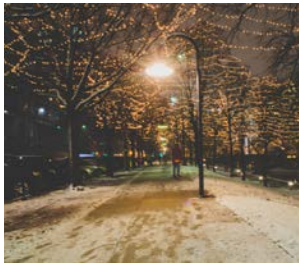




RIDE ON 9

Sophomore Kincaid Johnson pursues her love of horses as a competitive equestrian.



SHINING BRIGHT 15

Omaha's Holiday Lights Festival gave the city the opportunity to view festive decorations as well as raise money to combat hunger here in the heartland.

UNFRIENDED 23

The emergence of social media has reduced the importance human interaction, especially those regarding romance.



the REGISTER



Omaha Central High School | Volume 132, Issue 3 | December 15, 2016

omahacentralregister.com

AN ALARMING COINCIDENCE

The Register takes an investigative look into the sounding of the fire alarm during the walk-out on Nov. 11.



DALILAH VALDEZ | The O-BOOK

Students protest the results of the presidential election. Due to the fire alarm, all students were required to go outside.

Alec Rome
staff writer

While some students walked out voluntarily during the rally on Nov. 11th, just three days after the presidential election, the one thing that forced everyone in the building outside was the fire alarm. Right after students who were upset and worried about their future walked out to rally, the fire alarm sounded and the crowd became filled with over two thousand students and staff. Reasonably, students that did not want to go outside and join the crowd were upset.

Principal Ed Bennett, when asked if he believed a student pulled the alarm, was resounding. "Absolutely," Bennett said. "I immediately jumped on the walkie and

said, 'We've got to figure out who that student is and move forward with the harshest possible consequence that is dictated by the code of conduct. That would not have been okay, because it forced people to go outside who didn't want to be outside.'

However, after checking out the situation, Bennett came to the solution that it was not a student who pulled the alarm. It was a malfunction, caused by dust that gathered on a smokehead. The smokehead is located on the third floor, three side, directly above the vending machines.

In order to come to that conclusion, Debra Bolas, head building engineer at Central, had to work with the Omaha

CONTINUE TO 'ALARM'
ON PAGE 4

WHAT'S ON THE WEB

Securing Students



In addition to the features in this issue of The Register, read more about the rest of Central's security team online.

omahacentralregister.com

Students demonstrate musical talent

Choteau Kammel
editor-in-chief

Hours of practice, the stress to impress, intimidating judges and the pressure to perform. All these emotions and more can and have been felt by young vocalists and musicians in the days leading up to and including the Nebraska All-State Conference. Only select groups of students in choir and their respective instruments make the cut each year, and according to those who make it through, the selection procedures can be quite grueling. Regardless, each year Central manages to send students in nearly every category to the prestigious event.

Senior Maurice Garrett has participated in vocal music for the entirety of his time at Central, but 2016 was his first year at All-State, going for Tenor I vocals. Garrett had been singing and carried a passion for it since his youth, but said that it was the staff at Central that really pushed him to take it farther, as he explained, "The vocal department is like a second family to me and they keep me motivated to continue. I was pleased to make it to All-State as a senior, as it made me feel validated as a vocalist." For his future plans, Garrett would like to continue to ex-

CONTINUE TO 'ALL-STATE'
ON PAGE 2

Vocalists and musicians showcase talent at All-State Conference



FELISHA ARISTIDE | The Register

Left: Junior Ilana Lewis sings at the Nebraska All-State Conference. Right: Members of the choir perform under the instruction of choir teacher Lyn Bouma. Only a select number of students are selected each year, and the students admit that the selection process is not simple.

CONTINUED FROM 'ALL-STATE' ON PAGE 1

pand his vocal repertoire at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, using the lessons taught and learned during his time as an Eagle.

Sophomore Connor Paintin was selected for All-State Band for his ability with the Bari saxophone, an instrument which he has been playing now for the last six years. Paintin detailed the selection process for instruments, as he said first students must play pieces they have given very little notice of, and if they make the first cut they must then audition again at All-State to determine their chair placement. He also said of his time there, "It was an overall amazing experience and it was consistently great to be surrounded by such a large group of talented people." With two more years left of his high school journey, Paintin plans to participate in as many honors bands as he can as well as continue to "learn as much about music as [he] can in the next two years," he said.

Senior Wyatt Burgess has been singing for many years, nearly since middle school, however he said high school was the first time he had really worked to develop his own vocal abilities. Burgess described the selection process for All-State singers, as he said they each had to learn seven songs and sing them "near perfection," and then they each had to learn three songs that were done state-wide along with certain scales, and he added, "If you're good enough, you're chosen." Looking to the future, Burgess said he may minor in music, but if not he will certainly participate in the choir or vocals program at his college of choice. He said, "Music has altered my life in a way I could never imagine. Life without it would be a life wasted."

Sophomore Gabi Rock was selected to attend All-State Band in only her second year at Central for her skills with the trumpet. Rock commented on the auditions for All-State as she said although in practice they are very brief, the judges spend hours meticulously combing through the recordings and performances, which can increase the stress of the ordeal.

To Rock, music and the ability to create it is a very cerebral experience, as she said, "Music starts as simply black and white figures forming on a series of lines. The true magic happens when a musician takes the ink on a page and puts into it his or her entire self, forming it into a language without words, but full of color and true emotion." Rock intends to continue to study music while at Central, and also set a strong example for other up and coming musicians, as she said, "I hope to be a strong leader and role model for y section, my band and young musicians."

All in all, although Central vocalists and musicians may differ in their expression of the arts, all passed strict requirements and auditions to make it to All-State, and although the seniors are off the university this coming fall, the presence of so many younger students in the selection crop show that Central music will be well off into the future.



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 of its proceedings.

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

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

NSPA Pacemakers, which is considered the Pulitzer Prize of high school journalism. It has also won many Cornhusker awards from NHSPA, and has been awarded the Gold and Silver Crowns from CSPA for its overall work.

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

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

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

Thank you, readers.

A note from the editors:

We are so excited to present The Register for the 2016-2017 school year. Many long hours have gone into the creation of this publication. We spend much time working on this student-run publication to ensure that we create a more professional and sophisticated paper that in hope honors The Register's lengthy and notable tradition. With aspirations to place on the national level, The Register has really amped up its game. We want this student newspaper to be an interactive experience. Join the conversation on our Facebook: The Central High Register, our Twitter: @CHS_Press, our Instagram: @chs_press, and our Flickr: chspress. Also, check out our website for more stories: www.OmahaCentralRegister.com. If at all possible, we hope the student body can get a little old school and write letters to the editors, which we would be extremely happy to receive and publish. Thank you for picking up this issue of The Register.

ENJOY!

Georgia Chambers
Choteau Kammel

the REGISTER staff

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

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

PATROLLING THE HALLS

Central's security guards share their personal stories.



MATT WAGNER

Javier Lepas
staff writer

Ben Fletcher was born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska. The 6'4, 29 year-old Burke High School alum is now a security guard and has been working for Central for about five and a half years.

All five security guards at central share multiple responsibilities as they switch of from a series of five areas every hour to keep all rules consistent at all times. "Only thing I do that's different from the others is a lot of camera work" said Fletcher. Fletcher is also in charge of the late bus and sometimes even goes down to the Teachers Administrative Center (TAC) for hearings depending on a situation that a student may be in.

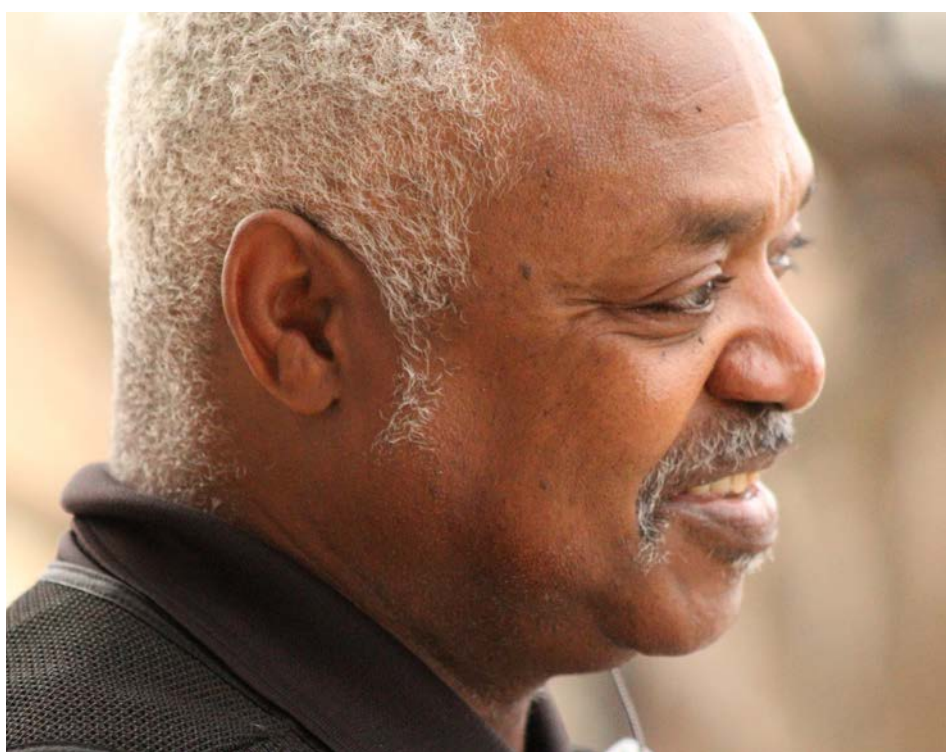
Fletcher first applied to be a security guard at the TAC Building. Fletcher, before getting the job, had to be certified in multiple areas, which included certifications in CPR, First Aid, Fire Safety, Chemical Spill Safety, Bodily fluid and cleanup safety, AED Administration and Medical Administration for various afflictions.

Fletcher enjoys the relationships he has made with the students. "The students, they make it fun every day and are always changing... Kids here are fantastic, they make coming to work fun." Before Fletcher became a security guard for Central he worked in the electrical field as an electrician and also has a journeyman's license. Fletcher being an electrician influenced him on becoming a security guard because Fletcher enjoys helping and working with people, but as an electrician he rarely had the chance to create the type of relationships he has now.

Working a shift from 10 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. might be enough for most people, but Fletcher's day does not end here. He also works as a bookkeeper for two coffeehouses and is an Uber driver.

Aside from carrying out his responsibilities as a security guard and his other jobs, Fletcher enjoys drawing tattoo designs, fishing, singing for a local rock band and playing the keyboard for another band. He is currently working on getting his license to become a tattoo artist through the University of Nebraska Medical Center.

If there were two things Fletcher could change about his work environment as a security guard, he said that he would "change how important it is to every staff member that we keep all rules consistent at all times" and that students should not have a larger range of snacks that differ from the healthier, often undesirable snacks found in vending machines today. He believes students should be able to buy regular pop and snacks. "It should be a choice for students to make by themselves," Fletcher said. "Not the government's."



MIKE McWHORTER

Hayley Raney
staff writer

Security guard Matt Wagner has been working at Central for two years. Wagner is a retired military man who served 26 years in the army. His daughter Kylynn Wagner graduated from Central in 2012.

Before working at Central, Wagner worked security at Burke for five years while his daughter was attending Central. Mostly because she told him not to work where she goes to school.

Wagner went through training to be a security guard. His training included certain courses in active shooters, CPR and student-conduct. After Wagner retired from the military OPS contacted him asking him if he wanted a security guard job.

Wagner grew up in Sioux City, Iowa. He went to Saint Mary's private high school with a population of 250.

