly Somer, she is really helpful," Knickrehm adds. Knickrehm will compete for the title of Miss Junior National Teenager, this summer in San Antonio,

Junior feels that no matter the muse, music is still music, and is an art form that should be respected

Rap, hip-hop and R&B aren't music. Screamo isn't music. Indie isn't music. Pop isn't music. Country isn't music. Classical

rock? Not music. Oh, and definitely not dubstep. These opinionated-statements dressed-up as facts ring in my head from peers, family members and friends. I have found if someone prefers listening to one specific genre of music, they

generally are in high opposition to another. A prime example would have been seventh grade Mekenzie who listened to strictly alternative artists on labels like Fueled by Ramen or Interscope Records. With a little gap between her front teeth and firey red hair, Hayley Williams (of Paramore) was my alternative-genre hero. I proclaimed (all to proudly) that rap was 'crap', my point proven through the spelling of the words. My seventh grade self was nothing worth bragging about, with my music mind narrowed and decisive.

When the word 'music' enters in my ears I automatically think of some classical Mozart or the fortes and pianos of Bach, maybe even the electric guitar riffs flowing from the guitar of Jim Morrison. Anything classical is not just music, it is THE definition of music, or at least that's what my mind uproots.

Plenty of my friends and I have sat around listening to whatever oddly named playlist is on my iPod with varying degrees of music genre from Bon Iver to Dom Kennedy, when one song ends up sparking my friends opinion, "(Insert music genre) is not music, where as (insert their favorite genre) is."

Music is "the art or science of combining vocal or instrumental sounds (or both) to produce beauty of form, harmony, and expression of emotion."

Rap, hip-hop, R&B, dubstep, screamo, indie, coustic, foreign music – it all does the exact same thing. Artists in each category use lyrics (though the sound vibe might be different) paired with heavy and light beats, and I appreciate each.

I truly, whole-heartedly believe that in order to say you "appreciate" or "love" music, you cannot be a narrow-minded, "I'm right" type of thinker. I've listened to every genre that I know is currently in existence, and I wholly believe

you need to have at least listened and attempted to appreciate a

few genres before labeling your preference as "the only form of

Granted, I'd prefer listening to a rift of "Material Girl" from

Abel Tesfaye before sitting down and listening to 'Ben Threw' from Of Mice & Men, but yet I still like both.

I just have a preference. And I if people were a little less

tunneled down in their music beliefs, you just might find yourselves enjoying choruses or breakdowns of the

completely opposite genre in which you engulf yourself.

I don't in anyway mean to qualify or down score any genre of music, because each and every song (with the exception of 'Lipgloss'... THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT cough) is a compilation and expression of feelings with a beat as the backbone. I mean, as long as songs have that, than who's to say it's

not music?

No one. (No matter how many times you've sworn that you

hate country music, because let's face it, most of us have.)

A Cappella Choir involved in musical collaboration at the Holland | Recent movie "Bully"



BY ESAU RENDON

On Sunday, Nov. 20th, Central High school's A Cappella choir assembled alongside other Neb. and Iowa area high school choirs in a choral collaborative. The Omaha Symphony, the other key component of the collaboration, with the high schools performed at the Holland Performing Arts Center.

The performance, an oratorio called "Elijah," was produced by Felix Mendelssohn. An oratorio is a large musical production that requires the collaboration of an orchestra, a choir and soloists, similar to a opera.

The orchestra was the Omaha symphony, the soloists were professionals and the choir was assembled with student Acapella choirs from

The oratorio "Elijah" depicts various events of the biblical prophet Elijah, taken from the books 1 Kings and 2 Kings in the Old Testament

Several schools that participated included Papillion LaVista South, Burke, Bryan, Bellevue East and and Lewis Central.

The eight high schools split the oratorio in half by allowing four

schools to sing in the first half, and then four other schools in the second

Students like senior Shelby Larson and junior Jordyn Grau agreed it was a positive experience; both students said that it was great to come together with the other high schools and with the impressive symphony.

Grau also stated that she was greatly appreciative of the acoustics at the Holland and went on to say that it emphasized the superb quality of the voices that sang the oratorio.

Lyn Bouma, the A Cappella Choir teacher, said that the night required practice--practice that took all of the first school semester and a portion of the second. Shesaid that the preparation called for rigorous focus and perfected rehearsal techniques.

Other than practicing during class, Central's A Cappella Choir hosted a practice at Central for all of the choirs, and two rehearsals took place at the Holland the day before the show.

"The choral collaborative is a great opportunity for young singers to experience orchestral master works with professional musicians," Bouma

The cost of admission was \$10 per ticket. Bouma called it "a great price to see the symphony." She also included that there was a full house, and that proceeds went to the Educational Outreach Omaha Symphony

Students said that they were happy to support the arts.

Scholastic Art Competition winners invited to Nationals in NYC

B<u>Y</u> KENDALL PANAS



Winning both Silver and Gold Keys in the Scholastic gional art competition, seniors Katie Samson and Caitlin Hochwender's artwork

has been submitted for National recognition. Both Applied Design students, the girls'

art is very unique. Hochwender won her award for re-vamping an old pair of shoes. "They were a pair of grubby old heels that I covered with maps and red pins," she explained.

The piece received a Gold Key (first place) in Regionals and a Silver Key (second place) in Hochwender.

Samson's winning art piece was a painting of a girl with a lazy eye. "It got a Gold in Regionals and Silver in Nationals, and it got an American Visions nomination," said Samson.

Like this painting, Samson has a collection of portraits depicting people with ailments such as a black eye, acne, or facial scarring; each painting is very detailed and creative.

Samson and Hochwender were invited to attend the National Scholastic art ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City in the summer, but neither can find the time or funds necessarry to attend.

The awards ceremony in New York includes the best artwork from students all across the nation. "I was really honored to be picked," said

The tickets to the ceremony are free for the girls, but all attendees are required to pay for their own transportation and hotel. "It was such short notice," they both agreed. "If it was free, I would definitely go, but plane tickets and hotels are so expensive.

Though they are not attending the ceremony, the girls' work has not gone unnoticed.

If they had been invited to the ceremony earlier, the girls said they would have thought of starting a fundraiser.

"We could have raised enough money to road trip and maybe stay for a couple of days," said Hochwender. "We could have stayed in the park with the Occupy Wall Street people," they

Film brings book of the century to life for avid fans



MOVIE REVIEW

THE HUNGER GAMES

PHOTO COURTESY OF WARNER BROTHERS

BY JENNIFER ROONEY

"Happy Hunger Games, and may the odds be ever in your favor!"The odds of many people (including myself) enjoying this movie were quite large, even before it was appointed to be in the theaters.

spent hours in the bitter cold awaiting the midnight premiere

'The Hunger Games' came to theaters on March 23rd; many fans

The director of "The Hunger Games" was Gary Ross, also known for directing "Lassie," "Seabiscuit" and "The Tale of Despereaux."

But before it was shaped into a movie, it was first a book written by Suzanne Collins in 2008.

The action- and drama-filled movie is about two and a half hours long--and was sold out even before the movie came to the theaters. Some say it sold out even more rapidly than the midnight premieres of "Twilight" or "Harry Potter."

The movie displays a futuristic world in which Peeta Mellark (Josh Hutcherson) and Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) are struggling to train and survive life in the Hunger Games--while still trying to stay alive themselves.

The movie takes place in Panem, which includes 12 districts and the Capitol. District 12 is home to the poorest citizens. This is where Peeta and Katniss live. District 12 has only had two winners in 74 years, one of

them being Haymitch Abernathy, who is a drunken middle-aged man.

The movie beings with the Reaping of District 12 in the Times Square. It is Prim's, Katniss' little sister, first year in the drawing for the Hunger Games so her name is only entered once. Katniss acts like a mother to Prim since their own mother suffers from crippling depression

Effie Trinket, District 12's escort for the Hunger Games, makes a speech like she does every year and announces that there must be one girl and one boy from the ages 12 to 18 to compete to the death.

Primrose Everdeen is chosen for the girl of District 12. Katniss is upset by this and while Prim is walking up the aisle toward the stage, rushes out and fights through the guards and yells to volunteer as tribute-

Peeta Mellark is then chosen as District 12's boy--but this proves difficult after he reveals his love for Katniss. Soon they both travel to the Capitol with the tributes from the other districts on a train with a room filled with much food and mahogany tables--something neither Peeta nor Katniss have ever seen. All Katniss can think of was the last thing she

told Prim: "I will try to win, for you."

After a parade in which all the tributes are presented to sponsors and the entire population of Panem, Katniss was nicknamed the "Girl on Fire" because of the fiery costumes the two donned.

Then comes the training of the 24 tributes.

After this it begins, held in a forested arena, but sponsors and operators can change anything about it

This is the end. Districts fight. Tributes kill. People cry. But everyone will change. This is one year of Hunger Games that will change the entire population of Panem. It's either life or death--and there can only be one vinner. Does the fight of the Hunger Games come between Katniss and Peeta's love, or will the districts defy the Capitol?

I would recommend this movie to anybody who is into action and drama filled movies--and if you are a fan of the book, you will not be disappointed with the reality of the movie.

"We salute your courage and your sacrifice and we wish you a Happy Hunger Games!"

meaningful to Senior



Bullying has been something I have grown to be familiar with; I can remember back in elementary school when school counselors would make appearances to classes in order to teach us about it and its perils.

Obviously the schools wanted to prevent any bullying from happening, even if that ant going to extreme measures.

Their reasons for preventing the bullying were reasonable; they thought that bullying affected academic performance and students overall emotions, among other things.
While counselors talked to us about bully-

ing, I felt that I shared the same sentiment as the rest of my peers--the sentiment that in reality, bullying that was so severe it would affect the student's life in such a way was nonexistent in our school. And for the most part, we had not witnessed that kind of bullying.

In the transition to middle school I felt that people became a little more aggressive and exclusive, therefore leaving students emotionally in peril.

However, this was not enough to push someone to suicide or into a deep clinical depression, just a small blow to one's self esteem.

Later, in my first years in high school I still felt there was hostility between people who were different and people who considered themselves superior.

However, it did not seem that people suffered severely because of it; instead I felt that most of the student body was able to coexist.

The way most teens could agree to disagree was almost perfect and a reflection of the future progressive society.

All my life I have felt somewhat sheltered from witnessing severe manifestations of bullying.

I do not feel that they are a myth or remain

nonexistent, especially since I became educated about school shootings that took place at Virginia Tech and Millard South High School.

The truth is that those severe forms of bul-

lying do exist, and they hurt many--not just gays, Jews and Muslims. Everyone and anyone can be hurt by bullying.

What today's society needs is a tool en-

gineered so that many of the bystanders who allow bullying to escalate can wake up and act

Today, there exists a movie that is a look into the reality of what is going on in the modern world of schools (and anywhere people gather). It shows that yes, bullying can happen anywhere.

However, a movie that would be an easy way for the mainstream to look into this serious ongoing epidemic will have very few spectators. And young school children, who could potentially benefit the most from this film, don't have the easiest access to it.

It is sad that the generation that could benefit from the film will be the least to watch the film that carries an R rating.

I believe that this same rating and censoring is off. How can anyone restrict anyone from watching something that they may be seeing in their own lives?

Censoring and restricting films excludes many from being able to experience the film.

It is an absurd paradox and one of the ways that documentary film's ability to better the world through the art film will not be possible.

The movie finally arrived in Omaha and showed at the Aksarben Cinema since the last week of April and other Omaha area theaters.

Screenings sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League have been done exclusively at the Aksarben Cinema with tickets given to

The free screenings will hopefully be reacted toward in a positive manner, with theaters swarming with specators. But there really is no

This could potentially better the local Omaha community--unfortunately other cities and municipalities have not been so fortunate as to recieve such a fantastic opportunity.