Wagner participated in Infantry in the military. Infantry men participate in face-to-face combat. They defend the United States by repelling enemy ground forces. Wagner enlisted in the army when he was 17 in 1982. His inspiration for joining the army came from his father and grandfather.

Wagner was in Combat in 2001-2008 in Afghanistan and Iraq.

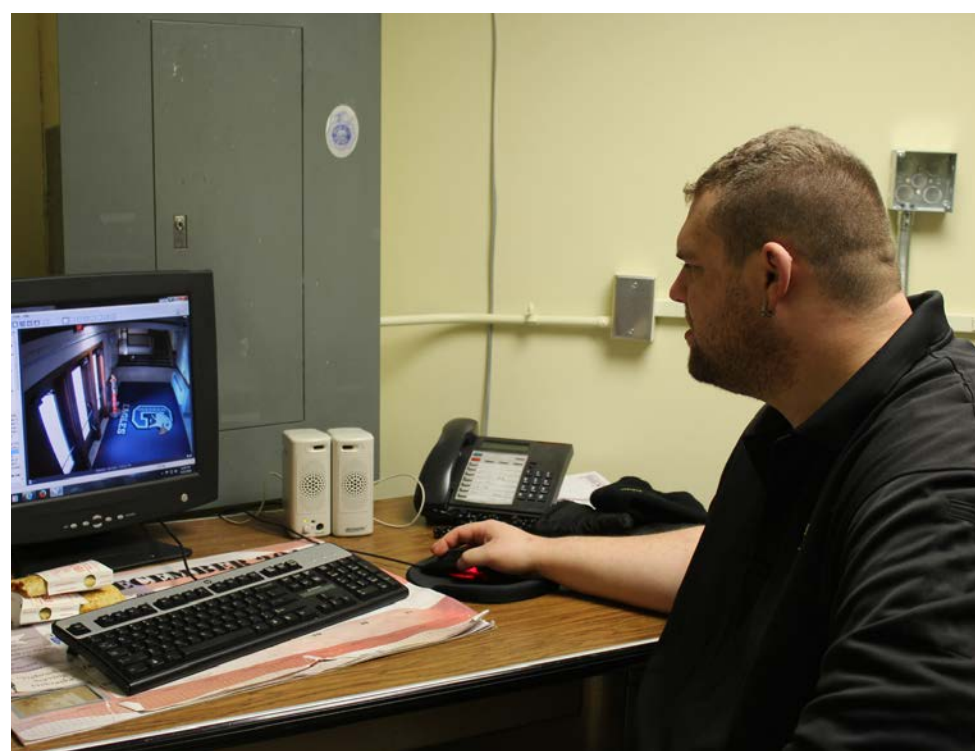
If Wagner could go back to high school he said he would have taken it more seriously. Wagner describes his teenage self as "a good student who rarely got in trouble."

When it comes to memories of high school Wagner said, "Nothing's really changed." The way kids talk to teachers now is the same from how kids talked to teachers back then.

Advice Wagner has for students who misbehave is, "have respect, treat others how you would want to be treated. Four years goes by way too quick," Wagner said.

One of the greatest memories from Wagner's years of high school is going to see the Pope in Des Moines and getting lost. It was a school trip. "Like 30 of us got lost," Wagner said.

Wagner is not sure how long he plans to continue working at Central as a security guard. His daughter is currently in graduating school and will graduate in May. "It depends on my daughter and what she decides to do," Wagner said, "if she sticks around I'll stick around."



BEN FLETCHER

Anna Kaminski
executive editor

Mike McWhorter, 62, has been a security guard for 25 years – 24 of those years have been spent in the halls of Central High. He grew up in Omaha, graduated from Omaha North and the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a bachelor's in science and education.

He describes his college graduation as one of the best moments of his life because his mom was bursting with pride at the ceremony. He has spent his whole life here except for a brief nine and a half years in California. "I went to visit my best friend for two weeks, and I ended up staying nine and a half years," he said.

While living in California, he worked at the Martin Luther King Jr. Hospital in Los Angeles. In the 1980s, Rosa Parks came to visit that hospital. McWhorter remembers her as being a powerful and dynamic woman. He found it incredibly impressive to be in the presence of a woman who played such a role in the progression of history.

In his free time, McWhorter likes watching sports such as football, basketball and baseball, among others. He also likes listening to contemporary jazz music.

McWhorter says that he values Central's diversity, and because he has such high standards for the students of Central, he sets high standards for himself to do his job to the best of his abilities. "I try to be fair, and I try to do my job well because I know how important it is," McWhorter said.

CENTRAL'S OWN PRODIGIES

Sophomore Anastasia Wilson and senior Trevor Petersen were the first of Brad Rauch's students selected to participate in elite honors ensembles.



ANASTASIA WILSON



TREVOR PETERSEN

Photo Courtesy of BRAD RAUCH

Maddie Grabow
staff writer

Cellists Anastasia Wilson and Trevor Petersen were both selected to participate in elite honors ensembles this past month. This is a career-first for music educator Brad Rauch. "I've never had a student make it into one of these orchestras in my 17 years as a strings teacher. We have many talented musicians in grades 9-11 so hopefully this is the beginning of a trend of excellence," Rauch said. The two musicians were selected through an extensive audition process and were accepted into their individual programs earlier this year.

Wilson was accepted into the Honor's Performance Series which takes place at Carnegie Hall in New York. According to the website, "The High School Honors Performance Series at Carnegie Hall challenges elite students to perform at their very best. Students rehearse and perform under master conductors

and have the opportunity to perform before invited representatives from collegiate and professional music programs." This is an international program, drawing people from all over the world into the program. Wilson found out about the opportunity from another musician who had participated the year prior. She looked it up online and applied during the summer. After sending in videos, audio recordings and letters of recommendation, Wilson was selected for the Honor's Performance Series and asked to fly out to New York next February. Between rehearsals, the musicians will be able to sightsee and tour around New York City. There is an organized outing to attend a Broadway show as well as other activities. Regarding her recent accomplishments, Wilson said "I think it's every serious musician's dream to play at Carnegie Hall, so this is a life-changing event for me."

Petersen was accepted into the National Association for Music Educators' All-National Orchestra in Grapevine, Texas.

He performed November 10-13 among some of the most talented student musicians from around the country. For his audition, Petersen had to send in an unedited and unaccompanied video of him playing a required music piece selected by the NAFME. He heard about his acceptance about 2 months after he applied. Petersen described the audition process as pretty simple. Similar to Wilson, Petersen heard about this opportunity through other students and teachers at Central. He explained that he sought out the program and applied because "It's always good to play in various ensembles, because each orchestra or chamber group is going to be a little bit different." Petersen's advice to all musicians is to "work hard, practice a lot, and never give up."

"I think this is a perfect example of our talented and ambitious students representing the community of the performing arts and Central High School on a national level," Rauch said, "and we are all extremely proud of Trevor and Asia."

Mike Saniuk
TENNIS PRO

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Dusty smokehead triggers fire alarm during walk-out

CONTINUED FROM 'ALARM' ON PAGE 1

Fire Department to test and check the school's fire system. "We assumed somebody had pulled the fire alarm," Bolas said. "So we were looking for that instead of a dirty smokehead." She, along with fire department personnel, checked the fire panel only to find a clutter of messages and warnings on the fire panel, located on the first floor, three side. If it was a student, it would have shown up on that fire panel as a pull station, and staff would have been able to piece together within minutes where the alarm was pulled and who pulled it based off security camera footage.

One reason why the fire alarm may have gone off was because of the repairs being done to the current fire system. One might have seen alarms are of their sockets around the school, and some of the work being done could have contributed to the malfunction, according to Bolas. She said that it is completely possible that a malfunction that would trigger the fire alarm could happen again, just because of all of the construction going on around the school.

While the timing was incredibly lucky, there were some pros and cons to the situation. According to Bennett, the obvious con was that students who did not want to go outside and protest were put in a position where it looked like they were supporting the activities. "I did not like at all that they were forced into feeling that way," Bennett said. However, after reflecting upon the events, there was a hidden pro. "The way the fire truck parked itself on Dodge, in proximity to the police cars that were further east on Dodge, kind of created a buffer in the street," Bennett said. "It forced the cars into those far south lanes of Dodge, so that even though most of our kids who were outside weren't on Dodge, if they had come out into that first lane, they really weren't in danger of being run over or hit by a car."

Bennett understands that the coincidental timing could be hard to believe for some people in the public. He reiterated that staff would not compromise the safety of his students, as that is one of his top priorities as principal. "[The public] wants to say that the school is out of control, or 'I'm sure it was a student who [triggered] it,'" Bennett said. "I haven't measured but I think the ceilings are twenty feet high. There's no way. We've looked at the cameras to see who was there, there weren't students who were trying to set it off. It really was the system."

Journalism students attend national conference, showcase talent

Grace Turner
staff writer

This year at the JEA Journalism conference, Central's newspaper, The Register won 5th best of show. The JEA conference is a place for different schools to come together and learn new journalism techniques, and compete in different competitions.

The newspaper and yearbook at Central are some of the oldest high school newspapers and yearbooks in the country. The staff of both the newspaper and year book are always working to complete stories, and make the newspaper and year book be the best it can be. Emma Nieland, a member of the year book staff said, "The best part of being on year book is being able to express myself in photos and writing. I also like helping others remember their high school experience."

Many of the members of both the newspaper and year book staff went on a trip to Indianapolis to participate in the JEA conference. At this conference there were many opportunities to take classes to improve writing and photography skills, compete in competitions, and experience the city of Indianapolis.

One of the main things to do at the conference was classes. They offered many different classes throughout the conference. These classes are designed to teach writing, photography, and other skills. Georgia Chambers, co-editor of the Register said, "I learned new ideas for lay-out, which is good because it is a weakness of mine. I also learned how there are so many things going on in the journalism world, and good opportunities. It also confirmed that I want to go into journalism when I am older."

As far as competitions go, Central placed in three events. The Register won fifth best of class. Georgia Chambers won honorable mention in feature writing. Julian Hock-Beaty also won honorable mention in logo design. Georgia Chambers said, "The person who we were writing about was really cool. I enjoyed listening to him. I didn't care if I placed because I was able to hear his message. I was just sitting there and then I heard them announce Georgia Chambers. I was shocked more than anything. It was awesome because I realized I can do this."

The Register worked hard throughout the school year to perfect the newspaper and make it better. This work paid off when the newspaper won fifth best of class at the JEA competition. Georgia Chambers said, "I was very nervous. We were all holding hands and our hands were sweating. They were going down from ten announcing the winners. We heard someone who had beat us last year be announced for sixth, so we thought we hadn't placed.



Photo Courtesy of HILLARY BLAYNEY

The staffs of both the newspaper and yearbook were given the opportunity to compete at the national journalism conference.

When they called us we screamed. I was so happy. It was great to see our hard work pay off."

The students who went on the trip also had the opportunity to explore the city of Indianapolis. They had the opportunity to walk around different parts of the city and go see some of the different things to do in Indianapolis.

The students who went on the trip learned many different skills to apply to the work that they do in journalism and other classes. There were many different classes to attend throughout the trip and many different skills to learn. Emma Nieland said, "I went to classes that explored organization, small staff organization, and photography methods. For example, I went to a class that taught me when to use black and white photography."

The journalism department works very hard each year to

make sure the yearbook and newspaper are successful. The classes that the students attend at the JEA conference are a great way to continue improving the yearbook and newspaper.

As an interesting tidbit, Central journalism has historically done

The JEA conference was a great experience for all of the students who went on the trip. They had the opportunity to learn new writing and photography skills, compete in competitions, and explore the city of Indianapolis. The students had a great experience and learned a lot on the trip. Georgia Chambers said, "I love working with the staff this year. I have been on staff for four years, and I feel like we grow every year. I am really proud of us."