Central students participate in National Novel Writing Month challeng

BY MEKENZIE KERR

ever since the family's father died in a coal mine accident.

It all began 14 years ago in Berkeley, Calif., when a group of friends discussed the tiresome trials of being a "one day writer;" the writers who sit and think to themselves, "surely I will one day write a novel," but the truth of the matter is that very few people (like New Year's resolutions) stick to these aspirations.

Cue National Novel Writing Month, better known as NaNoWriMo to writing veterans, the Omaha Metro-region's municipal liaison (ML) and soon-to-be Central ML, Angel Decker. This month-long endeavor helps to get writers on track to writing their novels and beating that "one day" habit. NaNoWriMo, beginning on the first of November, gives participants until midnight of Nov. 30 to write 50,000 words.

Decker, who has been involved with NaNoWriMo since 2005, is working on implementing the spirit of NaNoWriMo $\,$ in a bigger way than before.

Central High school students in Deron Larson's Creative Writing class have participated in NaNoWriMo's Young Writers Program, parallel to the original NaNoWriMo, but more doable for teens, requiring a total of twenty thousand words as opposed to fifty thousand. The past three years, two of Larson's classes have participated in the writing movement, working on their novels with some of Decker's community groups.

Students, Cecilia Marshall (12), Kyle Carlson (12), Andrew Gelbart (10) and Iona Newman (10) reached their goals of 10,000 words or more. Catalina Ramirez (12) accomplished a total of 14,000 words for this past NaNoWriMo season, falling just short of her self-defined 15,000 word goal.

With the closing of another school year, Decker hopes to incorporate NaNoWriMo in an even bigger way in the upcoming 2012-2013 year.

The process of bringing NaNoWriMo to Central, the only

high school in the area participating along with a few students from Millard, began when Decker had a phone conversation with Chris Batey, founder of NaNoWriMo. Her call from Batey was a prize for placing third out of the entire country in the World Wide Book Drive, raising about four tons of books that piled on her "front porch--" so many in fact that she "was scared it would collapse!

But the risk of a collapsing porch was worth the reward. During the conversation she brought up the idea of kids in any city having their own specific ML, not just a regional person opted into the Batey was gung-ho on Decker's

idea, and the rest followed. An 'okay' has been given to Decker to do exactly what her idea entailed. Decker is transitioning from the Omaha-Metro ML to the high school ML position this year in order for the next. With this position she hopes to get a club specifically for NaNoWriMo--members will be going to get the word out and supporting students involved or those interested.

"One thing I'd like to see is to not just have it limited to creative writing classrooms, but be a yearly event going on here," said Decker, "I'd like to see Central have more participants than any other school."

Decker even went a step further when discussing with former superintendent Dr. John Mackiel about getting NaNoWriMo to go district wide for Omaha Public Schools, during his tutelage. Although Mackiel has retired and Decker will have to start over again, she looks forward to seeing NaNoWriMo grow not only at Central.

While 1,667 words a day to achieve the 50,000 in a month might be a breeze "for professionals," a grandiose goal can be difficult to reach when life gets in the way. And through this, Decker sees NaNoWriMo as much more than a writing event for those "passionate" for writing, like herself. Decker notes different situations where NaNoWriMo has

helped people continue to strive, but mainly one concerning a

man whose sister died of cancer during November. Despite this loss he continued to write his novel; the next year the same man was diag-

One thing I'd like to nosed with brain cancer, yet continued to write see is to not just have it limited to creative writing

This event, alongside others noted by Decker, show the qualities of perseverance, the ability of the property of the same ways and the same man that the same ways are the same ways and the same ways are the same ways and the same man that the same ways are the same ways and the same man that the same man the same man that the same man that the same man that the same man

classrooms, but be a yearly er, show the qualities of perseverance, the ability and drive to continue going even when all of event going on here. I'd like to see Central have more participants than any other school.

er, show the qualities of perseverance, the ability and drive to continue going even when all of ity and drive going even when all of ity and drive going even when

ing anyway." Decker also noted the tragic, untimely passing of an eight year old little girl, a time that

- Angel Decker

she had to keep going to get through as well.

Through these hard events and the daily pains of life, NaNoWriMo brings people together, and hopefully it can do just that while bringing out the best in Central students. Decker, working with Larson, hope to see NaNoWriMo flourish where it has been planted in Omaha Central High school, as her efforts grow among the student body.

"It's kind of like an organization who's part of it from another area of the world, and immediately it's like this family," said Decker, "it is its own experience; until you sit down and write out this many words or more in a month...you have not lived!

Old bands never die: Tilly and the Wall has matured over last decade



They have lost their rough and raw teenage rebel sound and replaced it with a new polished album that they have left untitled, but don't worry! Although they left out the title of this album, they didn't leave out Jamie Pressnall's tapdancing feet, providing this group with their upbeat, light and cheery sound that will make anyone want to tap dance. Local Omaha band Tilly

and the Wall are a band that I have listened to since the fifth

They were probably the first good group that I had actually listened to (before that, my two favorite CD's were "The Best of Cher" and some Black Eyed Peas album that I blasted out of a crappy boom box that I had received three Christmas's prior, or a Walkman CD player if I was on the go. (Do you remember those things? Oh, Technology.)

Anyways, my good friend Hannah Emsick introduced me to this bright and colorful band with their sharp electric guitars, buzzing synthesizers, light and airy piano, and full rich choruses.

I have loved them ever

We were so young when we started listening to Tilly and the Wall that we would scramble for the volume knob on the boom box whenever we knew that a curse word was coming up. Besides those occasional "bad words" we still loved this screaming rainbow garage rock

I know that that is a weird way to describe a groups voice, but "screaming rainbow garage rock" just seems to fit it perfectly.

Their new untitled album has the same beautiful vocals, catchy melodies, and peaceful harmonies that this group has had since they started playing together in 2000.

However, they have slightly more mature and polished sound.

I feel like I have also grown and matured at the same time that this band has and I think that a lot of kids my age would

feel the same way.

I still feel like the same weird little 12 year old on the inside that I was when I started listening to Tilly and the Wall, just a little more grown up on the outside.

Their album artwork also fits this theme, with a simple black and white cover, and a sprinkled rainbow colored disk on the inside.

This album was produced with Mike Mogis from Bright Eyes and recorded under the label of Team Love Records.

It was their third studio album produced.

The first track on the album starts out with soft acoustic guitar and pretty harmonies in the vocals with Kianna Alarid adding in cute and playful lyrics like, "When there wasn't anywhere for me to go, Oh I stumbled into deep love with your rock and roll.

The first track titled "Tall Tall Grass" is the only slower song on the album.

The rest of the tracks have the same pop sound that Tilly and the Wall has always brought to the table, with their feistiest track titled "Pot Kettle Black," which was recorded in a local elementary school's gym with a 10 person stomp group, being my favorite.

Overall, this is just another awesome album by Tilly and the Wall.

Same great warm and fuzzy, good natured, sing-along feel with a slightly new and

more mature urban sound. It's Tilly and the Wall all

grown up and I love it!

Over the years Tilly and the Wall have become a staple in my album collection and I have been able to form a relationship with the band as many of their tunes have become a part of my

So, it is good to know that the band continues to produce new songs; that can become a part of furture memoires as they have of memories in the past.

Durham brings breathtaking movie costumes to the Midwest







PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE CURATED OBJECT

BY EMILY BECK

While we don't always notice what stars are wearing in movies, they're what can make or break the atmosphere and authenticity of a "period film"—or a film created in a modern time but set in a past era.

An exhibit called Cut! Costume and the Cinema was at the Durham Museum (located at 801 S. 10th St., just a few minutes' drive from Central) from Dec. 3—April 29.

This exhibit included the costumes from movies like Hamlet, Finding Neverland, Jane Eyre, Pirates of the Caribbean, Casanova, The Duchess, Defiance, Phantom of the Opera and Sherlock Holmes.

The really cool thing: these were not replications. Although a lot of the time there has to be extra costumes made (especially in action-filled movies like Sher-lock Holmes, for stunt doubles), these were the actual costumes that the stars wore. That's right, people...at this exhibit there are costumes that were worn by Heath Ledger, Robert Downey Jr., Johnny Depp, Natalie Portman, Keira Knightly, Amy Adams, Daniel Craig, Kate Winslet, Jude Law and more...it was incredibly cool.

Unfortunately you weren't allowed to touch anything or take any photographs (flashes could dull the fabric and oil or dirt from hands could damage naterial)—but it was breath-taking to be amongst all of that greatness. Some Oscar winners even wore those costumes.

In addition to the room set up with period costumes, there was a room for smaller children to play dress up in. They could also sketch a design and staple small fabric swatches to it and dress a mannequin.

Bill Meyers, a volunteer gallery guide and sort-of curator, is responsible for answering people's questions and making sure that they're following all of the rules. He told me that someone has to be on the floor at all times, since the costumes are so precious.

Meyers has volunteered for several other exhibits, including Capture the

Moment: The Pulitzer Prize Photographs and George Washington Carver. Obviously people who visit are interested in the exhibits, but Meyers said that he's never seen such a strong reaction to the costume displays. People come in with an abundance of knowledge, leaning in as close as possible, really studying the displays and taking it all in.

'The interest is great," he said. "It's just more intense."

Cosprop, the London-based company that supplied all of the costumes for the exhibit, is "one of the world's leading costumiers to the film, theatre and television industries," according to its website. While the company isn't a common name, its work has been seen by just about everyone who has stepped into a theater for any film set in an older era.

"Clothing doesn't get a starring role," the website proclaimed, but the company's mission is to make the movie perfect whether notice goes to the costumes or not. They're just humbly doing their job.

Supplementing Cut! Costume and the Cinema was another exhibit called Drawn to Fashion: The Illustrations of Mary Mitchell, which was a perfect addition. There were walls and walls of this woman's sketches and drawings—her life's work (from the 60s, 70s and 80s).

Mitchell worked as a fashion illustrator for the Nebraska Clothing Company, later opening her own studio for freelance work. In her book Drawn to Fashion, she was praised by Oscar de la Renta, a famous designer for her original, creative

The juxtaposition of these two displays were phenomenal!! The familiar and foreign elements—a local artist who walked the streets of Omaha as we do, and the glitzy world of Oscar glamour—created an unforgettable experience.

The friendly helpfulness of Meyers really helped to make the experience fantastic as well. Altogether, an A+ to the Durham.

During these two exhibits, the Durham was a haven for anyone who has an interest in fashion. Whether you have an interest in costuming, designing, creating clothing or anything in between, this exhibit was made for you.

CHS Singers chosen to perform National Anthem, great honor

BY TABITHA PANAS



"He said we were the best group who auditioned by far," said senior Alex Kinkhead.

Early this year, chorus instructor Lyn Bouma chose eight seniors from her CHS singers to record a tape to send in as an audition to sing the National Anthem.

They turned the tape into the Nebraska Music Educators Commission, hoping for an opportunity to sing at a state sporting event.

In previous years, Central's singers have sang the National Anthem at State Wrestling, Tennis and Baseball

This year's octet (almost always consisting of seniors) were Kaitlin Beck, Elyssia Finch, Jasmine Polk, Catalina Ramirez, Jacob Wilson, Dawaune Hayes, Harrison Leitch and Alexander Kinkhead.

This group is especially strong," said Bouma, which is why she was not surprised when this group was chosen to sing at the State Football Game in Memorial Stadium early last November, which is considered to be the biggest athletic event of the school year to perform at--and is reserved for the school with the best audition tape. Bouma stated that their goal is always to sing at the highest level possible.

The singers were excited, yet not too nervous the day of the State game. The eight singers took a bus down to Memorial Stadium at 8 a.m. to do a sound check, and traveled back that evening at 7 p.m. to kick off the game with out

country's National Anthem.

The seniors usually don't need a conductor when they perform, but the echo in Memorial Stadium and the amount of noise made it difficult for the singers to hear each other, so Bouma conducted the Anthem."The Stadium had an ob-

noxious echo," said Kinkhead.

He also said that "It was exciting because I have never sang in front of that many people in my life, ever!" Even so, he said that he was not nervous before or while singing.

All-State Music Festival is the only other event that he could compare this experience to. However, the difference between All-State and singing the National Anthem is the fact that when in All State's Choir, you are singing with hundreds of other singers.

Hayes said that the amount of people didn't cause him anxiety. "We perform all the time." CHS Singers sings the National Anthem at various Eagles sporting events through-out the year. He also recalls that the National Anthem is the first song you practice in chorus, so they have had a lot of

Hayes described his fellow octet members' as well as Bouma's attitudes that day as "very relaxed." He describes the event as a great experience and said that they all felt proud when receiving certificates of recognition for singing our country's National Anthem.

Adele's album brings comfort to sophomore



Whether it's "Right As Rain" or 'Set Fire To The Rain," Adele has always had the right song for however I'm feeling--and they always touche the right place for me.

If I'm in the mood for a little revenge or venting I don't hesitate to plug my head phones in and turn it to "Set Fire To The Rain," "Cold Shoulder" or "Turning Tables." And in my weakest points it's best to listen to something a little more soothing and positive to set the right mood.

Since I first heard the sweet sounds of the first line in "Chasing Pavements" (I know that song like the back of my hand) I have always been an Adele fan.

"Tve made up my mind, don't need to think it over. If I'm wrong I am right, no need to look no further..." because I know for a fact that Adele will always have music for me to favor even in the

The weird part about it all is that even with the songs that are based on omething I have no relation to I car least find one or two verses where I feel like she knows my situations or some kind of message that relates to me.

Before Adele dropped her Album "21" in early 2011 I was still excited to listen to her debut album "19" where I fell in love with her music and voice.

With her unique voice, critics could barely even categorize her into just one genre.

Most of the time it seems to me that no one ever wants someone to make it big or accomplish something. Every time Adele's name was brought up there were at least one negative comment coming out of someone's mouth. I don't care if she's obese or anorexic. I love her music.

The fact that she can go all over the world with courage and not care what others say or think about her is very inspirational.

If I was ask who celebrity inspiration was with no hesitation Adele would be the first name that popped into my head.

I'm not sure how I would react if Adele did or didn't come to Omaha.

So far Adele has no tour bookings in Omaha and I can't wait until she

However, my appreciation for Adele has made me feel the love; in the midst of my personal sadness that has been sprouted from her absence from Omaha arenas, I am still elated with the great year that she has had

Students selected to participate in American Honor Choir



BY EMILY BECK

From about 400 applicants, Central's own Joe Fitzgerald, Annah Shipman, Maggie Fey and Harrison Leitch were selected to participate in the American Choral Directors Association Honor

Choir, held Feb. 8-11 in Madison, Wisconsin. They stayed at the Madison Monona Terrace Hilton. While there choir members did much rehearsing, but also had the opportunity to see other choirs and performing groups. Lyn Bouma and Colin Brown, both teachers of music, accompanied the four to Wisconsin, braving the cold in a small white bus.

Bouma, while surprised that more seniors weren't selected, was nonetheless thrilled that three out of the four were juniors. She said that this is because "they get to come back and continue to feed the program here.'

About ten students from Central auditioned, from all grade levels, and around 50 auditioned from the state of Ne-

In order to be selected, students first had to send in an audition tape, which consisted of them singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee," an ascending and descending scale (the familiar 'Do Re Mi...'), and one minute of a solo. This was recorded and sent in to the chairperson of the honor choir.

Since it's a 6-state regional choir, there are an immense amount of tapes sent in. Students from Nebraska, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Iowa, South Dakota and North Dakota made their audition recordings in the hopes of being selected.

The only kids from Omaha were the four chosen from Central, as well as one from Bellevue East. Altogether the choir was made up of 120 voices.

Fitzgerald, while not cocky, wasn't surprised that he was selected, owing it to all of the hard work that he's put in (and all that effort has paid off— Fitzgerald has also won a Nebraska Young Artist award and made the All State Jazz

He gained a lot out of the experience, saying that it was "more than I could have asked for. Everybody in the choir had such great musicianship that we were able to create really incredible and moving pieces."

Shipman loved the experience as well, despite the cold weather. "It made me a better singer and choir member," she said. "There are two things I'll remember the most: really

great music, and frigid temperatures." While in Wisconsin, singers had to perform five different pieces; they were responsible for learning four of those beforehand, and were taught one from scratch by the director. "They rehearse and become an ensemble themselves," Bouma said.

In addition to the hours of rehearing, attendees got to experience Madison and see other groups perform. One that stuck out was an oratorio (almost like an opera, a collaboration between an orchestra, choirs and soloists) about children in the Holocaust. "It was a really powerful performance," Bouma said.

The event isn't just an experience beneficial to students-it also acts as an opportunity for educators themselves to learn. "It's fun to watch the other conductors, you can always learn something from somebody else conducting a choir," Bouma said. She always fervently looks forward to the event, which

occurs every other year (the year in between belongs to the National Honor Choir, held in Chicago last year); the teacher noted the social and musical benefits that students have the opportunity to receive. And she even likes the fact that they get to take a break from each other in order to learn from others.

"I think that it's always a great experience for them to work with another conductor. It's easy to get stuck in your own ways if you always have the same person in front of

The master conductor, Brad Holmes of Millikan University, got rave reviews from all of the attendees.

"He was the kind of person who really pushed you to be better, and he helped me love some of the pieces I had originally disliked," Shipman said. Fitzgerald agreed, calling Holmes "absolutely phenomenal." Of the entire experience, Shipman said that the most

important thing it taught her was to listen better.

"That's the biggest thing in a choir, to just listen and be

aware of who's singing what around you," she said. Fitzgerald said that the incredible dedication that was displayed "simply confirmed to me that talent combined with great effort can make the unexpected happen."







GLOBAL WARMING: MYTH OR REALITY?

The Register explores the topic of global warming, and calls for widespread acceptace of a problem that will one day be ours.

OPINION, PAGE 8

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

Enrollment cap, International Baccalaureatue World School, Boys and Girls State Basketball, achievemt in individual academics ... It's obvious Cental continues to be the "Champ High" of public schooling in Nebraska, and each student jumps for their contribution.

In 8th grade while signing up for schools, Central just seemed so majestic and champion, with its great architecture and hill that makes it look so much more grand.

The truth is that Central has had more

than just the architecture and hill to make it seem to triumphant over the years.

And upon further noticing, there are many reasons we are considered 'Champ

It is the place of legends in the making, the place where all four corners of the world seem to be represented by the staff, faculty and student body, all of which provide the positive aspect of diversity.

Diversity at central seems to be one of the principles of an Eagle, we regard it with respect, dignity and overall importance.

There is no reason for oppression at Central , something that is visible in the amount of clubs we have, from All Nations Club for Native Americans to Latino Leaders for Latino students to the more common throughout more high schools the Gay Straight Alliance.

Central goes beyond just the typical Race, Religion and sexual orientation mixed salad, there also exists a somewhat disperse field when it comes to socio-economic

status.
"It seems like everyone who attends Central does so because they really want to be there, not just because it is there neighborhood school. " said Senior(12) Catalina Ramirez.

Central students are from very different lifestyles some come from the ritzy private school Brownell- Talbot , the trailed streets of North Omaha and even from smaller cities surrounding Omaha, like Bellevue.

Junior, Chianda Young who, lives in between Omaha and Bellevue said "Central's neighborhoods and where

you live doesn't matter. everyone in the student body gets a chance.'

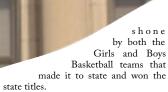
Some might say the schools to the south and west of Omaha take the cake when it comes to opportunities, however, it is clear that Central students have opportunities just like students from any of the other area high schools. We challenge that perception and say that Central has more opportunities, with scholarships exclusive to Central like the

Joel Koudym scholarship and the Jake J. Schreibman scholarship.

Senior Taylor Givens said, "I don't think I would have had the same experience at any other high school, I am thankful I attend and have attended Central for the past four years of my high school education," she said.
"I truly feel that my opportunities here are

just the same, if not greater than at other area high schools; how many can say that they have met three Holocaust survivors, a Holocaust liberator and one of the members of Little Rock 9?" Central High school is a school based

on greatness from the Athletics to the academic, it has seen stars in both from Junior Marika Savolos, who earned outstanding perfect scores on both the Act and PSAT college entrance exams, to the team efforts



These are only two examples of how Central cares about both education and athletics and it seems to make our neighboring schools green with envy, so much so that it makes Central the target of rude comments.

However, it's easy to see with one of the highest enrollments in the state done not by force but by choice, that many want

to join in on the continuing legacy. This is a principle Central was founded on. Names like Fonda and Buffet have roamed these hall ways and Ivy league students have called Central home with great appreciation.

Central's heyday is far from over. Especially what with the enrollment cap, we are looking forward to a new, innovative group of young people that will not only impress us as classmates, impress the school

and district, but eventually impress the world. After all, greatness attracts greatness, right?

Everyday Central continues grow; educating, nurturing and positive influencing important members of the future, just as it has in the past over 150

Signed, the Central Register staff forever Eagles and forever progressive.

PHOTO BY JAYDE BALENTINE/O-BOOK GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO/THE REGISTER

Sophomore finds passion in judging speech compteition



The steps to judging were simple. First the coaches signed their school in. Next you are given a schedule. After that there is a "brief" meeting that takes about half of the time of what the first round was supposed to be discussing any changes

Shortly after that, competitors are off to find the room they are in and judges go to get there ballets which is a packet that gives you all the details you would need to judge a specific category. From there I look completely lost walking empty halls looking for a room with competitors. Judging is not the easiest thing to do; being totally objective and supportive is what it's mainly about. I found it very hard and tiring

in the beginning.

I would give my Friday Night up to judge a speech competition with a group of Central's very own speech competitors. It might sound crazy to give up a Friday night, but the experiences are worth it. It might sound crazy to give up a Friday night, but the experiences are worth it.

I get free food, because there is a judge's lounge, for judges only of course, with an endless amount of food and drinks that I would sometimes sneak and bring to the students that are in the speech competition. I also get the chance to be most feared when it comes to Judging, too many slip ups and scores go down the drain from there.

Surely having to portray yourself as a college student in front of a large group of people is difficult because it leads to an endless amount of lies and stories, like that time I was an intern for Vogue or how I'm majoring in Communications going to UNO full time.

Yeah they're lies but, who's counting? Pretty soon they would have forgotten about the girl that kept bringing plates full of food for the only OPS school that attend speech tournament back and forth through the lounge.

I must admit while I'm in there sneaking

around with large plates full's and pockets full of snacks to bring to your friends, my conscience gets to me and I'm walking away with my head down avoiding the scary looking teachers that usually stare a lot. I would ask myself what I would say if I was ever approached for giving out food or just simply having too much being taken out of the room. I simply answered, "excuse me, but I have an eating disorder where I enjoy watching others eat while eating and my friend have no food so I can't do so." I'm not sure if they would have believed me or not, I honestly just wanted to go home and go to bed.

There's not much I could say about hating judging because I most certainly wouldn't go if I didn't like it, but I didn't always feel this way about judging. The butterflies was the worst part, I was so nervous I forgot I was in charge and decided when competitors could go. Don't worry after a while I got the hang of it and now it's like toasting toast in a toaster.

After a while the nervousness goes away and I'm able to focus on what are the speakers are saying and what I need to critique based upon a that tells me what I need to look for the less, Judging these competitions has more to offer than all the free food in the world. Judging helped me realize what I had a passion for and I also over came my fear of being in total silence.