Through seminars and tours, DECA students build marketing skills

Miles Kay
staff writer

DECA students traveled to Indianapolis from November 17-20 to participate in the Central Region Leadership Conference, which brought schools from thirteen states together for a weekend of workshops, presentations and other events. Forty-nine Central students attended the conference with the DECA sponsors, Harry Gaylor and Victoria Wiles.

At the conference, the focus was on leadership, networking and building skills to help students in the DECA competition and also in college and their future careers. It was a great learning opportunity for students, especially if they took advantage of the workshops and other educational activities. Though not every student learned the same things, all students took something valuable away from the conference, as students tend to all have different learning styles and interests.

"It was an enrichment [opportunity] that no local high school could have, you have thirteen states so the speakers and the workshops, both on leadership and motivation and on contests...if they listen to them and take some of it to heart, it should grow them as a person, not only in the marketing and DECA area but in life in general," Gaylor said.

During the two days of workshops, the students had the chance to attend an array of seminars and sessions focusing on various topics. "They had the opportunity to go to six or seven individual workshops plus three or four large group sessions and every kid, depending on their own background and their own experiences, is going to pull something different out of each one," Wiles said.

Each student found different workshops valuable, depending on his/her interests and overall experience at the session. Senior Alice Nyberg cited an interview seminar as her favorite part of the conference. "In class we talk about it [interviewing] all the time, how to succeed in an interview, but then actually applying it and practicing it with other people, I think that makes a difference," Nyberg said.

Senior Alexis Menard agreed that several sessions were beneficial. Menard wants to go into business marketing in the future, and she enjoyed learning about pitching new deals to business people. "They [the workshops] were all different to

give us tips on business and DECA stuff and most of them were life lessons and how to get out there, be confident and not be scared to take advantage of what is [offered]," Menard said.

Cameron Claborn, a senior, also attended workshops on topics he intends to use in the rest of his life. He went to one on property management, which he chose because he plans to own real estate when he is older. "It talked about the outlets you can take right now or the resources you can use right now for young people to get into property management," Claborn said, "It was a school talking about their property management program, that was just really helpful in helping kids realize what they can do in real estate."

“It was an enriching [opportunity] that no local high school could have.

Harry Gaylor

DECA and Marketing
Teacher

Workshops on dressing for success and interviewing helped Claborn build skills that he will use in the DECA competition. In this session, the CEO of Men's Warehouse talked with students about the qualities he looks for when interviewing people and how one should dress in the business world, with class and confidence being two of the foremost beneficial attributes.

"With the competitions, it's one-on-one or two-on-one scenarios so it's like an interview setting and [they] talked about the proper things you need to do when answering questions...overall interview help helps with the roleplay competitions for DECA and the dress for success will be used as well," Claborn said.

Wiles explained the many uses for skills learned at the CRLC. "The whole DECA marketing is about business application, it's about your internship and career application, it's about social and civic application, so when [they're] working with a nonprofit group and raising money for them [they've] got the skills to create the network of people and organize an event to help nonprofits, so you can use it pretty much in everything,"

Wiles said.

Gaylor added that students and teachers alike were able to network with others and learn about DECA projects at other schools which could be utilized by Central's DECA program. Particularly, fundraising is always an issue for any organization, and the Central Region Leadership Conference allowed students to learn about new, creative fundraising ideas, along with community projects that could be implemented at Central. "Even our cookie operation, you go back all the way to that which has been here twenty some years or twenty-five or more, that came out of a convention," Gaylor said.

The trip was not all spent in workshops. The students stopped in Chicago on Thursday night before continuing on to Indianapolis on Friday. While in Chicago, students were able to walk down Michigan Avenue, explore Navy Pier and shop. In Indianapolis, the students visited the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, the site of the Indy 500, where they toured the museum, took a bus around the track and even had the opportunity to kiss the bricks at the finish line, which is typically done by winners of the race. The trip allowed the students and their sponsors to get to know each other better. "You become more of a family and a unit," Gaylor said. Although marketing may be a class, Gaylor reiterated that it is also a group of like-minded students who can grow and learn together as they progress through high school.

DECA students are now gearing up for competition. In first semester, the emphasis is on leadership and networking, attending workshops and learning the ins and outs of the competition. Competitions occur at varying levels such as districts, regionals, nationals and even internationals, where the top marketing students across the globe compete in their knowledge and competency.

With first semester coming to a close, DECA students are looking forward to several competitions. "We have districts coming up in January, state in March [and] internationals in April, with the goal of going to Disneyland in Anaheim," Wiles said. The Central Region Leadership Conference imparted students with tools which they will use to be more successful in the DECA competition and beyond.

PEACEFUL PROTEST LEADS TO NATIONAL RECOGNITION



DALILAH VALDEZ | The O-BOOK

Anna Kaminski
executive editor

On what seemed like an ordinary Friday morning at Central, a historic event took place. On Nov. 11 during homeroom, after students participated in the Pledge of Allegiance, a handful of students from all grade levels staged a walk-out to protest the recent presidential election.

Junior Riley Kessler originally created and organized the idea to rally, “I saw that other schools around the U.S. were putting together different rallies and protests, and I got to thinking about the fact that we are in one of the most republican states, and Central is the most diverse high school in this state when it comes to minority groups,” she said. “Overall, it was other high schools that really inspired this rally.”

When the idea first came to Kessler, she turned to Twitter to get the word out. She initially asked her followers if anyone would be interested in participating in such a rally. Kessler said the response was “very, very positive.” In addition to spreading the word of the rally, Kessler utilized social media to establish rules and regulations for the rally. She wanted it to be a peaceful protest and an authentic display of the unity and strength amongst young people.

Prior to the rally, both Kessler and Koehler, in addition

to a few other students, talked with Dr. Bennett to lay out a plan for that Friday. All parties involved wanted to emphasize the fact that it was a peaceful rally, which was a differentiating factor compared to other protests around the nation. To gain notoriety, Koehler contacted Channel 7, Channel 6, Channel 42 and the Omaha World Herald to inform them of the happenings on that Friday.

About two minutes into the rally, the fire alarm went off and everyone in the building was forced onto the front lawns of Central. Despite this occurrence, the rally carried on. Some people who had contrasting views to those participating in the rally did not want to be associated with it in any way. Anastasia Mustoe, junior, was one of those people. “I didn’t agree with the anti-Trump rally, I know it was more than that, but, regardless, I didn’t agree. Therefore, I didn’t want to participate,” she said. “I understand going outside was for our safety, but...I didn’t want to look like I was a part of the rally.”

“There was nothing anyone could do,” said Kessler. “It was a malfunction in the system.”

“When I originally heard that the fire alarm off during the beginning stages of the rally, my heart sunk,” junior Nick Koehler said. Koehler had also played a role in organizing the rally and spreading the message through word of mouth and social media.

These students used social media to voice their opinions and allowed their voices and the voices of others to be heard across the nation much like this year’s presidential candidates have. “When it comes to the election, I honestly think that social media is the reason that Republicans won,” said Kessler. “Every day when I would check Twitter or Instagram or any other social media, I would see pictures saying things like ‘this election is a lose-lose situation.’ People who read this don’t think for themselves, it turned into a ‘monkey see monkey do’ situation.”

At the end of the rally when students were outside after they were supposed to be back in class, Koehler told the students, “We need to go inside and educate ourselves further to avoid a situation like the current election.” Subsequently, students went back inside peacefully and respectfully; Koehler said that this was one of his proudest moments.

“I was overwhelmed with the best of emotions. It’s amazing to know how much support and love there is at Central,” said Kessler. Eventually, Central ended up making headlines on national news and was trending on Twitter in the Midwest. “We came together to show off what we believe in,” Kessler said, “and I think we really conveyed the message that [we are] ‘stronger together.’”

ACTIVISM

Claire Lavender
contributing writer

On the morning of Nov. 9, I woke up and cried. America had elected Donald Trump as our new president, and I couldn’t help but think of all the people whom this would affect in an awful way. Perhaps it was silly of me to cry. As a middle-class, half-white girl, I’ve got to remember to check my privileges. But perhaps it wasn’t silly at all, perhaps it was perfectly legitimate, because of the pang of fear I felt for the people who were not so privileged, for people who were afraid for their lives because of our new president-elect.

The worst feeling I felt stemmed from the fact that I couldn’t vote. I was born five months too late to qualify for voting in this presidential election. I had no say or control in this decision at all.

But the freedom to vote is not my only liberty. My rights to petition, free speech and assembly are outlined in the First Amendment and my promised right to vote isn’t even outlined until the 19th and 26th Amendments. And never is my age accounted for in my First Amendment rights.

I’m aware that my Anti-Trump hashtags and subtle addition of a safety pin attached to my shirt won’t capture the attention of anyone notable. But collectively, the voices of my generation are strong. Central junior Riley Kessler organized

a peaceful walkout and rally and invited all students who were unhappy with the election results to participate. The rally drew attention from the New York Post and ABC national news. “I am a small 16-year-old and I got my high school on the New York Post and national news; never ever think your voice isn’t heard,” Kessler tweeted later after the rally.

“ I’m aware that my Anti-Trump hashtags and subtle addition of a safety pin attached to my shirt won’t capture the attention of anyone notable. But collectively, the voices of my generation are strong. ”

The people who criticized Central for the rally mainly argued that what we were doing didn’t mean anything. They argued that we were wasting our time, sacrificing our education for something hopeless, and that certainly this wasn’t going to change the results of the election. The people who criticized us don’t understand.

The Constitution was meant to secure the liberties of all future generations; it wasn’t just written to free the colonies. It guarantees to all its citizens, living and yet to be born, that America will always be the best country on earth—not because of how it currently stands or stood before the Bill of Rights,

but because the American people will never be limited from believing in a better future. There will always be possibility for change and improvement.

The Constitution’s statement that only persons of 18 years or older can vote should not stop young people from advocating for their rights. Their concerns are not valued less simply because they were born five months short of the presidential election. I am not any less afraid of a Trump presidency because of my age. In fact, I know that the results of his presidency will resonate with me and my children more than it will with the people who determined the election. According to SurveyMonkey, if Millennials solely had voted, Hillary Clinton would have won the presidency with a whopping 473 electoral votes. Yet the people of America whose future is not so drastically affected by a Trump presidency granted him 305 electoral votes.

Elections are not my only civil liberty. I have the right to protest, to assemble and to speak my mind. I know my safety pin won’t make Hillary president, but I don’t care. I am afraid and anxious and strong and determined. My hashtags are not meant to be a feeble threat to Mr. Trump, but reassurance to my friends and peers and anyone in between that I am with them. We are together in what we feel.

In a time where we will hardly find comfort in those ruling our nation, we will have to learn to find comfort, love and strength in each other.

STUDENT ACTIVISTS

Students are actively voicing their opinions and standing up for what they believe in, whether by attending rallies, volunteering for campaigns or taking to social media. We talked to five students about what activism means to them and how they are standing up for their beliefs on both the local and national stage.



Miles Kay
staff writer

SABINA EASTMAN

Eastman, a sophomore, has been involved in rallies and protests, and has worked with congressmen to effect change. She defines an activist as “someone who sees what’s wrong in the community and what they hope to achieve and [goes] out and [does] that and fight[s] for what they believe in.”

She can be called a social activist because of her fearlessness in voicing her opinion, whether it be to her peers or prominent politicians. “I always voice my political and social opinion when it matters, I never attack people based on their beliefs but I try to be a voice that can unite people and promote peace and equality,” Eastman said.