Judging makes me feel like I have full control and responsible for something big. That feeling is the best feeling for someone that hopes to be very successful in life.

Junior Editor believes journalism is way of life, truly helps improve skills



Learning cursive was one of the most lifechanging fourth situations that ever stared down and me sized me up. Next learning came

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the *Register*

Staff

how to add and do other assortments of math tricks with fractions. The sweat began pouring down my forehead when the thought of fresh math concepts came up my sixth grade year.

To think that I ever considered those activities as daunting or intimidating is nothing but a big fat joke to my eleventh grade-self. As I have advanced from grade to grade, I've come to find that what is "scary" changes from year to year, just like stress levels. Finding cursive or toying around with fractions stressful? Nowadays that'd be a leisure activity.

I have a hard time relating to people who don't understand stress at any level. Whenever I pass by a conversation or sit with people who are taking a "mental health day" or are "stressed" over a quiz, open note or not, in an "easy" class, I get particularly cheesed off. Sure, each difficulty and hurdle is different sized to each individual,

Come on, you think you're stressed? Take everything away and try newspaper, editor in fact. Now tell me you think you know what stress is, and I'll reorganize your very definition of that simple noun.

Sure stress is homework from AP classes, honors classes, sports, whatever you're involved in over the course of your school year. But stress for the editor-in-chief of the Central Register involves staying after school extra hours, coming in on breaks, having the same writing assignments as your staff plus designing lay-out and doing everything everyone else neglected. I've sacrificed a few Friday nights before, one night spent in the journalism room until 10:30

I never quite knew the definitions of obligation and stress so well, let alone realizing how well the two meshed.

From my freshmen year on the staff to becoming editor-in-chief of the legendary

Central High School Register has been an honor and a privilege, engaging myself in different cultures and people that I normally wouldn't be akin to on my daily school schedule. I've mastered journalism writing, AP style and more importantly: my fear of talking to complete strangers, and for that it is worth the gray hairs.

I vividly remember starting off as a mere journalism seedling, walking into what was soon to be my econd home, room 029, and being assigned a story and lay-out page. I was terrified, felt more stressed out than I ever had before and wondered, 'What in tarnations did I get myself into?"

But story after story and experiences to follow, newspaper became a passion. Scared? Not so much. Slowly mastering the ropes of

THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT

being a journalism guru? Definitely. Through my past three years on newspaper I've been able to narrow down the everchanging, extra stressful decision on my major to, surprise, surprise: journalism. Every unnerving experience with this "leap of faith' took evolved into a future-shaping, lifechanging jump. But even more than that, newspaper

pushed my limits on my comfort zone. Sure, I get stressed and that has resulted in a few tears

and late nights, but the reward of maturing in who I am has been worth it.

I guess you could say that journalism preening and picking at me as not only a journlist but also a person has made me a champ in one way or another

While ľm

dribbling a ball on a court or scoring medals - I am - in fact mastering my future and perfecting my skills as a champ to produce a better, harderhitting newspaper issue each day. And aren't hard work and dedication two primal traits in being a champ? I'd say so.



Reflection leaves columnist prepared for upcoming years



MIRACLES HAPPEN EVERY DAY

On the first day of school, you can usually tell who the freshmen are-maybe from their "immaturity" or from their shy and timid personalities in the atmosphere.

They walk through the halls wondering how they will find everything in such little time, and if they will know anybody from middle school in their upcoming classes. I think everybody remembers their

first day of freshman year just like it was yesterday, because it was a time of first impressions and the beginning to a new

High school is just another part of life that everyone wants to rush out of, yet wants to go back to when it's over.

Each year students are excited to get out and experience relief by the thought of summer air coming their way--but then they realize that the year went by in a flash.

Sooner or later, you are already a senior and off to college and you don't even realize how quickly time flies.

Being at the end of my junior year, I've started to realize that soon I will be leaving my home and going off to college somewhere else. I never have really taken it all in until

now, because I have many friends that are seniors this year and I know things are going to change.
You never know what each moment

means to you until the people who gave you those moments go away.

High school is your whole life at times and your classmates and peers are your family, even if it is a little hard to comprehend. Sometimes it's easier for students to leave their parents rather than leaving their friends.

No matter if you have a lot or not so many friends, they make your life and you will always miss them. It's probably even worse if you're the senior and you're the one going away.

I remember my first day of freshman vear like it was vesterday. I made sure the clothes I was wearing were perfect and that I wasn't too overdressed, but also not too underdressed.

To some people, first impressions are everything. They create your personal thoughts on an individual.

They could definitely affect your high school life because some kids these days just go way too far in stereotyping or in judging someone.

Living your high school life is also about learning many things, and how to deal with each one. Like for example, stereotypical people, I've learned not to care what people think . . . seriously, you be you.

Even though I'm not a senior and I haven't really experienced "senioritis," I've witnessed it and it makes me really think "Okay, high school, you're getting us ready for college...okay, look at us not wanting to do a single thing at all."

When I stepped into high school, I never knew what was ahead of me. At first I tried to get used to it, then accomplish homework and projects. But since the years have gone by, I have to admit: I care more, but procrastinate even more.

Memories from high school make someone's life, and he or she will always remember them. They are the "back when I was your age" or "back in the day" stories that either bore us or give us ideas that we

I surely will remember each memory like it was yesterday when I depart. Like my freshman homecoming. Now I just laugh because of how overexcited I was about really nothing.

I had my hair done and I thought I had the "perfect dress." I don't think so. I went with a big group of friends where none of us had dates or even the thought of getting a date. Now I think of a completely different occasion, Prom.

I also remember telling my best friend about everybody at the school because she unluckily went to a different one.

But in the beginning of last year she finally came and we could now accomplish everything together.

Everyone does go through the same thing in high school even if nobody realizes it because in a way it is different, but we. humans, are 99% the same in fact.

Mostly every high school student goes through a little bit of drama, anger, stress, love, becoming lost and dangerous moments. But, like my friend always says,"no regrets."

Sometimes I think of High school as the road ahead. One turn could get you where exactly you want to go but another could get you lost and you have no idea

how to get out. People can always point out the change in you throughout high school. It's when you mature and try in figure out who you exactly would like to be.

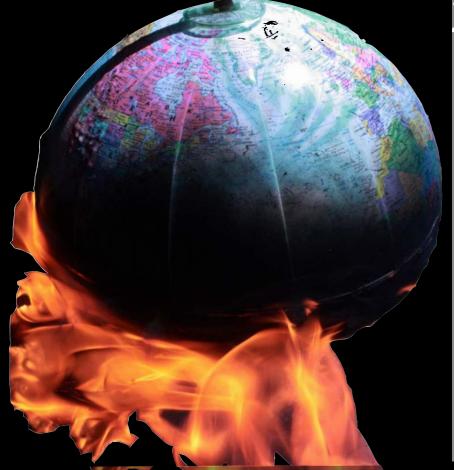
High school teaches lessons where you will be tested on throughout life and nothing is easy these days.

We learn. We fail. We cry. We party. We love.

And this is why I am a champ because I'm ready to become a senior and live my life after that.

OBAL WARMIN

Some acknowledge the science behind it and others view it as merely myth. But the truth is that this is something young people should take seriously, since we will someday inherit the Earth.



- peratures have climbed 1.4 degrees Fahrenheit around the world since
- snows are rapidly melt-ing like Mont.'s Glacier National Park, which has a mere 27 glaciers (there
- sitive to minute changes in water temperature, went through the worst eas seeing rates as high as 70 percent.

It seems like an age old debate, even though it just became widely talked about less than a decade ago, and I am over it. I have been over

Recently, I was retaking a test in a science office and trying hard to focus. However, my concentration was broken by two teachers slapping each other with cliché, outdated arguments that everyone has

"The icecaps are melting!"
"Its all a myth!"

"But reasearch shows...!"
"Climate naturally fluxuates!"

Ever since the concept of global warming was introduced, and gained fame due to Al Gore's An Inconvenient Truth,

global warming has been heavily debated. And we all have heard everything there is to hear about each side's argument. So why are people still debating?

Honestly, arguing over global warming is a waste of breath. I'm not sure whether or not it is real or go-

ng to get worse. No one does. Arguing against Global rming is pointless. Crazy environmentalists are not

going to stop pestering you, if that is what you are trying to do by your arguments. Arguing for Global Warming is as equally pointless. Some people are going to continue to drive cars and raise CO2 levels. Some people are going to throw trash out their window. Some people, usually in shackles, have to pick it up on the side of the highway. That's just the way it is just the way it is.

However, many use Global Warming in the same way as some use religion, which is not always a bad thing. Global Warming and many religions have striking parallels. I once had someone explain to

me why they felt one should believe in God. They told me that if you live your life not believing, die, and meet God in the afterlife, then you will probably wish you would have been a believer. On the other hand, if you believe, and there is no God then oh well. Your false belief was

If you believe, and there is no God then on Well. Your raise belief was false, obviously, but it was not a waste because you probably lived your life with hope, faith, and good morals and there is no harm done.

The belief in Global Warming can be put in the same light. If we don't do anything about it now, we could be kicking ourselves later when the harsh effects of Global Warming ruin our planet. However, if we bite the bullet and try to reduce emission standards, but it turns out Global Warming was a myth, then so what. We helped out the

In conclusion, the argument over whether or not art conclusion, the argument over whether or not Global Warming is a hoax is irrelevant to the matter at hand. I personally do not agree with how some politicians used it for their own personal political gains, but in the end, the message of going green is not a bad one. There is no harm in trying to save our little by little That being said some will personal title by little That being said some will personal title by little and the said some will personal title by little and the said some will personal title by little and the said some will personal title by little and the said some will personal title by little and the said some will personal title by little and the said some will personal title and the said some will personal to the said some will be a said some will personal to the said some will be said so the said some will be said some wi

planet little by little. That being said, some will participate in helping out, while others will not. Some people are going to recycle. Some people aren't. It is difficult to change people's habits and opinions once an idea has formed and taken hold inside their head. No one wants to admit that they could be wrong about what they previously have stated about climate change (believers and non-believers alike) therefore, this argument is a dead end. The population of America has already made up their minds about this issue, and with no new research, information or point of view about Global Warming, no one is going to change their opinions about it any time score.

Social Networking needs lesson learned, anyone looking at site

EDITORIAL

"Hold on, Lemme check my Facebook real quick," a statement from many teenagers these days that you will probably hear every day. Is this a bad thing? Or are students nowadays gaining more information from social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter?

There are always going to be complications when supplying information to the internet because everybody can see it and identify it somehow what it is. In fact, 61 percent of parents' number one concern with their teen's social network is sharing personal information online.

Remember when Myspace first established years ago and everyone was so hung up about it? That was one of the first social networking sites teens used, and nobody had even a thought of what it would attain over the years.

Everyone had so called "cool" nicknames on Myspace to explain their personality in a few words. Not a lot of personal information was given out at that time except things like your favorite movies or music, nothing really important.

By the time this generation moved up to high school and we all started to discover Facebook or even

Twitter and finally all established a profile on that as well, but things got complicated then. Personal information was soon even given out just on a profile. People even over the age of 65 have a Facebook now. It's an easy

way to communicate with people that you don't have easy access to talk

Some people even think it's a necessity to have a social networking profile. Yes, maybe the media might gain some fame from their fans in posting statuses, pictures, and videos.

73 percent of teens from the age of 12 and 17 now have profiles on

social networking sites. Statistics show that girls use social networking sites more than boys. It also is said that girls use it for reinforcing pre-

existing friendships and boys use it for flirting and making new friends. But, could this be a bad thing? Teenagers, these days may be evoking too much information on the internet now. Anyone can see it, and I don't

think teenagers realize the consequences of putting something online. It's like this; if you wouldn't want someone, like your mom, to see this, then why put it online. If you wouldn't do it in person than don't do it online. Forty percent of parents worry about their teen's social networking sites, but 34 percent actually check them.

You really can never delete something online. I've even heard of complications of when people have taken screen shots of a disastrous

uproar on Facebook or Twitter. Everything will always be open to the public even if you think you have put privacy" on your profile. Nothing is private these days and don't believe it.

Cyber bullying even adds to that because the school and the police could now get involved, buts that's a whole other story.

But really it's not the problem of evoking too much information on social networks. It's the problem of if teens spending too much time on it and not enough time on their current education. This is called procrastination.

Education should be one of the most important things in a teen's life because if they really care about getting into a good college and the one that they want then they will believe this.

Sixty three percent of teenage users go online every day. This may include social networks. Could this be the reason of why some students are not getting their homework finished?

Tanning indoors speedy alternative to sun bathing, totally acceptable

It's that time of year again when people to be ready for swimsuit season. "Now want to be ready for swimsuit season. that summer is coming up, a lot of people want to look darker for summer," said an employee of Ashley Lynn's. Tanning is "very beneficial" and "people want to look good for vacations" she also said.

I'd say I have to agree with her. I've been pretty pale skinned all my life and am starting to feel more comfortable with my skin now that I've started tanning.

A lot of people think it's ridiculous that I don't just tan outside but you would be surprised to find that my body does not get very tan from being outside. Not only does my body not get very much color from the sun, but it also takes way too much time; time that I normally don't have on a regular basis.

If I really wanted to get a tan from the sun, it would probably require me to lay out for an hour at least two or three times a week. Eight

minutes once or twice a week is really all I need to get some color from the tanning bed.

My opinion aside, there are some pros and cons to both methods of tanning.

Tanning outside isn't my first choice but I like the fact that you don't have to worry about wearing protective eye wear. Tanning outdoors

is also nice because you get that fresh air that you don't normally get while you're indoors. Also, tanning outdoors is 100 percent free of charge.

Not everything about tanning outside is good, though. PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS TO ME go too much. Tanning outside is much more time consuming than tanning indoors.

You also have no control of the rays and how intense they are as you tan, which can be

Indoor tanning is faster than sun tanning.

the tanning bed. The beds automatically shut off after a certain amount of time for safety reasons. Tanning indoors is very private and always available, no matter the weather outside. indoors is unsanitary.

You can control how intense the rays are in

Also, many people assume that tanning

This statement is false. The tanning beds are completely sanitized after each and every use, which gives me peace of mind.

However, tanning indoors can easily lead to skin cancer if you

Tanning indoors is not free of charge, and you may have to wait for a tanning bed depending on how many

Regaurdless of the method, a little bit goes a long way, and everyone should tan safely and

people are using the beds.

A Column by SETH ARTER



EDITORIAL

Controversial death brings up discussion | Champ City or nationally, unknown conclusion on topic



GRAPHIC BY KATHERINE SCARPELLO. THE REGISTER

The 17-year old's homicide made headlines from the east to west coast last Feb., and as the months go by more and more news of the cases' corruption seem to leak from news sources. But the heart of the matter is being carried farther and farther away.

Trayvon Martin of Fla. was shot and killed on Feb. 26 by 28 year-old neighborhood watch captain, George Zimmerman. The shooting occurred in Sandford, Fla., surfacing questions on racist intent and Martin's mothers following actions.

The young Fla. High schools student's shooting caught national attention after the 17 year-old was pronounced dead at the scene, armed with simply a can of iced tea and a packet of Skittles. Questions immediately arose as Zimmerman walked away with a wound to the back of the head and a bloody nose, claiming he shot Martin in "self defense."

Self defense", if that, was taken past its limits; as an appointed neighborhood watchman Zimmerman violated a trademarked principle of the Neighborhood Watch manual that claims the following: "it should be emphasized to members that they do not possess police powers, and they shall not carry weapons or pursue vehicles." With the homicide of a 17 year-old boy, the effectiveness and reliability of neighborhood watch programs have been put up for debate: who and how do they choose neighborhood watch members? How do they assure the safe handling of situa-

What is even more nerve-wracking is the fact that while police reports noted the minor injuries to Zimmerman, a police surveillance video was later released on March 28 that reveals no blood, bruises or sign of injury on Zim-

With no markings on the shooter's body, what instigated this violent crime? Many, including Martin's parents, Sybrina Fulton and Tracy Martin,

say one thing: racial profiling. Racial profiling, just another sect of hate crimes, are nothing new to society. From sexual orientation to race, crimes directed at niches of individuals because of any certain trait have been going on for years. One famous racially directed case involved three assumed white supremacists and an African American man named James Byrd; in 1998 the men brutally murdered Byrd for the simple fact that he was African American.

Alligator logo pasted on his tee, Arizona Tea in hand, and white would Martin still be roaming the streets of Fla.? Perhaps, but perhaps not.

Conclusions on Martin's case were drawn from the police 911 call that recorded Zimmerman huffing a racial slur under his breath, but does that amount to a racial profiling crime?

While no information released eludes to Martin initiating the brawl, fingers can be easily pointed towards a racially directed case. While some say that Martin beat up Zimmerman previously, a murder is never justified. The racial difference between Martin and the shooter is apparent, and with a racist remark recorded firsthand, Zimmerman's wild attack seems to be

And though hate crimes are one of the latter half end of completely unreasonable crimes, we feel that the issue is much more than a racial profiling murder, and the racial aspect has been highlighted more than the heart of what is at hand. The focus should be on the fact that an innocent 17 year old boy's life was stolen from him; a high school son was taken from two loving parents; a friend was snatched from the lives of his peers

Martin's shocking death sent a quiver of strength through civil rights activists and communities throughout America, creating a sense of revolution among those who felt victimized.

The man with the gun took a young boy's life, but that's not what the focus of the situation has panned out to be, instead, it has created a flood of race right-activists.

Racism has metamorphosed into the justice movement for Martin's death, when in fact it should be that a young boy's life was wrongly taken by the pull of a trigger. Vindication is being achieved by figures like Jesse Jackson alongside Al Sharpton, two individuals making an abberation into an entire forefront of revolutionaries, people involved in a movement to stop hate crimes, to advocate for African Americans. These two men are making drastic leaps to turn an anomaly into a movement.

Civil right activists and communities like to live their lives believing that America is still a semi-racist society, creating their own sense of boundary in equality. But if one takes a look at America in the 60s and 70s, they will see incredible leaps at equality - and while some people who stereotype races exist, occurences of pure hate crimes have gone down. Statistics show that in this day in age, African Americans are nine times more likely to be killed by other African Americans, not whites...or Hispanics, or Asians, or any other race for that matter.

Yes, the crime's clues and evidence make it a racial profiling crime. Zimmerman's actions were grotesque and unqualified, unjust and monstrous. But as our Twitter timelines, Facebook newsfeeds and

Tumble dashboards are strewn with pictures of Trayvon Martin marked with "Racial Profiling case," "Zimmerman is a racist murderer," "Racism? Stop it," down to the remarks like "Drinking tea and eating Skittles 'cause Zimmerman got 30 year for life!" we are being distracted from what the case really is. And

while all our true, we feel that the focus has turned to one of race, racism, racists, as opposed to the fact that a teenager's life was, to the fullest extent, unfairly ripped away.

Martin's death, much more significant because it hits home for many

people, is being turned into a campaign against racism rather than justice for a murder grossly committed by a man who overstepped his boundaries, and the healing for a family that has experienced something traumatizing, a stain that cannot be removed or forgotten.

And while the murder of Fulton's son is traumatizing, some are accusing her of using her son's death as a profit margin.

Martin's parents are even portrayed as celebrities at hearings on racial profiling, almost being immortalized rather than advocates. Fulton filed the trademark papers to have the slogans "I am Trayvon" and "Justice for Trayvon" trademarked.

With the trademark under her arm Fulton has the full right to use the marks nationwide, force popular clothing creators to remove the trademarks, and if not she could drag the case to the federal court.

And while many accuse her of trade marking her son's name and different slogans to be a money making scheme, her lawyer simply says that is

Trademarking a slogan for your deceased son whose case has gone nationwide, while respectable and somewhat inspirational, seems a bit fishy.

To an extent, wanting to rally for justice is respectable, but when the murderer has been sentenced to 30 years in prison, is the best, most reasonable decision to keep the rage for justice alive? Or is it better to let things settle and give oneself time to repair and process the ordeal?

As unjust, barbaric and racially directed Martin's murder case is, the basic fact that an unarmed, untimely death of a 17 year-old boy happened, and simply for that fact, we should respect and mourn his death regardless,

EDITORIAL

The **OPINION** of the Register

Staff

Sate testing to go on transcript, unneccesary to youth tester

EDITORIAL

 \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet \bullet The **OPINION** of the *Register*

Neb. State Accountability tests or better known as NeSa testing, junior testing and to students, a pain in the rear, have arrived

Juniors at Omaha Central tested the week of April 9, and teachers prepared students in the areas of math, science and reading. The problem is, is that although emphasized in school, there seems to be a ringing chorus of "I don't cares" or "It doesn't matters" floating around the class

Students may not realize that the scores on the NeSa tests determine failure or success of Omaha Central High School, your high school.

Previously a non-self-effecting score, Principal Keith Bigsby along with teachers at Central High School, made it one.

During the second semester junior assembly in March, Dr. Bigsby dropped the bomb that students' NeSa test scores would be placed on their college transcripts. A little more pressure? We'd say so. Did it make an impact on students' determination to do well? Not so sure.

While the secretive incentives involving Burger King and the potential threat of having your future college see your standardized test scores are an added kick, it will remain impossible to have 100% "in it to win it" participation.

Students as individuals, and not a student body, will generally give consideration the NeSa tests, additives aside

While there are those who do give a lick, there are just as many who have no regard for themselves, their future or their current high school, and will fill in the bubbles at random to finish, or maybe go the extra mile in creating a festive Christmas tree or tropical fish out of the

NeSa state testing, while tedious, standardized and as some dub "a waste of time", is still significant to the student body and school as a whole. But why should students care?

Giving warnings about the potential shut down of the school or Central becoming a federally-run school are nothing short of a wave of relief for some students.

And if some students simply do not care about NeSa state testing, than who is to mandate a few additives that will make them care?

Food, a good school reputation and some recognition are not good enough for the general population of students in any school who don't try on a daily basis.

While incentives are just a dent in the bucket for over-achieving students, it doesn't make up for those who aren't.

And while the dangers for students of putting scores on college transcripts might push a few, it poses more of a nerve-wracking feel for students who were planning on putting their best foot forward. Although students who were aiming to try their hardest most likely did sufficiently, it is

case one student didn't do as well as expected.

students Some pre-test stress anxiety, some students have language barriers, the list goes on and on, and in no way should a standardized

test prove intelligence or ability level. What if a student strives to do their best, but is not up to snuff to pass the tests? Is that fair that their low score, while trying hard, goes on their college

We at *The Register* don't think so.

Only the incoming NeSa test scores will provide light on the success of the scores in correlation with the standards set, but we can bet that the additives won't have raised it much.

Bust: Omaha is the nation's finest





fantastic Central is. Nationally recognized and ranked, it's hard to deny that we're among the best (not to sound cocky or anything).

It's also impossible to deny that we've descended from greatness. Nobel Prize winners, inventors, authors, actors, professional athletes, politicians and others stand among Central alumni.

A few notables: Peter, Susan Alice and Susan Thompson Buffett, Peter Kiewit, Brenda Council, Henry Fonda and Jarvis Offutt (among many others).