Eastman encourages students to talk to people about their opinions in a respectful way to raise awareness for what they are passionate about. “There’s a lot of change that needs to be made and I think that we are definitely the future and we can make a huge difference,” Eastman said, “We matter and I think that it’s important to show people that we do.”

The issues most important to Eastman are women’s rights, LGBTQ+ rights and equality, the Black Lives Matter movement and climate change. Eastman is currently preparing for a trip to Washington, D.C. this February, on which she will have the chance to meet with congressmen to discuss the issues important to her and her peers. “I think they need to know what students think about what’s happening,” Eastman said.

MAURA BAGSTAD

Bagstad, a junior, has taken part in rallies and protests locally, and has plans to take part in national rallies as well. “I participate a lot in rallies in Omaha, and I’m going to participate in them around the country as well,” Bagstad said, “I’ll find someone or an organization that I really support and I’ll go and help them out and do what I can to share my voice and opinion.”

For her, an activist is “someone who despite people going against them, always stand up for what they believe in and always [does] what they can to make other people [and themselves] more comfortable and happier.” This belief has catalyzed her involvement with several movements pertaining to human rights. She attended a local Black Lives Matter rally over the summer, protested Donald Trump when he visited Omaha in May and went to rallies for both Clinton and Sanders. In January, she is planning on taking part in the Million Women’s March on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. following the inauguration of Donald Trump.

Her upbringing has influenced her involvement. “I grew up with parents who told me that if I had an opinion and I thought something was wrong that I needed to change it and if there’s one way to do that it’s to speak your mind and to get out there,” Bagstad said.

Currently, she has focused on supporting causes furthering women’s rights, along with the Black Lives Matter movement. She is also firmly against the Dakota Access Pipeline, even hoping to travel to the site over winter break to protest. In Omaha, she has donated and done charity work for the cause.

In college, Bagstad hopes to pursue her interests in politics and marine conservation. Her ultimate goal is to work to save the coral reefs and protect the oceans.

Bagstad believes that it takes very little to become an activist. “I think you need to find something you’re really passionate about and something that you really care about and want to change in the world and do what you can little by little,” Bagstad said, “maybe going to a rally or writing a story about it or talking to people who do it too and just speaking your mind.”



SLACKTIVISM

Julian Hock-Beaty
staff writer

In my honest opinion, this year has been a train wreck for America. 2016 has seen some pretty nasty racial tension, mass shootings, political weakness and so much more. American society (as well as its culture) is evolving quickly, and I personally believe this is why so much negativity is happening at once. We’re trying to advance socially, but we’re going about it very wrong. This nation is dividing; people are becoming politically charged based on their beliefs. Individuals are flocking together with like-minded people, and inevitably shun those that disagree with their views, intentionally or unintentionally.

In the wake of this year’s tumultuous presidential election, America has become the political battleground for these rivaling groups. We saw a relatively unexpected turnout after the polls closed, and people responded in a variety of ways. Some were happy, some were sad, some were angry, some were a strange mix of everything. One of the most widespread reactions from dissatisfied citizens was (unsurprisingly) protesting. People immediately assembled in public areas, wielding signs and megaphones. Some groups managed to stay peaceful, but many large cities experienced some form of a violence outbreak for the few days following.

Omaha has been pretty lucky, we’ve seen a lot of peaceful activity in regards to protests. Earlier this year, the nation saw

a surge of police-on-black killings, and even a few black-on-police cases. Racial tension hit an astounding peak, and protests quickly turned to violence in most situations. However, Omaha managed to keep its cool, and communities organized peaceful rallies and demonstrations in effort to combat the surrounding negativity.

“Racial tension hit an astounding peak, and protests quickly turned to violence in most situations.”

This is the kind of approach that gets the ball rolling for change, but it obviously doesn’t resolve the issue at hand. Whatever that issue may be, it will inevitably require a diplomatic solution. Now obviously, that takes time. But protesters need to realize that they will eventually have to work for said solution, and that gathering with people that think the same way will only get them so far.

To the near 100 million eligible adults that didn’t vote this year, why are so many of you unhappy with the results? Why are so many of you taking to the streets and protesting when you had all the power necessary to tip the scales in your favor? Your vote is your contribution to this country’s future, so make it. This is what my advisor and I angrily refer to as

“slacktivism”. Activism for the weak-willed people who simply yell to be loud, hold signs to be noticed and complain about things they’re barely educated on.

“Slacktivism” also applies to the adults who are fully capable of running for organizing political committees or starting petitions, yet stick to taking selfies at rallies. College students suddenly become political geniuses overnight, as shown in their incessant feed of protest videos and pictures. The way I see it: if people are going to attend protests and rallies, why not get something out of it? Why not use the experience to go forward and further educate themselves, and work to a point where they can actually change things within their government? You can’t do that while holding a sign in one hand and a phone in the other. That, my friend, is the difference between activism and “slacktivism”.

With this being said, I understand that protests and rallies work a little differently for high school students. Central had a nationally recognized rally just recently, and I’m pretty proud of all the people who utilized the gathering to have intelligent discussion and voice their opinions. I’m also damn grateful for such an accommodating school staff, who allowed the student body to exercise their rights of free speech and assembly, as opposed to shutting the situation down completely. They

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STUDENT ACTIVISTS

NOAH RHOADES

Rhoades, a senior, has been actively involved with various groups and movements, but his most important involvement has been with unions. Rhoades' father is heavily involved with unions, and because of this Rhoades has attended several union protests. "The most important one that I experienced was the teacher's strike in Madison, Wisconsin around 2011 and that was when I kind of recognized that when enough people get tired of being pushed around, they stand up and they say something, and I think that's a very important part of American society," Rhoades said.

Rhoades believes it's important to establish a clear definition of activism. "An activist has a plan, their ability to talk to someone who doesn't agree with them peacefully and rationally without making it an argument, I think that's an important part of activism," Rhoades said, "but also being able to find commonalities between people...we're constantly looking for things that divide us and separate us and I think it's an activists job to find the common thread and pull each other together."

In everything that Rhoades does, his ultimate goal is the betterment of the community. "I think beyond politics it's just common decency, I don't fight for things that I think would hinder anyone, I fight for things that I believe are ultimately going to be better for everyone," Rhoades said, "I think the pursuit of happiness is the biggest part of the Constitution and it's the one that gets overlooked the most."

Rhoades believes that people can become involved with activism by speaking and talking about the issues that they care about, not just through social media, but through actual conversations with other people. These conversations should not be arguments, they should be discussions in which both sides work towards compromise and discovery of the things that unite them.

Today, Rhoades sees money and greed as the root of many of the problems facing America. "Systematic oppression of any kind goes back to the basic instinct of survival, I've got to get the one up on them or they're going to get the one up on me, it's a very adversarial social system that we live in," Rhoades said.

Rhoades hopes to advocate to begin alleviating the problems that have led to this social system. "People are worth fighting for and there's always a reason to have hope," Rhoades said.



AMNA HAIDER

Haider, a junior, utilizes social media frequently to express her opinions and advocate for what she believes in. "Twitter is a great platform in order for me to gain knowledge about different problems," Haider said, "I look at every single perspective and I look at the facts and make my own opinion about what really is happening right now, and if I see injustice I will say something."

Haider defines an activist as a person who "does not suppress his or her voice, they speak up and they know that change and justice is inevitable if they keep working at it."

Twitter has exposed Haider to a wide spectrum of opinions, issues and movements. Many movements have gained widespread attention because of Twitter and linked people around the world together. "These movements start from spreading information around, as long as we continue to spread information everyone has a chance of learning what really is happening we get the truth," Haider said.

On Twitter, people can be argumentative and hateful, especially when it comes to contentious issues. Haider has avoided hatred, which she views as oppressive, but when she sees hate affecting others she does not hesitate to take a stand. "When I see people spreading hateful things I will say something because if I don't I am standing on the side of the oppressor and I'm standing on the side of hate and oppression," Haider said.

Haider's faith has been integral to the development of this attitude. "I am a Muslim, and in Islam we believe that justice is necessary," Haider said, "Imam Ali said that if you see a situation of the oppressor and the oppressed and you do not say anything you have taken the side of the oppressor."

Haider recognizes the diversity at Central and the people that are directly affected by issues in America today. She strives to create an environment in which everyone at Central, and in the world, is able to practice their cultures and be themselves without fear of hatred or injustice. As a Middle Easterner, Haider also pays close attention to issues pertaining to the Middle East. "My family could be affected by things happening in our government and so I choose to stay active in government, in politics, in order to make sure that minorities get their voice," Haider said, "Our voices cannot be suppressed."

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SLACKTIVISM



knew that Central's students needed to speak their minds, and went extra lengths to make sure they were safe while doing so. As a journalist, I couldn't be happier. From me to the top of the chain, thank you.

Even though a vast majority of Central's students aren't old enough to vote, a good percentage took full advantage of the rally by making it worth the time it took. Yes, some students simply went to get out of class, which is unavoidable. I get that most of them can't fill in a bubble on a ballot yet, but they could still be doing more than just posting a Snapchat story and pretending to be an avid social justice warrior. The people who chose to do that over being productive within the rally are the reason "slacktivism" is a thing. You know who you are.

For all the Central students who went to the event and gained something, good job. Remember the debates you had, the friends you made and the knowledge you obtained from them. Just remember, your protesting and rallying is productive until you turn 18. After that, the power is in your hands to change the way America operates. Run for office, form a committee, hell, just vote. Back up the ideas you stand for by fighting for them where it matters. Be a true activist, not a "slacktivist".



COMMITTED 10-11

Four students have committed to competing at the next level in soccer, basketball and baseball.



JUST KEEP SWIMMING 14

Junior Jesse Ferguson began swimming in middle school and now competes on both varsity and a competitive team outside of school.

HEAD HONCHOS 13

Head basketball coaches Ben Holling and Matthew Hammil add insight about their teams.



sports & leisure

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HORSING AROUND

Sophomore Kincaid Johnson follows in the footsteps of her mother by riding and competing in top equitation competition.



Photo Courtesy of KINCAID JOHNSON

Johnson poses on her horse. She rides for at least three hours five to six days a week in effort to prepare for competitions.

Grace Nodes
contributing writer

For sophomore Kincaid Johnson, riding horses has become a part of her everyday routine. Balancing a hectic high schooler's schedule with riding can be a struggle, but Johnson would not trade it for the world.

"I decided to start riding because my mom was very competitive with horses when she was young and she decided to start riding again, so I decided to start with her," Johnson said. "Also I love being around horses because they are such cool and sweet animals and the bond you create with them is a very special bond that few people get to experience."

Johnson spends around three hours at Quail Run Horse Centre, located in Elkhorn, almost every day. "It is very difficult to balance riding and different aspects of a high school-

er's life because I am at the stables for at least three hours five to six days a week," Johnson said. "This often results in me having to turn down plans with my friends because of the time commitment, but I try my best to save time to hang out with friends and family during the weekend or when I am not riding after school because they are both very important to me."

Kincaid not only has a passion for riding, but she also is honored to continue her mom's legacy.

"Watching Kincaid ride takes my breath away," Piper Johnson, Kincaid's mom said. "Kincaid has a lot of natural ability with horses – horses relax when she rides them, and they loosen up and use their muscles and their minds in response to her. It's amazing to watch, because she is a very

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ON PAGE 12

Despite lack of tournament, chess club hopes to continue success

Heidi Heyden
contributing writer

Room 329 is so quiet that one could hear a pin drop. No words are said, but the sense of thinking, strategizing, and planning ahead is felt all over the room. It may not be a test, but it requires a considerable amount of brain power to excel at. But at the same time, it is recognized as a sport by the International Olympic Committee. The activity at hand: chess—and Central is setting the pace.