They walked the same halls that we now walk. All of this Champ High business has really been going on for generationsand clearly we're doing a pretty good job of keeping up the legacy (and even giving

I believe that where we come from is also a reason for our greatness. Omaha, Nebraska, a place regarded with warmness and often ignorance.

Omaha is also a place nationally known for its zoo, the CenturyLink Center, the Old Market, the Joslyn Art Museum and as the site of the College World Series.

It's a good place to grow up, it's a good place to raise a family. But Omaha has so much more to offer. It may even be-hang

I may go so far as to call it Champ

It truly irritates me when people say things like, "I hate Omaha. It's so boring and there's nothing to do here." That, to me, shows ignorance. Clearly it's going to be boring if all you choose to do is sit at home and watch Lifetime.

Don't sell Omaha short like that; do you even know what goes on in this city?

There's a whole lot to do if you aren't afraid to try new things—our little city is growing quite rapidly into an urbanized

I'd say that's pretty good for being land-locked in a small corner of Nebraska.

Do you really want me to list some of the fantastic things going on in Omaha? Omaha Fashion Week, Jazz on the

Green, the Farmer's Market, shows at places like Sokol Underground and the Waiting Room, Shakespeare on the Green, the annual Arts Festival, fantastic films at Film Streams and diverse food choices at ethnic restaurants spread throughout the city—if you really stop and think about it, Omaha is sitting atop an impressive arts and culture scene.

There's a ton to do...it really isn't boring unless you are.

Obviously it can't really measure up to major cities like New York or San Francisco, but come on...we're on the westernmost edge of Nebraska. I think that we're doing pretty well. And new things are springing up all over the city every year.

Clearly I'm proud of Omaha, but I do plan to one day spread my wings, expand horizons—whichever cliché prefer—and move somewhere else. But that isn't out of boredom; that desire stems from my desire to, through exploration and experience, find my own independence.

Staying here would feel a little like a failure to me, only because I would be staunching the opportunity to grow and subject myself to new things.

Not that I wouldn't be able sperience new things right here in Omaha, or in a nearby city. But there's a lot of allure to get out of the Midwest and go to school somewhere else.

To put it a different way: staying here would feel like playing it safe to me.

If I don't leave home for university, who's to say that I'll ever leave home? Don't we all yearn to travel and see things and become who we were meant to be? Or maybe that only happens in the movies.

That's one of my major goals--not to get out of Omaha for the sake of getting out, but simply so that I can pursue opportunities.

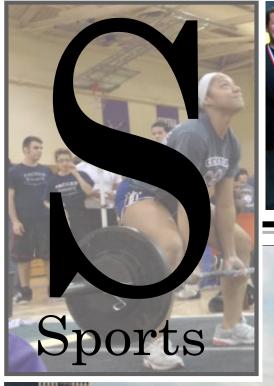
I'm not looking down on anyone who wants to stay in Omaha, or even Nebraska—we have great colleges and universities here as well as all of the exciting aforementioned perks.

And it's comforting to know that you could be home within an hour or two. Just because you're staying doesn't necessarily mean you're playing it safe; you've just found what you want here. Or you're opting for less expensive schooling to save yourself from insane student loan payments in the

I'm 100% sure that I'll return to Omaha-but I hope that it'll be to visit family, friends or whoever else is resiging

And I'll always harbor a deep love for Central High and Omaha.

And while to the outside world we may seem small and dull, we are in fact teeming with life, excitement and exceptionality.





CENTRAL SPORTS KEY PLAYERS



You can thank certain Central chapmions for making stronger.

The Register recognizes certain players from multiple sports.

SPORTS, PAGE 11



Friday, May 11, 2012

Omaha Central High School

Vol. 125 Issue 5

Sophomore turns to summer gym class



Throughout my Central High career, I've tried like mad to avoid gym

class, and I know I'm not alone.

Don't think that I detest exercising—I don't. On the contrary, I don't mind it at all if it's fun and rewarding. But that just isn't gym class

in a nut shell for me. It is, to be honest, the getting gross/sweaty aspect. It isn't that I'm some delicate ultra-feminine girl who faints at the thought of getting dirty. I simply do not want to sweat profusely during the school day.

Thanks to our raging teenage hormones, we sweat enough as it is without running and whatnot... and I like to look nice in front of my peers and for myself; I don't want to be uncomfortable. It's very easy, if you detest the thought if it enough, to simply ignore the fact that you need four gym credits in order to graduate. But it's really been sitting in the back of my mind all this time...

You see, I decided to rely on the district's new P.E. waiver policy. If it seemed too good to be true that you could get out of gym by doing at least four sports over the course of your high school career...you were spot on. The district has snatched this away from us and I'm not happy about it.

Apparently it was originally thought that only several students would apply for this waiver—but instead an overwhelming amount did, and the district panicked because that was unexpected. And now it's being

eradicated and forgotten.

I think that they should keep this policy. The honest truth is that participating in a sport requires much more dedication than a gym classand if you go out for said sport, you obviously care about it and will be putting in a whole lot more effort than a class that you don't care about (and will probably be an easy A anyway yes, those do really exist).

Take swimming, for example. A season of that puts you through a hundred times more physical strain than you would get from any gym

And look at cross country-do you know how much running that is? To tell the truth I don't even know how much running that is, but I can tell you that it's a whole lot more running than you would do in a gym class. And you would be putting in (close to) 100% because it's something that you're choosing for yourselfnot just for a credit so that you can graduate. So shouldn't you get credit for that? Shouldn't you get a credit for that? I think so.

I've decided to turn to summer P.E. as a way to escape the dreaded class. Although I'm really not escaping anything; I'm actually giving up a lot in order to do this, but if it means that I can knock a few credits out of the way in a matter of four weeks, then I'm down for it.

Even if it means getting up early. At least I'll be enjoying the sunshine while I sweat it out.



PHOTO BY PRECIOUS GASPARD/REGISTER

Michaela Bigsby (12) kicks the ball to fellow soccer player at the game against Bellevue East on Tuesday, May 2nd. The score was 2-1 Bellevue East.

Senior player awarded full ride, dedication pays off



BY PRECIOUS GASPARD

"I never really believed I'd get a full ride to college" said senior Michaela Bigsby, after receiving a full-ride scholarship to college for soccer Bigsby was pretty determined that she could do it all; the Scholarship which was presented to her earlier this spring covers almost everything. "I'm very proud she earned that scholarship,"said fa-

ther Keith Bigsby. "The whole thing in our household is that we aren't given thing, we earn things."Surely Bigsby has proven that she has the work ethic and passion to play soccer, "She has the heat of a lion and is a warrior," said

Bigsby will be attending Midland University in Fremont, Nebr., and playing soccer for the college's team. Bigsby is always used to being a starting player on her soccer team, "I'm not sure what to expect when I play for them, Î can only hope to play my best," said Bigsby.

Her father is determined that she will do well while at Midland, "what she takes to Midland is leadership and a work ethic and Michaela and the other girls have really set a foundation for the for the girls in the future," said Bigsby, as he acknowledged the fact that this year's season was the best in history.

Bigsby has played for club teams other than Central high's soccer team; she has played for the Gladiators, Toro, and has ended playing club teams with Elkhorn. Bigsby has always been a versatile player "the coach can place her in

any position he needs her to be in," said Dr. Bigsby.

Bigsby has a lot of support from her family. "My mom's really supportive

and excited, already buys shirts and sweat shirts in the school's colors," said Bigsby. "My sister really doesn't want me to leave. She was really upset that I'm leaving because we are really close. Even when we have our ups and downs, at the end of the day we still have each other's back."

With big goals to become a nurse, Bigsby originally had plans to attend UNO for her first year, and then transition over to UNMC to follow up so she could become a nurse. "I really wanted to stay close to home," said Bigsby. One of her family members had that in mind as well. Dr. Bigsby expressed how glad he was to have Bigsby going to Midland so he can watch her play during the game rather than her going somewhere not in close proximity to home and being able to go to a few games a year.

Dr. Bigsby had been really supportive and allowed her to decide for herself where she wanted to go--but ultimately influenced her to make the right choice. "He kind of showed me why it wasn't a good deal because of all of the transitions...and I don't do well with change," said Bigsby.

A few changes have occurred throughout the last two year of Bigsby's life, but many of them have proved to be positive.

She didn't mind how close her teammates have become this season; in fact she was quite grateful for it. "Just cherish the little things," she said. She was also scared initially after learning that her father would be the principal of the school. "I thought I was going to lose friends," said Bigsby jokingly. "I also didn't mind when my sister came to Central, it felt great to have her going to school with me," said Bigsby.

Bigsby knows how important going to college will be and plans on living up to the family name. "The challenge for Michaela is to keep working hard,

Continued to 'BIGSBY' on Page 11

Avrie Welton, Emily Gamble and Michaela Bigsby signed to respective Universities



Three female student athletes signed to their respective colleges on April 23. Michaela Bigsby, Avrie Welton, and Emily Gamble. Michaela Bigsby earned a full ride scholarship to Midland University in the soccer program. She says she

thinks the school is a good fit for her because,

They have a small campus and their soccer pro-

BY RAINA BEHRENS

gram allows you to focus on school." Soccer coach Jason Paige said Michaela plays with heart and has great leadership. "She plays her hardest every minute of every game. She gives 110% all the time, that's something not many people On her full-ride track scholarship, Welton will be attending West Point Military Academy in New York. Welton's coach and friends are excited for her, but will also miss her dearly. Senior Chelsea Baker said she is going to

Track coach Trent Lodge describes Welton as dedicated, bright, and ambitious. Welton was a four year varsity starter, who qualified and medaled at state all four years. Coach Lodge said, "West Point is going to get a great kid."

Northeast Community College in Norfolk recruited Emily gamble, and signed her for the basketball program. Basketball coach Tom Lee described Gamble as a very versatile player saying she can play well at different positions. This is one of the qualities Northeast liked about her. Emily has outstanding leadership qualities on and off the court.

Coach Lee said Emily was one of the first players to reach out to him when he first started coaching for Central, Coach Lee said, "I believe Emily will be successful at Northeast and continue on to a higher level if she chooses." Emily will miss her basketball team, but she said, "I'm ready and excited to start my future."

Although all three seniors will be venturing off to different places, they will continue to represent the Eagles well, and prove that Central's truly "champ high." All of their coaches are positive that the girls will carry on with their excellent academics, leadership, and determination throughout their col-

miss workouts with Avrie. "Seeing her made my day" said Baker. We've got spirit, yes we do ... Central students fall into various catagories of school spirit

Rolling through the packed bleachers, an enthusiastic rumble of excitement escalates into an eruption of school spirit. Unfortunately, the support stems from the other school's student

Don't get me wrong, the four freshman shamelessly flaunting Central shirts are quite overwhelming, but it just doesn't match up to the opponents' clever chants with synchronized dance move to go along with them, or their full student body participating in the wave.

At Central, it seems as though about 10 percent of the student population is gushing with school spirit as they angrily try to pull the remaining 90 percent onto the school spirit band wagon.

And the truth is, students only bloom with school spirit when it is convenient for them. When their friends are all going to be at the football game and they have nothing else to do on a Friday night. When they hear that there is going to be a brawl with North High School and they have been looking for an opportunity to prove that they are tough. However, the amount of school spirit that each individual has at Central is as diverse as the high school itself. There are many different types of students participating in school spirit in one way or another. The Die-Hards

These students have been looking forward to attending Central High School since they were in kindergarten. All of their older siblings, their parents, and their parents' parents attended Central High School.

They participate in every sport, club and academic competition that they can. These are the students who will try to drag you to the pep rallies and maybe have even made up their own chant about how Central is the best.

The Trouble Makers

This mischievous bunch just can't seem to get their fill being the class-clown during the school day, so they use school spirit to put in some extra hours entertaining their fellow classmates after school. These kids might start fights, throw a soda or two onto the field, yell obscenities at the ref and dream of streaking across

the football field at half-time but are never quite brave enough to do so. While this bunch is rowdy, they are entertaining, and for that we are greatful.