Whether they are suiting up for a competition, or just practicing against the defending state champion, the chess club is open to all students who are willing to put their strategic skills and patience to the test.

Sponsors Stephen Bouma and Drew Thyden hold practices every Tuesday and Thursday from 3:20 after school to 3:45 p.m.

"There really are no requirements and you don't have to

sign up for anything," freshman Eric Seger said.

Students of all levels of experience come and play chess, getting better every day. Even though the practices only last for 25 minutes, the players spend valuable time improving their skills and just practicing for competitions.

"We all get out the chess mats and decide who's playing who, or we watch other people play," sophomore Dante James Falzone said.

Those practices are what led the chess club to win 17 State Championships, winning their first in 1965, and their most recent in 2015. In addition, they placed second in the Metro League competition in the same year, and placed third in the 2016 Metro League competition. In addition, regular competitions give the players to prepare for the Metro and State competitions.

"I think it's pretty cool that novices get to play against the best high school player in the state, if they want to," Seger said. "They'll get clobbered, of course, but it's good learning."

In the past, the Central High School chess tournament held the largest annual tournament in Nebraska. On Nov. 22, 2014, it included 308 students from 70 schools. 120 trophies were awarded.

"[My favorite experience] is usually watching Mr. Bouma play some of the students," sponsor Mr. Thyden said. "He does good instruction, has a very good sense of humor, and has a lot of fun playing the players. Initially, Mr. Bouma would beat certain students, and then as time goes on, those students would get better than him. It is nice to see their improvement."

Although there will not be a Central High School tournament this year, the chess team will be working to repeat what happened in 2015.

"You really have to be able to accept the losses," Seger said. "Also, you have to help people who aren't as good as you and learn from every move people who are better than you make."

SHOWING COMMITMENT

Four Central seniors signed to various colleges and universities on Nov. 9 for their exceptional talent displayed on the field and the court.

MARK TIMMINS



Zoia Morrow
staff writer

Ever since he was little, senior pitcher Mark Timmins has played baseball. His coach up until high-school and biggest inspiration was his dad, who still helps him a lot and very well could be the reason he signed to Southeast Community College in Beatrice, Neb.

Timmins is a senior who has a lot on his plate, just like everyone else. It's hard to maintain a healthy common lifestyle when, "Practices go late at night and games too, practices every day, we don't have much time to be home," Timmins said.

But with his official signing to a division two baseball team, Timmins is more relaxed because there is not as much pressure on his shoulders. Beginning sophomore year, he began to think about colleges more and his dream of playing college baseball. Timmins thinks it's a good idea to sign player's midway through senior year because it gets it out of the way. Not to mention it shreds off a lot of stress and anxiousness. So when it comes to how it he feels on getting signed it is a relief, "I don't have to worry about that anymore, it was stressful trying to find a school," Timmins said. This feeling was the same on behalf of his family.

What baseball does for Timmins is consume his life. "It's pretty much all I do now, lifting and conditioning, every day, all year round," Timmins said. There is beauty to each twist of the wrist when it comes to pitching and there is even more beauty when it comes to running as fast as possible to catch the ball and touch base. Like anything in life, it takes practice. One does not simply learn the correct stance for a pitcher nor how exactly to contort the arms so it affects the wrist while throwing the ball. Over time it's learned, practiced and perfected.

That is what Timmins has done in his short, yet eventful lifetime of experience playing baseball, for in and outside of school.

This upcoming season of baseball Timmins says he can "actually just play and not worry about playing for coaches [to see,]." This is because many of the things a high school student does is spend their entire experience trying to impress colleges. One does not expect to get into college with three years of low grade point averages under their belt.

Timmins is now focused on graduating high school as well as playing for Central's baseball team for one final season. This time is more sentimental, not only because it is his last year, but because he can enjoy it, soak up the memories and live in the moment.

baseball

**Southeast Community
College, Nebraska**

COLLIN LEFEBER

Javier Lepes
staff writer

Senior Collin Lefebber has been playing baseball for 14 years. His hard work and dedication for the game has earned him an offer from Central College in Pella, Iowa. Earlier in the school year he decided Central College was the place he wanted to sign.

He was introduced to baseball by his parents and has been around the game most of his life as his brothers also played baseball. When he was 3-years-old his parents signed him up to play T-ball. "Both my brothers played baseball, so my parents just put me in T-ball," he said.

Lefebber plays second and third base for Central and says he's proud he came here. Back in his 8th grade year he decided to come to Central because he had a couple of friends coming here too. He also talked to Gerald Kreber the varsity baseball coach about the program and decided that Central was the place he should go.

Lefebber's biggest supporter is his own father as he has been there since the beginning. "My dad is my biggest help. He has helped me spend countless hours working with me on defense and offense." He spends most of his days training at The Strike Zone, a baseball facility which allows baseball players to work on their craft. "I hit at the Strike Zone every single day then I work on my speed and agility," Lefebber said.

He feels like Central's baseball program is heading in a better direction. "It's definitely headed in a better program than it was when I got here my freshman year," he said. "All the working hard by every single player is paying off."

Lefebber feels that his many hours of hitting off the baseball tee has made him into the hitter he is today. "I gain teamwork and skills along with the passion of never giving up when stuff gets hard," Lefebber said.

His signing with Central College is "one of the biggest accomplishment I've had so far, the coaches at Central College are awesome and the campus is beautiful," he said.

He has already talked to some of the coaches at Central College and already discussed his position with the team. "I'm going to be a utility player with the team, whenever they need me on the field I'll be available on the infield or the outfield."

baseball

Central College



CLAIRE LAVENDER | The O-BOOK

STEPHEN SIY



Carlson Koch
staff writer

Graduating after the winter semester is over and committing to the University of Nebraska at Omaha, senior Stephen Siy will continue his career in soccer playing for the UNO men's team. He was nominated spring season athlete of the year for his efforts and contributions to the soccer team last year.

Last year was his last year playing for Central, and with a tough loss to Creighton Prep in the semi-finals, Siy looks forward to his career playing at the collegiate level.

Stephen has found inspiration in his life with soccer, and he first began this sport recreationally, "I originally started playing soccer to make friends in kindergarten, and I was a natural," said Siy. His instinctive ability to play soccer exceeded much of the other kids, even when he got to club soccer, and this is true today.

UNO's current head soccer coach, Jason Mims replaced Siy's club soccer coach when he was 14, and Mim then coached Siy for the following three or four years. Mim liked Stephen and his style of play, which resulted in Siy's offer and later acceptance to play at UNO.

"Coach Mims approached me very early, so I did not search out to any schools," said Siy, it caused for him to receive no other offers. Siy is excited for this chance to play, but also feels nervous,

"There are a lot of unknowns, but in the end it is a great and unique opportunity," he said.

Playing soccer passionately enough to be recognized by a Division One University requires a love for soccer that is undying. Siy's eyes are focused on "dream" future that shows his passion, "If I could someday play professional soccer, that would be ideal," said Siy. He has a backup-plan much like most athletes who dream of playing a sport professionally.

Firstly, he will focus on his classes, "my education will be in good shape for my plans, especially graduate classes," said Siy. He has usually excelled in school, taking on the load of several AP and Honors classes each year here at Central.

As Siy's last few days at Central near, "I wish I could just magically not have work to do and could just enjoy my last days of high school, but that's in reality high school," he said. Siy has always pushed himself in school, which allowed for this work ethic to push him in soccer as well.

Siy's soccer commitment has been a bitter-sweet experience as it is one step closer to his dream of playing professionally, but also he must leave his friends and the high school

soccer

University of
Nebraska at Omaha

ISAIAH CHANDLER

Georgia Chambers
editor-in-chief

Senior Isaiah Chandler has been a key component to Central's basketball team and is now looking to further his basketball career at the University of New Mexico.

Chandler has been offered by about 17 Division I colleges, and he has gone on three unofficial visits. He has visited UNO, New Mexico and South Dakota. Chandler's latest visit was to the University of New Mexico, and this visit was final; his official visit to New Mexico finalized his intentions to go there.

Head Coach Ben Holling and Chandler's father accompanied him on the visit. All three felt that this university was the best fit for Chandler. Chandler feels like New Mexico will benefit him both on and off the court.

"The thing that made me want to commit was the people, the fans, the school, the team... the coaches... I just felt like I could succeed in my basketball and education career there," Chandler said.

As for the team, Chandler is most passionate about their playing style.

"Their main objective is to pass it to the big man," Chandler said. In other words, being the "big guy" that Chandler is, he will get the ball more.

Chandler is relieved to go to college next fall, and he said he is not nervous about moving away from home. There is a chance that his family will move to New Mexico with him next year.

As for this year's basketball season, Chandler hopes to win a ring. On top of this, Chandler just hopes to have a good season with his teammates for his last high school season and to "watch [his] dudes hoop."

After high school basketball season ends, Chandler will work with a trainer to help him prepare and get more in shape for the college season.

However, he is focused on the present and is only concerned about helping his team win the state championship. He is taking it one step at a time.



basketball

University of
New Mexico

Tri-sport athlete balances demands of athletics, CHS singers



Photo Courtesy of RYAN MCKITTRICK

Left: McKittrick squats 315 pounds at a powerlifting meet. Right: Alongside his fellow choir members, McKittrick (middle) performs at a concert.

Alec Rome
staff writer

Ryan McKittrick could be described as one of the typical athletes one might see at Omaha Central. He participates in football, rugby, powerlifting... and choir. That is not a misprint; a football player participates in choir. It might seem like something you see out of a movie, but McKittrick does it every single day.

He started choir in the fifth grade. Ask him the reason why and he has a simple answer. "I just love music," McKittrick said. He was told by someone that he had a pretty voice, and somehow it stuck with him to this point. It is just one of the activities that he continues to try and improve on. Normally, people are surprised when he tells them that he sings. "[People] won't pass up a chance to [tease] me for it either," McKittrick said. "When I told my [football] teammates, they laughed."

Rugby was another sport that McKittrick tried and fell in love with. His friend, Jared Fitzgerald, told him that he should come play, and so he started practicing. McKittrick found that rugby helps him when he plays offensive line, especially during a scrum. The same footwork techniques used to win the ball in rugby is in part the same techniques he uses to protect his quarterback. However, he said that while both sports have similarities, the differences in the sports are apparent. "There's a lot of different techniques in both sports," McKittrick said.

His training routine, along with the routines of other athletes can sometimes be overlooked. "For lineman, we go in and we lift to get stronger for the next year," McKittrick said. "Then we have after-school football where we do [more] weightlifting, auxiliaries and running." For McKittrick, this routine almost never stops. Two weeks after the football season is over, he is back in the weight room for the whole year. The team will lift for around two hours, doing various exercises such as deadlifts,

squats and the bench press. Since he does powerlifting, that also adds on top of the time taken to train.

With all of these activities going on, sometimes it can be tough to balance his time with schoolwork. "It is a very big struggle, and you really have to manage your time well," McKittrick said. "I try to make school [come] first, and athletics later, but when you're an athlete and you're out late working hard, sometimes you don't have time for that."

Ask McKittrick what his favorite activity is and you will get a quick answer. "I love football," McKittrick said. "I have been doing it a really long time, and you never stop learning in that game." He plans to continue playing football in high school if he gets a scholarship, and he will be looking into the music program at colleges as well. Thus, McKittrick will be learning in the classroom and on the football field for many years to come.

Equestrian dedicates time to practice, showcases talent in competition

CONTINUED FROM 'RIDER' ON PAGE 9

quiet, gentle and kind rider and yet she can make any horse look easy to ride. I'm not only proud of and impressed with Kincaid's riding, I'm also honored to feel like I am riding along with her with every step."

Horse riding is not something that everyone is able to experience. "Not many people get the chance to create a bond with an animal, and I get to," Kincaid said. "Being able to com-

municate with such a large animal and being able to create such a large trust relationship with an animal is the best feeling, and after you accomplish something such as a large win, you get to share that victory and pride with the horse."

Kincaid plans to continue riding and competing in shows and is looking forward to the winter season of conditioning. She is preparing to show in Big Equitation, which is a top equitation competition. During the winter off season, she conditions for the spring season and a December show in her barn's

heated indoor arena.

"Horseback riding has definitely impacted my life for the better because I finally found a sport that I enjoy and get to be competitive in, but the best part is that I get to go through the whole journey with a very special animal that I have created an incredible bond with."



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Basketball coach encourages excellence both on, off the court



Choteau Kammel
editor-in-chief

As the weather gets colder, the leaves fall and clocks change, sports fans across the nation get ready for the advent of basketball season. At Central this phenomenon is no different, as the boys varsity team has begun their third season with social studies teacher Benjamin Holling at the helm as their head coach.

Originally born on Wright Air Force Base in Ohio, Holling soon moved to Omaha, following his mother's transfer to Offutt Air Force Base. Interestingly enough, he did not actually become involved in the sport of basketball immediately, but actually only started in 7th grade, before continuing to play at both the high school and collegiate levels. Holling then attended Ralston High School where he tallest guard on the court and he said, "I was a good seven to eight years behind everybody else [who had been playing since grade school], so I woke up early every morning and for an hour before school I would shoot baskets."

During his senior season, Holling had 36 dunks and would go on to leave Ralston upon graduation to continue his passion for basketball at Bellevue University. He said, "I really wanted to stay in Omaha," and he also added that it his basketball prospects at Bellevue were also very tempting.

While at Bellevue University, Holling was no longer the tallest player on the court, however he said he did retain the honor of being the tallest point guard. Holling would also go on to meet a lifelong mentor in his coach, Coach Eisner, to whom he attributes much of his own coaching style and work ethic. "[Coach Eisner] is the godfather of my daughter and I still talk to him on a weekly basis. He taught me the value of respect, accountability and hard work," Holling said.

Academically, Holling graduated with a bachelors in social studies, however he soon discovered that the two jobs available with such a degree, museum curator and historian, did not interest him, so he went back to school at Peru State to obtain his teaching certification. He later continued his education at the University of Nebraska at Omaha where he earned a masters degree in special education. "I had wanted to be a teacher since grade school," he said. "I always wanted to help others, that's also why I coach, so I can help fill a role for my players."

Holling first arrived at Central as a special education teacher and also started off as an assistant coach for the boys varsity team under then head coach Eric Behrens. After four years, he moved to Burke High School to continue teaching special education and also was their boys varsity basketball team head coach for those two years. He said, however, "I know if I had the chance to come back to Central I would take it right away. I love working here." Sure enough, after two years Holling returned to Central as a social studies teacher and also the new head basketball coach.

As basketball season has now begun, Holling noted that much of this year's team has been with him his last three years as head coach and that he has noticed more cohesion and fluidity during practice because "they ate up to speed on everything," he said. Describing his coaching style Holling also said, "I am very demanding and I require you to give maximum effort both physically and mentally. They [the players] may not understand why until they graduate, but they most certainly will if they go on to play ball in college."

In fulfilling his childhood dream of educating the next generation, Holling said he has also ended up at the perfect institution to be doing so as he said, "It's the most cliché thing about this school but the diversity is astounding. I am jealous of the students who get to go here each and every day." Ever a dedicated sports fan, Holling said that the quote he lives and coaches by comes from tennis player Jimmy Connors, who said, "I hate to lose more than I love to win."



MADISON THARNISH | The O-BOOK

Coach Holling has taken his own experience as a player at both the high school and collegiate levels and used it to bring energy and skill to the boys varsity basketball team. He has been an avid lover of the sport for many years.

Developing new young talent, girls coach looks to the future

Miles Kay
staff writer

After a two-year hiatus, science teacher Matthew Hamill has returned to the basketball court. Hamill coached the freshmen boys basketball team for eight years and is now coaching the girls varsity basketball team. Hamill previously stepped away from basketball to spend more time with his family. When the head coaching position on the girls' team opened, Hamill decided to take the job. Hamill chose to coach the team for several reasons. "I care a lot about Central High School and I know the struggles of the girls' basketball team in the last couple years, so I was hopeful that I could [use] my talents in coaching to make the team better," Hamill said.

Hamill added that another major factor influencing his decision was the positive effect basketball has on the girls in the program. "I think empowering women is one of the best things that as a culture we can do," Hamill said. "Basketball not only develops the skills of those athletes, it develops their confidence, it develops their character, so for me...it was about what kind of a transformation we can make from an individual all the way up to a society." For Hamill, coaching the girls' team thus far has been both similar and different to coaching the boys' team. "There was a nagging personal question for me [when I took the position]: [could] I take what I've learned on a lower level and bring that up to the varsity level," Hamill said.

Furthermore, Hamill believes that the team's strength lies in its chemistry. "We have a good team chemistry. They're unselfish, they're committed to a good team concept. We're young and inexperienced but hopefully we have a really strong nucleus that will help us overcome some of the deficiencies we have," Hamill said. One of the most challenging elements of coaching for Hamill has been managing his time appropriately. As a teacher and a coach, he has responsibilities to his students and his players, and balancing those responsibilities can be difficult. "Every day I still have to get up in front of my class and teach, I still do that, and I've worked hard to not let that aspect change," Hamill said. "But there's no doubt that I have less time to assess."

Hamill is excited for games to begin. He likens coaching to science labs. "It's an experiment where I get to see [if I can] push the right buttons, make the right calls, make the right decisions whether it's plays or personnel and put the right pieces on the floor together at the right time to put our girls in position to be successful," Hamill said. Hamill anticipates that this season will not be free from setbacks, but is eager to see how it will unfold. Though he has already warned the girls that the team will not go undefeated, he believes that if the girls work hard, are hard to score against and are unselfish as a team, they will have a great season. "Even though we're young, I think we have enough talent to be really successful," Hamill said.

Hamill is prepared to continue coaching for several years. "When I took this job I knew that it was a rebuilding process," Hamill said. "I knew that because it is a rebuilding process that it's going to be a couple years or more to get us back to where I want this program to be." "I'm going to continue to do it as long as it's fun and I enjoy it," Hamill said. "I'm definitely going in with a mindset that I'm here for a while."



MADISON THARNISH | The O-BOOK

Returning to the court, Coach Hamill hopes to rebuild the girls basketball program.

Managing busy life, junior balances swim team with school

Simone Davis
staff writer

When most people think of winter, they picture relaxing indoors, watching holiday movies and drinking hot chocolate. But junior swimmer Jessi Ferguson prefers spending her holiday season swimming.

"I've been in the pool for such a large part of my life that it's a comforting feeling," Ferguson said. Ferguson began swimming for the YMCA in the 5th grade, and she is still swimming now, well into her junior year. Ferguson continued swimming at the YMCA until 8th grade, when she started getting more serious about the sport. After maturing from that program, Ferguson began swimming for Greater Omaha Aquatics Leopard Sharks, or GOAL, the summer before her freshman year. In addition, she also swims for Central.

The familial feeling that comes with swimming is one of Ferguson's favorite parts of the sport. Because she has been swimming with the same people for a long period of time, both the team and coaches have grown close to one another.

"My coaches have become my second parents and I could never imagine leaving them—it's too much of a family to even consider leaving," Ferguson said. The team spends hours together almost daily, so bonds inevitably form between everyone. On the same token, Ferguson finds the team aspect of swimming awkward at times.

"It [swimming] is not like basketball or football in which you compete as one," said Ferguson. "You're forced to race against your friends, swimming your own race, while still trying to earn points to help the team as a whole win."

Because of this, one would think that it would be difficult for teammates to be friends with each other but that is not the case. Ferguson has made some of her best friends while swimming.

"I've met the most solid and reliable friends I've ever had," Ferguson said. So despite the constant competitions that she and her friends have, they still are able to maintain healthy friendships.

Ferguson enjoys swimming not only because of the relationships that she has gained, but simply because of swimming itself.

"I can always count on going to practices and learning something new," Ferguson said. "It's something I can always look forward to."

Because Ferguson has such a love for the sport, she finds



Photo Courtesy of JESSI FERGUSON

Ferguson has been swimming for many years and plans to continue to pursue the sport of her passion as she attends university.

the time to balance her time with both swimming and schoolwork. Ferguson is an honors and AP student, so one would assume both a sport and difficult classes would be hard to balance, but she makes it work.

"It's hard, but I always find that I actually get my work done faster and don't procrastinate when I'm under the time crunch that swimming forces," Ferguson said. Swimming has practices in the morning, but Ferguson finds the time afterwards for homework. She doesn't work this hard just because of her love for swimming alone, though. She plans on swimming at the collegiate level in the future.

"I am in the midst of emailing college coaches and trying to understand their programs more," Ferguson said. "I've always

wanted to swim at a collegiate level so it's exciting to finally be given the opportunity."

For now, Ferguson will continue swimming for GOAL and Central until it is time to head to college and continue her passion. As she looks back over the experiences swimming has given her, she has advice for younger swimmers who would like to keep swimming in the future.

"Always think of the bigger picture. Take some time off and remind yourself why you choose to swim and everything it has given you—all the chances it has given you."



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Gym gives Omaha rock-climbers place to practice

Mac O'Brien
contributing writer

Those in Nebraska in search of a mountain to climb will likely leave disappointed, but there is a growing community of rock-climbers in Omaha. This community was nurtured into development largely by the creation of the Approach Climbing Gym in August of 2015. Approach is the only gym in the state dedicated to rock-climbing.

On their website, the gym states that "Approach endeavors to create a socially engaging space, while facilitating in the development of healthy minds, bodies, and relationships." This promise is reflected by the gym's open and friendly atmosphere. Guests are greeted upon entering by a friendly smile, and sometimes a friendly dog. The staff are happy to "show the ropes" to new climbers and to offer encouragement to the regulars. There is even a special section of the gym dedicated to children too young to climb in the main areas.

Sophomore Michael Pavel is one of the climbers who was given an opportunity to develop their talents by Approach. He began climbing at Approach about a year ago, and has been going back ever since. Pavel thinks highly of the sport as well as Omaha's tight-knit group of climbers.

"The climbing community in Omaha is small, but very passionate about the sport," Pavel said.

Through practice, Pavel has developed the skills that he feels are necessary to be a successful climber, such as strength, balance and precision. According to the Approach website, "Climbing is excellent for enhancing problem solving, communication, and leadership skills. It's also great for building balance and coordination, physical strength, and self-esteem."

According to Pavel, rock-climbing also serves as an effective way to get away from the stresses of everyday-life.

"At first I just climbed because it was fun," Pavel said. "But now I have realized that I climb because it helps me escape from reality. When I'm on the wall, I am so focused on what I'm doing that I forget everything that isn't relevant."

Furthermore, climbing requires intensive focus, which serves as an outlet for Pavel to cope with his ADD.

"I also climb because it challenges me mentally," Pavel said. "I have ADD (Attention Deficit Disorder) which makes me really have to focus to achieve the routes I want to get."