The Go-Alongs Come on, everybody is doing it! These students go to a fair amount of after school events, when there is not much else to do.

They sport their Central gear on game days. They went to the football games with their parents when they were still in middle school and felt pretty awesome hanging out with older kids. These kids seem to blend in. However, from this group will stem our doctors, lawyers, and community leaders. They blend in now, but will stand out later.

The No-Go's

This particular group makes up more of the student body than you would think. This group is in high school to simply get an education, or because their parents make them come to school

every day and as soon as the bell rings the end of the day, they

These students maybe are too busy with work or other activities outside of school to participate in school spirit. Whatever it is, they have better things to do, some of these things might be good, some might be bad, however, they are just alternative

The Majority

The majority of students do participate in school spirit at some time or another. The majority of students has been to a

basketball game or owns a pair of Central Eagles sweatpants

Even still, they are just more concerned with themselves as an individual than as their school as a whole and this is not always a bad thing. They focus on getting an education and participate when they can, which is all anybody can really ask

Myself

I LOVE THE 80'S

I am not going to label myself as a different or unique group, but I would say that I probably fit into most of the groups above. Sometimes I do what my friends are doing because I can't think

Sometimes I would just rather sit around at home and watch South Park. Actually, most of the time I would rather sit around and watch South Park, but the point is that it all just depends on my mood, which I think is the same for a lot of people

SPRING SPORTS KEY PLAYERS | Junior finds comfort

As the 2012 spring sports are in full swing, The Register staff found the Most Valuable Players of each spring sport and found out what makes them take their sport to the fullest.

BASEBALL: KALEB ZIMMER GOLF: TOM MCCARTHY



team will miss senior Kaleb Zimmer's "leadership and intense attitude," according to head coach Steve Russel. He heads off to Garden City Com-munity College in Kansas. which hehas signed for next year to play for their Baseball

Kaleb has played on the Varsity team for Central all four years

Zimmer has played baseball for sixteen years. He cur-rently plays catcher or center field.

However, some

of his goals going into next year include improving defense and working on two-strike

"I love playing for coach Russel," he says, "and playing alongside my friends."



With six years of golfing experi-ence under his belt, freshman Tom McCarthy made the JV boys golf team this spring.

placing in the top half of their meets.

McCarthy said he likes golf anyone can play. "I like playing for Central because we

have fun at practice every day," he said. For the re-mainder of the sea-son, McCarthy will

"I'm hoping that we'll make state," he said. Un-til then, the boys will work together and hope for the

TRACK: LAUREN WEGNER TENNIS: SYDNEY PETERSON



An avid tennis player since the first grade, sophomore Sydney Peterson has been on Central's Varsity Tennis team for both of her high school years. "I love my teammates," said Peterson. "The team is really close and a lot of my friends

single matches this season. "I normally

play doubles with Lia Mancuso, and we're

This spring is the first season that coach Bob Tucker has coached Varsity for girls. "He makes practice fun!" said Peterson.

Hoping to win state, Peterson says practice hard for the remainder of the season with her team.



Despite a torn hamstring, sopho-more Lauren We-gner takes track practice seriously.

"I've got the thirst to run," she said.

On her fourth

season of running track, Wegner is on Central's Varsity

"I went out for track to stay in shape and meet people," she said. "It's a good op-

BOYS SOCCER: NORBERT

portunity for me to stay in shape for softball season." Until the state

in hopes of achiev-ing first place with her team, despite

her injury.

"If all goes well, I think we could take the championship," she

GIRLS SOCCER: JACINTA CHRISTIANSEN



been playing soccer since before she can remember, and has worker in the sport, as well as off of the field.

Jacinta has played on the varsity team for Central as well Her coach called

her the Central Eagle
"key player" because
she always works hard,
has a positive attitude,

and plays to her limit. on skipping college (for the time being), and picking up with volunteer work for the

next two years. Although her soccer career playing soccer for the rest of her life because it's not all about playing for a team, but for fun.



PIEPER

senior player, Norbert Pieper has been playing soccer 12 years, and doesn't plan to

Pieper plans on attending either UNO or Midland decision yet to be made. He knows he will be playing soccer at whatever college he attends.

Along with school itself, Pieper says he will miss "being on a team with friends, and Peter Pham," the most when it

Pieper is a key player because he's been playing for so long, is a riot on and off the field, and always puts his heart into the

Central Students receive recognition at Metro Golf Competition

BY ESAU RENDON



In the month of May, golfers Allie Brock (11) and Emily Jezewski (10) received recognition from the Metro Conference. Seniors

Katie Brock and Riley Maxwell received recognition from the Scholar Athlete Honor Roll, while both Brocks and Maxwell received All Academic Titles.

Titles earned by the golfers had to do somewhat with academics and not necessarily with performance on the course.

"Academically we have a strong team," said Coach Linda Brock. She also made it clear that efforts to make the team stronger on the course have been made in the past and will continue to go on, while including that the focus put on academics has affected the player's ability to make

Brock also included that she is hopeful for next year's team's ability to go to state with the aid of a new proposal passed by the Nebraska School Activities Association.

According to Brock, the new proposal has been demoed in the past and just recently on April 13 did class A coaches find out via email that it will be put into effect during the 2012 golf season and will apply to boys soccer as well.

She also included that the way the proposal

works can seem a little complicated, especially to non- golfers. Regardless, she tried to simplify the change

to me by pointing out two main flaws with the older system.

One flaw according to Brock was that it would decide the eligibility for participation in state competitions over population of school. Therefore Central would constantly have to play against teams from schools like Westside and Papillion Lavista South, whose golf teams tend to have more players that would make the task of keeping a low score a difficult one.

The other flaw was that teams who had less players would make it to state regardless of their inability to make the score.

"There were times when players that had lower strokes made it to state when we had shown better skill and had to stay home. It can be confusing," Brock said.

In the Central golf team history there has been less participation in tournaments; according to Brock it was the choice of a past coach in order to leave the girls with more time in the class instead of on the course.

"Of course we want the girls to perform well on the Golf course but academics come first", something that Brock feels can be the biggest challenge of a golfers job.

Speaking from experience Brock has two daughters who attend Central and are on the golf team, one of which took a different calculus class because she would miss the few days of school that are crucial to understand the class.

However, Brock feels optimistic for the year to come especially with the new regulations being put into place and are according to her a lot more fiar than the one before.

Her Senior daughter Katie feels the new regulations are more fair aswell.

However, she also feels a little discontent that they had not been put into place before with this last golf season being her last.

Regardless, there is still hope for her younger sister who will be the last Brock's daughters that will particpate in.

"I always enjoyed going to practice and going to competitions, as well as hanging out with fellow players and of course my Mom and my Sister. My golf expiernece was great" said Katie

Brock also included that efforts have been

in being apart of a team, Color Guard embraces leadership



Girls Basketball State Champions. Boys Basketball State Champions. Boys and Girls Track and Field State Championship.

Wrestling State Champions. Our school, as Bigsby would say, is nothing but the best. We play. We win. We celebrate.

I have never been so heavily into sports when I was younger, even when I played on a few sports teams. It had never occurred to me that sports were so important--until I made it to high school a few years ago.

I have been on many teams and I had thought of them as fun.

Yes, I would try to win because that would be even more fun, but I don't remember ever being so upset over losing one single game.

I just wanted to play and try my best. Central has won so many championships throughout the years, many of which occured during my time here as well as my sister's. I never thought there could be this much talent

all in one place. My dad has always been a huge Husker fan. Every day that there is a Husker football game on, I know to get out of the house because all I will hear is him yelling at the screen, even though my whole family has told him that nobody can ever hear him.

My dad always caused me to strive to do my best in sports in order to win, but I was always afraid. I was never really good at competitive sports.

Having people in your family that are overly competitive just might ruin it. Well, that happened to me.

I still remember when I made my first soccer goal. I was proud of myself, but my family was also proud. I know what it's like to look at a scoreboard and know that you just did something to change it. You just feel the rush that you contributed in winning, or even just that you helped your team out.

Winning something was never anything I really thought about or even particularly wanted...until I joined Color Guard this year. Receiving almost a "superior," the best score you could have, was something our whole team always wanted.

There was even one time when we were about one point away from achieving it.

The Color Guard, if you didn't already know, are the typical "flag girls" in the Central's Marching Band. In our team, it is diverse though. We have both boys and girls.

This was probably one of the best decisions I have made throughout my high school career. I love the team. I love the thrill. I love the enjoyment. I love the competitiveness. And I love learning everything to do with it.

People might not think it's a sport, but I believe it is, and I think the other people on the team would agree. All of us can't wait for the new season to

commence (even though our captain, the guy that made us fall in love with Color Guard, is leaving to go to college).

Color Guard gave me, as well as my

teammates, something we could strive to do our best in and truly love.

Now I can tell myself to do my best because this will always be my thing. No other sport could compare to this for me.

We're all planning to make Central better at this and achieve "superior" in the competitions. We want to change the way people think about us.

It's just another thing all of the teammates love. We are all champs at what we do.

Bigsby accepts full ride to Midland for Soccer

'BIGSBY' CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

she will have to discipline herself because she will no longer living at home with someone telling her what she has to do," said Dr.

Members of the Bigsby family like to fall into each other's footsteps. Both her younger and older sister is currently playing soccer. "My older sister got a full-ride scholarship for soccer and academics to UNO, and now she's a teacher at Morton Middle school. I think she kind of wanted to follow in my father's footsteps now that's she's a teacher," said Bigsby. "We have at least five generations of teachers, mostly the women have been teachers and the men were lawyers."

The first year or two of college Bigsby will have to live in a dorm with another girl she played soccer with recently from Elkhorn, but said that she wouldn't mind finding a home elsewhere. "They have some cute little houses

Bigsby is glad she will be able to see familiar faces such as "Jamaal Shabaz, Zach Muschall, Nick Webster and I think Tiffany Pass, but I'm not sure," said Bigsby.

As far as training Bigsby will continue working out and training even though the soccer season has ended and she will also begin a summer workout program to get into

Even though Bigsby is excited to see familiar faces, she is saddened by her friends that won't be attending school with her. "I feel like each and every one is taking a little piece of my heart as we all get ready to leave," said

Junior commends athletes for daring to do what she can't

You can count on the fact that if I take more than ten steps I will probably stumble, if I'm running upstairs I'll most likely splat, or if I'm dancing I'll slap whoever is next to me in the face. If it involves physical activity, I'll probably let you down, and for that very reason – I do not get

involved with school sports. I commend those who have and who succeed in the sport they try. There are several things holding me back from attempting to make a team

one of them First off, I am not very athletic. From the times spent watching this past March Madness all the way to the track meets at Central, I see that in each and every athlete there is this astounding drive to be number one. That drive that THIS IS REALLY RANDOM, BUT can imagine how everything falls downhill following my pushes the extraneous effort and sweat that soaks their shirts is competitiveness, and that is one thing I lack when

or participate, my innate inability to stand without tipping

it comes to physical activity. Granted, I do go running as often as possible, but never could I ever exert enough consideration into it to practice every day after school, let alone win. And for that trait, I greatly commend every student athlete at Central, because the energy they invest in practices and competitions is not something you come by every day, something true athletes possess.

The second reason, in correlation to the first, is that I am way too shy to even begin to consider trying out for something that requires the faint-

Granted I interview people and talk to strangers, but to have to show

that I'm unusually talented or fast or wondrous at catching and tossing a ball? That literally scares the pants off of me.

Having the school body read my stories in the Register already makes my knees quiver enough with the potential of grammatical errors and "obsolete" opinions, but physically standing up and doing an athletic ditty would make my heart sink.