While climbing does make for a good leisure sport, there are also some financial incentives for elite climbers. Climbers participate in national and international competitions, and work at gyms like Approach, setting routes. Pavel, for instance, would like to follow in the footsteps (footholds?) of his climbing role-models Adam Ondra and Alexander Megos, who are both internationally renowned climbers.

"I plan to become sponsored and go climbing around the world," Pavel explained. "I also want to become a route setter at climbing gyms."



LOCAL BAND 16

Alternative pop group Skyloft create a new culture of music in the Omaha scene.



SKATING 18

Moylan Iceplex offers year-round skating for local families and hockey teams.

CHOW-DOWN 20-21

The Register reviews four Chinese restaurants around the Omaha metro.

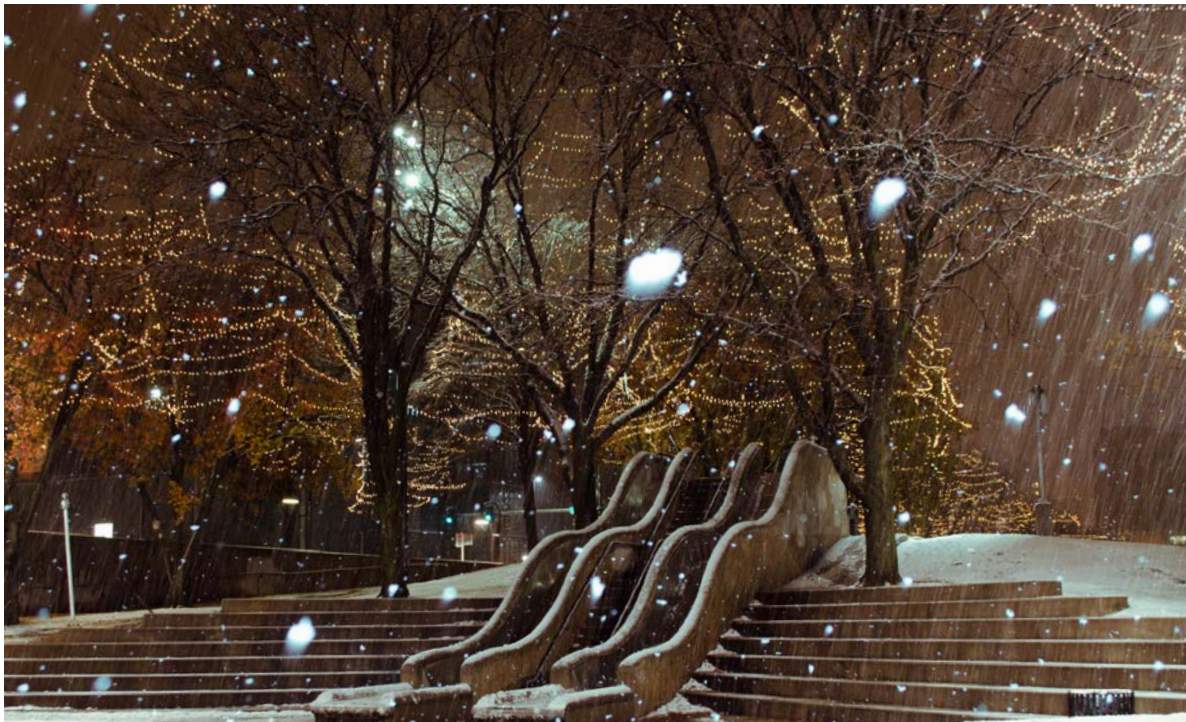


arts & style

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WINTER WONDERLAND

The Holiday Lights Festival brightens up the downtown area while raising money to take a stand against hunger.



Grace Turner
staff writer

The Holiday Lights Festival kicked off with the lighting of nearly 40 blocks of lights on Thanksgiving night. The festival lasts from Nov. 24 to Jan. 2. There are many different events going on during this festival.

The event started on Thanksgiving night with the tree lighting ceremony. The ceremony started at 5:40 p.m. with a performance from a local group, Belles and Whistles. Belles and Whistles sang a variety of Christmas songs and had the crowd join in for a Jingle Bells sing-along.

After the performance by Belles and Whistles, Omaha's Mayor Jean Stothert and representatives from Shine the Light on Hunger spoke. After the speakers the Mayor gave a count down to the turning on of the lights.

Nearly 40 blocks of the Gene Leahy Mall is now lit up with thousands of lights. After the ceremony, there was the opportunity to walk around the mall and enjoy the lights. Some of the restaurants and shops in the old market also remained open for the audience to enjoy after the lights were turned on.

There were two other similar ceremonies in Omaha that were sponsored through the Holiday Lights Festival and the Sherwood Foundation. The first of these events occurred on Dec. 3 at 5:00 p.m. near 24th and Lake Street. About six blocks were lit up with Christmas lights. The second ceremony was held on Dec. 3 at 5:30 p.m. near 24th and N Street. Lights were lit up along 24th street in between L and Q streets.

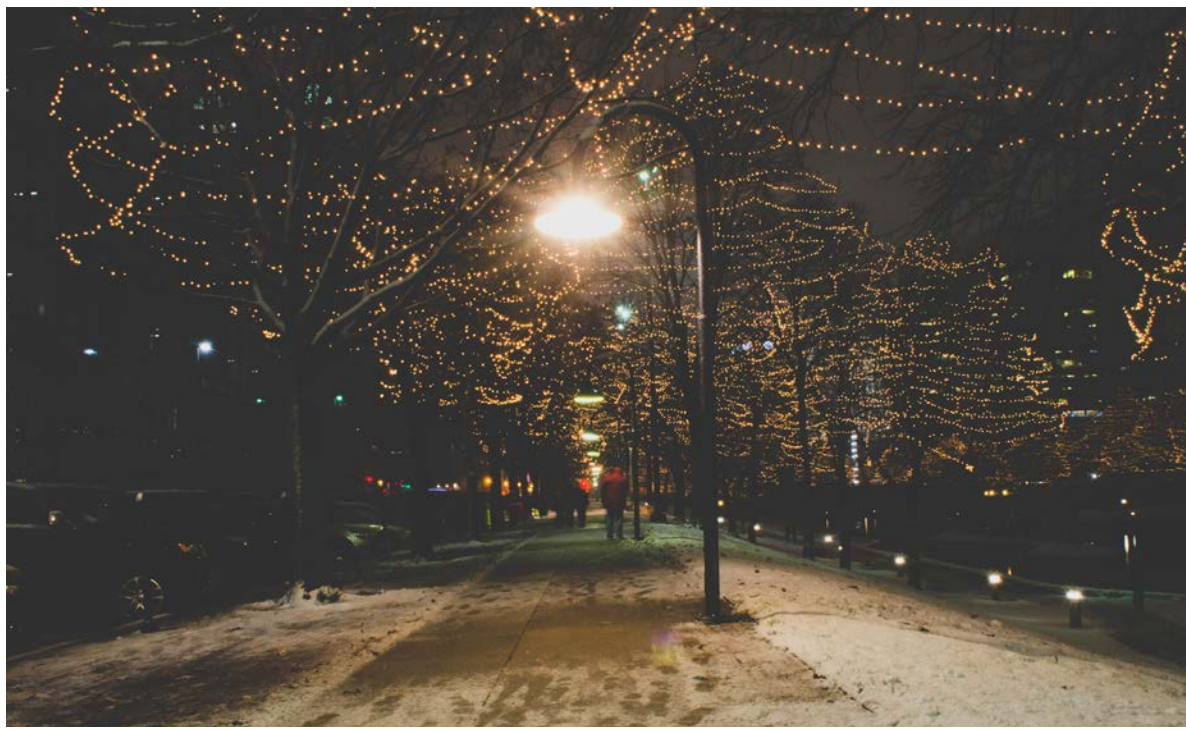
There will be many other events happening throughout the festival. Some of these events include the Sounds of the Seasons performances. These performances happen at different places in the downtown area. All of the performances will be happening on Saturdays, the first of which was Nov. 24, until Dec. 17. The performances will start at 7:00 p.m. and last about an hour. Many different groups will be featured including The Golmanaviches & Gisell, School of Rock, Master Singers, Mater Dei Academy and Omaha Academy Choir.

Another event hosted by the Omaha Lights Festival, which already occurred, was the Wells Fargo Family Festival. This event happened on Dec. 4. It took place at many different businesses and buildings in the Omaha area, including the Wells Fargo Bank, Children's Museum, Police Mounted Patrol Barn, Durham Museum, Joslyn Art Museum and W. Dale Clark Library. These places had different activities for people of all ages to participate in.

Lastly, another event that the Omaha Lights Festival Hosts is the New Years Eve Fireworks. This event will happen on Dec. 31 at the Gene Leahy Mall at 7 p.m. It is one of the largest New Years fireworks displays in the region. Radio station STAR 104.5 will be playing music that will correspond to the firework display.

Throughout the festival the ConAgra ice skating rink will also be open. The rink has moved to a new location from years past at 10th and Capital. The rink opened on Dec. 9 and will be open until Jan. 2. Admission to the rink is \$5 and all proceeds will go to Shine a Light on Hunger.

Throughout their various activities, The Omaha Lights Festival and Shine a Light on Hunger have partnered up to make sure all families have food to eat this holiday season.



LILY GILLILAND | The Register

The lights span nearly 40 blocks of downtown Omaha and will stay up through Jan. 2.

Student participates in "Nutcracker Delights" performances

Simone Davis
staff writer

The holiday season tends to come and go in the blink of an eye. People get into the Christmas spirit in a variety of ways such as caroling, volunteering, giving gifts or even performing. Sophomore Connor Paintin gets into the Christmas spirit by participating in "Nutcracker Delights" by Ever After Productions.

"This is my third year doing the show," Paintin said. This year, Paintin will be performing as a Chinese dancer, Rat King and a party guest. His previous roles have included Fredrick and the prince.

Paintin was introduced to Nutcracker Delights at a preschool where his mother works. The director of the show, Julian Adair, was introduced to Paintin by his mom, and she invited him to come audition for the show.

Nutcracker Delights is a unique show because it is not limited to just dance. The show includes dance, singing and acting. Because of the unique nature of the show, Paintin's roles have not just been dancing parts. Some of his past roles included both dancing and acting.

"My favorite role so far was being the Prince... I got to do a variety of dancing and acting," Paintin said. The Prince is a lead role, so he had the opportunity to dance a "pas de deux," or a duet with the female lead, Marie, along with acting in several scenes with her. Though he held a coveted role, Paintin was easily pleased because he "got to wear a rad 20 foot cape in the last scene."

Even though Paintin enjoys both acting and dancing, he claims that his favorite roles thus far have been the dancing ones because that is where he has the most experience.

"This is my sixth year taking private lessons at Nebraska Dance," Paintin said. Girls typically begin dancing at a younger

age than boys, so Paintin starting at a late age was normal.

This year, his role as a Chinese dancer in the Land of Sweets is exclusively dance. In addition to being a Chinese dancer, his role as a party guest gets to both dance and act, and his role as the Rat King allows him to act and sword fight. It is because of these exciting roles that Paintin has continued and plans on continuing on participating in Nutcracker Delights.

"I've consistently had great experiences each year with the people involved and the show itself," said Paintin. "I plan on continuing to be involved in the show in future years."

The 10th annual season of the Nutcracker Delights is set to be performed on Dec. 9, 10 and 11 at the Bellevue Little Theatre and Dec. 16 and 17 at the Kroc Center.

"I always need a little something extra to get me into the Christmas spirit," Paintin said. "A variety of studios come together to create a show that perfectly captures the Christmas spirit."

Alternative pop band reaches out to youth, shares new sounds



Photo Courtesy of SKYLOFT

Together as Skyloft, Anthony Flakus and Tyler Lewis work to diversify their sound and branch out in order to share their own unique take on alternative rock with a wider audience. Both have made music for many years.