Thirdly, I would be the unprecedentedly awkward, slow kid on the team. Sort of like the kid who gets picked last on the playground for kickball...my ability might be there, but my quickness in doing so...not so much.

When I get my heart springs and wells in my throat and I get shaky, so shaky that I forget what I'm doing. You forgetfulness.

For these three things that I lack confidence and

sional, college or student, completely and utterly, in my humble opinion, When I sit down to feast my eyes on a big screen with chips in hand I feel the utmost respect for everyone on the field or court. Just watching the drive innately instilled in these players no matter what their playing

prestige in doing, are the three things that truly make athletes, profes-

"field", it insipres me to do my utmost best in my non-athletic areas of life. Luckily for everyone else, there's a huge helping of "champ" on all the sports teams within Central High school, so underdogs like me can sit

back, admire, and enjoy the game.

Central bowling team brought back to life, girls take title



Central 2012 bowling team competes at Greater Omaha Metro League, taking the JV Champion title. Team individual Michael Hoyt scored a perfect 300 game.

BY MEKENZIE KERR

Equipped with precision, two fingers and a thumb, Central High School's girls bowling team's success became another reason Central has gained the title "Champ

The girls bowling team is made up of Rebecca Burkhardt (11), Shaleigh Karnik (11), Samantha Dickson (9) and Johanna

Biermann (10)that took the 'JV Champs' title at the Greater Omaha Metro League. Central's boy bowlers consisted of Michael Hoyt (11), Eric Rainey (12) and Jerrod Easter (11). The boys participated separately due to the fact that three players cannot make up a team.

Aside from the girls' JV Champ title, Hoyt came out on top scoring

a perfect 300 game; for those not so savvy with bowling, that is the equivalent of a "hole-in-one in golf," or "hitting for the cycle in baseball," according to team coach James Jordan.

This opportunity to bowl competitively is in thanks to math teacher Jordan, who resurrected the Central Bowling team last year.

Jordan himself bowled for Bryan's High School team and for the University of Nebraska in Omaha, acknowledging bowling as a good way

And while bowling may not be on the Central High Athletics page, the students still attend routine practices just like other sports.

Bowling is 90% mental [ability], keeping your focus, staying at the line," said Jordan, "it's a lot of little mechanics.

Perfecting their mechanics and mental stamina, the bowling teams showed up at Westlanes Bowling Alley a couple of times a week to do so. Intertwined between practices are the routine Monday competitions that go along with being a part of the Greater Omaha Metro League.

The GOML, which Jordan has been actively involved in, encompasses every Omaha high school that has a bowling team. Every Monday at either Leopard or Mockingbird Lane, every high school goes up against each other. These mini competitions lead up to the play-offs, with standings similar to an NCAA basketball bracket list.

Central High School's girls team has been awarded the JV Champ title for two years running, and will hopefully compete in the Varsity sector of the competition next year.

But bigger than the competition is the individual improvement that Jordan sees in each and every one of his players. Hoyt, with his "real smooth swing," has a bright future with bowling. Easter scored 8 strikes during competition, something to be proud of. The girls have all improved their scores since they joined.

In addition to harboring one's bowling skills, for winning the JV Champ sector of the competition the girls received scholarship money in correlation to bowling.

Jordan enjoys his own Wednesday and Sunday night leagues; he wants bowling to be enjoyable for his current and future players. Bowling is not just about competing, but also to hound one's bowling technique.

"If you're on my team for 3 games or you just bowl one or two," said Jordan, "it's not about competing."

While some may come as amatures, others have already perfected their skills. And if you think your bowling skills are impressive, you might just want to call Jordan up for a game, "I always say, if they beat me I'll

Freshman sweats it out in off season to beat out kicker competition

 $B\underline{Y}\ STEPHANIE\ PAUL$

Freshman football kicker Nick Rock has kicked three 55-yard field goals during games since early March.

His kicking career began two years ago when he was on the St. Marget Marys' football

Rock has been playing the game since fifth grade, when his father suggested that he and his twin brother join the Omaha Storm team.

Now, after four years of fall football, Rock is gearing up to go for the kicker position on Central's Varsity football team for the coming 2012 season.

The freshman has been practicing his kicking and accuracy constantly. Rock has been practicing either at UNO (which he resides

near) or on Central's field. He practices in any weather condition; "when it was snowy, I cleared a path in the snow

so I could practice," Rock said. He loves football for the adrenaline high it gives him. He likes being a kicker in the sport. During the 2011 football season, he played kicker for the freshman football team.

But football wasn't the first sport Rock played--when he was younger he had a passion for soccer. "It [kicking] comes very naturally to me after I played soccer.

The hopes of being the varsity football kicker this fall season are high for Rock.

"The competition for the position on the team will be hard work, but I have been practicing hard," said Rock.

He will be practicing a lot over the summer on his accuracy of his kicking skills as well as summer conditioning for football.

The first time Rock kicked a 55-yard field goal his proud father was recording him.

After the son and father got home, they uploaded the video to YouTube. After a month the video has been viewed over 140 times

The father of the freshman used to play football as well during his high school career. Rock's dad attended Central in the 80s and played on the Varsity football team.

His father's position on the team was a de-

fense player.

When Rock's father graduated from Central, he attended UNL and served as the mascot Herbie Husker.

In 2015 Rock will be graduating, and wants to pursue his dreams to go to UNL like his fa-

Rock would like to go to college for premed and wants to obtain a career in the medical field so he can help people.

Other than football, the freshman does

many other activities. Outside of school Rock is a Boy Scout; in April Rock received the highest honor one can earn in Boy Scouts: the Eagle Scout award.

At school he is enrolled in the IB program and has a GPA of 4.2. He also plays in the $\frac{1}{2}$ marching and Jazz Band.

As the freshman practices everyday on his football kicking and accuracy skills, the days will eventually wind down and the football season will begin.

This is when Nick Rock will show the football skills he has been working on during the off-season to the fans of Central football.

Powerlifting a girl sport as well, teammates do well at state



PHOTO BY JAYDE BALENTINE/ 0-BOOK

Powerlifter Tamerea Marion practices with her teammates in

the weight room, pushing herself to do her very best and reach

BY EMILY BECK



powerlifters Natalie Allen and LaVona Morrison were declared Power Lifting

State champions in their respective weight classes at the championship at South High School on March 3.

Along with teammate Jose Aguilera, the three brought home state titles and made coaches Bryan Calder and Dennis Baker proud. Morrison and Allen powered through the season to defeat their rivalsas well as stereotypes held against them.

Despite the classification of power lifting as a male sport, the nine girls on the team have pushed through the grueling four-month season and proved themselves.

In particular, Allen (a junior) has overcome obstacles in order to become successful.

She'd been discouraged before, but that has never stopped her from pursuing her dreams.

"When I first started not a lot of people had faith in me," Allen said. But in the two seasons she's spent lifting, she's slowly proved herself to others—and to herself

"There were definitely times I didn't feel like going, but I never wanted to quit," she said.

The pain was hard to overcome—the team does lots of intense workouts, such as the Farmer's Walk, which is an exercise myself and I know I can do anything. where team members carry 45-pound

weights in each hand up and down a stairwell.

No one is allowed to set the combined 90 pounds down until everyone has finished. That almost sent Allen over the

But this workout, along with the dead-, bench- and squat-lifts and variety of other body-building activities, really beefed up Allen's muscle, as well as her confidence.In a way, Allen is defeating stereotypes.

Luckily, "to be a girl on the team is really no different than guys.

Baker pushes us just as much as the boys and expects just as much from us.'

The team is good at hanging out together (everyone is friends, according to Allen) at various events--but it's hard not to be segregated when it comes to practices

It's difficult for everyone to stay together during workouts. Girls tend to lift less weight than boys, simply because of the way that their bodies are build.

"It is mostly gender specific, simply because guys lift way more than we do, so it's just easier to work out with people who lift about as much as you do. But we all get along," Allen said.

They, for the most part, stay in the same groups-Girls work out with girls and guys work out with guys," said junior Tamerea Marion—but during team dinners and meets, everyone is intermixed.

Now that the season has ended, Allen is just enjoying her muscles, her State title and her accomplishments while looking forward to the next season.

You could say that power lifting has changed her life.

"I'm in better shape than I've ever been," she said. "I'm more confident in Husker's 'futuristic' uniforms cause unneccesary chatter, topic a waste of time



Since when is a head of corn futuristic? And an even better question is, who really cares?

The Huskers are supposed to get new uniforms this season, and apparently they are only going to be wearing them for one game, so what's the big deal?

Why is this issue the biggest controversy among Nebraska's sports community and amongst my family over the past Easter break?

I thought that football was a big tough guy ort, not a fashion show.

I guess I can understand that our team wants to represent itself well to their opponents.

I mean, I remember playing in rich, elite volleyball clubs with fancy uniforms, and it was

a bit intimidating.

Even still, the Huskers are only going to be wearing their fancy new uniforms for one game, so which opponent are we going to choose to

try to intimidate with our corn helmets? Innovation is a big deal to many people. There are always those who push for the future and toward bigger, better things while some still cling to past traditions.

It is my understanding that the Huskers have had the same uniforms since 2003, so why not innovate? Why not change our uniforms for the whole season? Permanently?

It is a waste of money to just wear these uniforms for one game.

But maybe, being an 18-year-old girl in high school, I just don't understand anything about tradition yet.

I just do not understand what all the discussion and debates are about.

Is it a debate over whether or not to keep a tradition and not change, or is it a debate about how the new uniforms look all together? Either way, there is a lot of buzz about both of these aspects of new uniforms.

Personally, I feel that Nebraskans just make a huge deal about anything that has to do with the Huskers.

I mean, my father doesn't read fashion magazines or watch runways shows on television, yet he seems pretty into fashion when discussing the Huskers' new uniforms.

I wonder what Larry the Cable Guy (A huge Husker fan, for those who don't know) thinks about all of this.

He is probably on the lesser fashionable side, as far as style goes, yet I am sure he is just as curious as anyone else to see the new uniforms, and I am sure that he is either strongly against or strongly for them.

Many continue to compare these new uniforms to those of Oregon state, saying that those are tradition while ours just aren't going to fit the bill.

As for me, I don't give too much thought about what the Huskers will be wearing this upcoming season.

I am a pretty devout Big Red Football fan (my dad raised me that way). I used to stomp around when I was a little toddler, chanting, "I hate red fooball!" but that changed as soon as I grew out of being upset that the game was on instead of Telletubbies and began to understand the game of Football.

Since that time, I have been a big red fan. Sometimes I hide it from people because it can be embarrassing. I have to lie freinds about why I can't hang out (I would never simply tell them that the game is on.) Howwever, I will admit it now: I am a Husker fan. And with that being said, I still feel that new uniforms are a frivilous topic for Husker

If they want to wear corn helmets and call these corn helmets "futuristic," then let them enjoy their futuristic corn helmets, darn it!

We probably aren't known for being the brightest bunch anyways. Not like that is necessarily true, but the rest of college football probably thinks that we are just a bunch of hicks anyways, so why not play it up a bit?

Honestly, I don't think that anyone will even notice. These new uniforms will probably just end up being a waste of money that no one will talk about once we start wearing them.

Even still, if it makes us feel better to dress our players in fancy new uniforms, then we should go right ahead.

I guess that overall, I am pretty indifferent about the new uniforms, and I feel like the only one. I feel like everyone who has spoken on this issue is clearly for or clearly against the new uniforms.

Some are praising the god of uniforms for this blessing while others are screaming that someone needs to be fired. Some feel that these new uninforms

will help recruiting, while bringing in more money, and others feel strongly toward keeping tradition and want to burn the first group of people mentioned at the stake.

Whatever the case is, the new uniforms are to be here soon and are already creating (in my opinion) a lot of pointless chatter.