Hayley Raney
staff writer

Skyloft, a band of two, Anthony Flakus 24, and Tyler Lewis 25, recently released their first album called “Re:Alive.” Flakus and Lewis have both been musicians for quite some time and have decided to create a band to share their alternative pop music with others.

Flakus is the vocals, piano and bass of the band while Lewis is the drums and percussion. Flakus had been a musician since early high school while Lewis has been actively involved in music since he was four years old.

Flakus and Lewis have known each other for two years. Lewis had moved from Minneapolis to Omaha messaging Flakus if there were any bands in need of a drummer. At first Flakus has told him no but once Skyloft began gaining more attention Flakus messaged him back and Lewis agreed.

It was Flakus’ idea to begin a band because he wanted to use his own voice in “a unique and genuine way to impact anyone who listens in a positive and transformative manner.” He feels there are people out there that need to hear words of encouragement or who need to know someone is there for them.

Skyloft has thought about expanding their band and add-

ing more music contributors. “Being a musician provides a platform that requires its artists to maintain a sense of integrity,” Flakus said. Anyone interested in participating in the Skyloft band should contact them at skyloftband@gmail.com

Skyloft’s musical target group is high school/college age group because of the passion and impressionability. “So far being in this band, we’ve had people in that age group tell us many wonderful and kind things that at times have literally pushed us to keep going,” Flakus said.

Flakus feels young people are the future and certain actions and decisions is what will shape them in the future as adults. “If we can do what we can to cultivate an atmosphere of love and appreciation for life in our short time of being here, it will have made it all be worth it,” Flakus said.

Flakus was more interested in music his sophomore year. He was inspired by how Fall Out Boy guitarist, Patrick Stump loved to play his guitar. He taught himself how to play the guitar. He learned paying other instruments from curiosity.

He took an AP music theory class where the taught himself how to play piano and expand his knowledge on the guitar. “Everything I’ve learned with my instruments has been from watching others and learning on my own time,” Flakus said.

Lewis has been playing the drums for over 10 years and his

mother is a piano player who he has observed and learned from a very small age. “He’s one of the best drummers/musicians I’ve ever worked with,” Flakus said.

The band plans on making many improvements for only being a band for a year and a half. Improvements they look forward to making are the quality of recordings, the quality of live shows and quality of songs. “Along the way, I would say my song writing and attunement for meoldy/fitting lyrics to a song has definitely improved,” Flakus said. He is excited to see how their recent writings turn out when they’re finished.

When it comes to band inspiration Flakus really looks up to the band Bastille. “Everything is perfect to me about them, the lyrics are very relatable, thought provoking, and really causes you to look inside and ponder your own self and your life,” Flakus said.

All in all, Skyloft’s mission statement is to be culture creators. “To cultivate an atmosphere of appreciation and love for this one life we have,” said Flakus. They want to invoke people to do as much good as they possibility can. Skyloft wants to offer hopefulness and joy. They want to wake the sleeping passion in every person to do what they have been too scared to accomplish in their life. “Our time here is much too short to let failure stop us from accomplish our goals and dreams,” Flakus said.

Coming of winter provides perfect time for classic holiday films

It can be debated that holiday movies are the best types of movies to watch because it gets people in the spirit and does so throughout the entire year. The transition from fall to winter is perfected with a good Christmas or New Year’s movie as it happens. With a classic Christmas movie no one can be in a bad mood. These movies bring families together on a special day, help people bond and share the wonderful gift of giving. This December get in the holiday mood and check out this list of Christmas and New Year’s Movies.

Home Alone: Sequels don’t do the originals justice, and this series proves that. Out of the three Home Alone movies, this one is by far the most interesting. Upon getting in trouble by his parents, 8-year-old Kevin McCallister is left at home on accident while the rest his family takes a trip to Paris for the holiday season. This is his dream. To be left alone without his nosy, rude, annoying family, until he realizes two men plan to rob his home and it is up to him alone to protect the house. It’s two hours of pure comedy that relates to all families during the busy winter holidays.

How the Grinch Stole Christmas: This is an adaption to the children’s tale by Dr. Seuss played wonderfully by Jim Carrey and Taylor Momsen. The Grinch, a hairy green creature who

has a heart two sizes too small and lives in a mountaintop and plans to ruin Christmas for all of Whoville. Taylor Momsen’s character, Cindy Lou Who innocently alters his plans. A classic film in which showing that Christmas is more than presents and as long as you have someone, all is well.

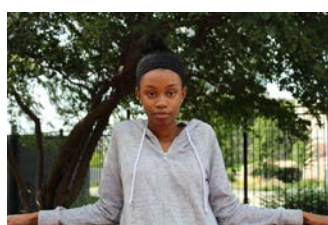
The Polar Express: An animated film to the 1985 edition of The Polar Express written by Chris Van Allsburg. It’s a beautifully told story about a young hero boy full of doubt. He doubts a lot about Christmas and Santa Clause, that is before his curiosity leads him toward the train headed to the North Pole full of other children clad in their pajamas. During the 100 minutes, viewers watch, entranced by the adventurous journey hero boy goes through as he learns true friendship, selflessness and the miracle of Christmas.

Holiday Inn: This is a classic American musical film released in 1942. It’s about a twisted love triangle between Jim, Linda and Ted. Two men fall for the same extraordinary woman in a farmhouse turned Holiday Inn and then becomes a live entertainment center which Jim created and Ted seeks a job at. Two of the decades biggest stars, Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire play the roles of Jim and Ted who are complete opposites. One is reserved, while the other thrives off

the spot light. Astaire is known for his superior tap skills and proves how astonishing he is in this movie. A musical that goes through three different winter holidays and shows how powerful love and greed can be all the while producing outstanding melodies and lyrics.

Miracle on 34th Street: Miracles don’t always work out how anyone ever wants them to. But for the holiday parade for Macy’s annual Thanksgiving Parade on 34th street, miracles are exactly what the town needs to get back into the spirit. With a drunk guy who is supposed to play Santa, organizer of the parade, Doris, is forced to hire a new one immediately. Kris Kringle fills in as Santa and is a stellar one. Though Kris Kringle plays the role of Santa so well, too well, people start to question his authenticity. When this happens does it leave room for Christmas miracles? Even for those who don’t believe in fairytales?

When Harry Met Sally: In this movie, New Year’s is where anything can happen. A friend you’ve known for 10 years suddenly becomes more. Harry and Sally meet in a car ride to New York City in 1977 and don’t quite hit it off. They meet two more times where their lives aren’t working out in their favor, yet they don’t realize what it means. Everything about this movie is grossly cliché and shows how twisted fate is, especially when it’s on the side of holiday spirit.



ZOIA MORROW
ZOIA 101

Senior overcomes struggles, pours heart into making rap music

Cecilia Huber
staff writer

Many musical artists usually discover their talent at an early age and immediately increase their talent by writing music. Senior Trey Erickson writes and produces his own music. He is recently working on finishing his first studio mixtape, hoping to release it sometime in January or February, planning to have about 20 songs on it. He released many singles the past few months on his SoundCloud account, under the name Triple Z. He has written hundreds of songs and poems, but just previously wrote and recorded a mixtape of many songs.

Erickson would say his music is pretty diverse. He likes to switch up his style to give his music variety. He has old school and slower songs that he adds meaning to by talking about his views on society. "I have songs where I kind of talk about the way I think life should be lived and that people take certain things too serious and don't think about the bigger picture...trying to separate myself from the norms of society and what people think you need to do to be successful." He turns to music to deal with his battles with mental issues from past experiences, which usually results in creating darker songs.

His inspiration for these darker songs come from having severe anxiety. There was a period in Erickson's life where he mentions that he had a panic attack almost every day, but he stayed strong by listening to music to calm him down. When he moved from California to Nebraska at the beginning of high school, he began getting in trouble with the law as he sought relief from depression and anxiety by using drugs, however getting caught made him sober up and realize that his music would be the safest way to get him through.

Living with just his mom gives Erickson lots of free time to be on his own, which has allowed him time to think about things more deeply and to reflect on himself. His overall opinions about racism, education and how he thinks society is corrupted by the media is all incorporated into his music. "I think people are brainwashed by the norms of society and love their life just doing what they were influenced to do when I think the first focus should be being happy and finding your passion," he stated.

The process of writing a song usually takes anywhere between 15-45 minutes. Erickson said that there isn't a structured guideline he does to get ideas to write a song. He simply sits alone in his free time, making up beats and goes off of the feeling. "I have a poetic mind and I can usually just start by spurting out a random philosophical phrase or something that peeks the interest," Erickson said.

His interest in music was sparked in fifth grade when he received his first iPod and began listening to Too \$hort, Snoop Dogg, Tupac, Ice Cube, and Biggie Smalls. As he grew up, his interest in music grew as well, and his favorite artist became Kid Cudi. Erickson looked up to these artists when he was younger for inspiration. "I would look in the mirror as a fifth grader and rap their songs over and over, actually imagining that I was performing in front of a crowd, wishing that I could have written those songs," he said, describing how he would obsess over music. Printing the lyrics out to memorize the lines helped his rapping, as he then continued to start freestyling towards the beginning of his freshman year of high school.

When he first started writing songs, Erickson remembers getting excited as he formed new lines. He thought they were great then, but as he looks back on them he realizes they weren't as amazing as he thought. The confidence he had when he was younger pushed him to where he is today, however. He is even working on getting his producing setup so that he can create beats electronically, which is "like having thousands of instruments at your finger tips," since he doesn't play any. Erickson's dream is to pursue a career with music, whether that means being a producer, recruiting talent to start labels, or become successful in his own solo career. He has backup plans in case his life takes a turn, but he still wants to continue making music no matter what, as it is his true passion.



Photo Courtesy of TREY ERICKSON

Erickson has used much of his past experiences to formulate the lyrics to the music he sings.



GREEK ISLANDS

3821 CENTER ST.

Local ice rink offers indoor skating experience, family atmosphere



LILY GILLILAND | The Register

Bearing the name of a National Hockey League player, the Mylan Iceplex is open skaters of all skill levels and offers an environment that is less harsh than that found at outdoor skateing rinks.

Alec Rome
staff writer

As the weather gets colder and time inches closer to the deep winter months, some people choose to stay inside and enjoy the warmth of a space heater and hot chocolate. Others who love the winter season choose to go enjoy more freezing temperatures by ice skating. There are a lot of places in Omaha where one could enjoy friends and skate around like Nastia Liukin. However, to enjoy the season of skating, you want to know when and where to enjoy the best experience.

The most well known ice rink in Omaha is Moylan Iceplex around 120th and Maple. Named for Tim Moylan, the original developer and founder of the rink, this complex holds both an NHL-sized sheet of ice and an olympic-sized sheet, the only one of its kind in Nebraska. For those who just want to ice skate, there seems to always be a time during the day for public skating. Just drop by; most likely you will be able to hop right on the ice.

To avoid large traffic, come on weekdays during the middle of the day or come on weekends in the afternoon. There is usually only a moderate crowd, if any. If you do want to be around a lot

of people, go to the twilight skate on Saturday nights. Music and lights fill the rink and the arena becomes a party on ice. Be very careful, as a lot of people choose not to actually skate, which requires some on-ice awareness to prevent you from an untimely crash and burn.

Conagra always puts together a really good ice rink during their Holiday Lights Festival. The outdoor rink is great, but it does attract some traffic as well. The rink is open from December 9th through Monday, January 2nd. The atmosphere is perfect for the holiday and it only costs five dollars for admission and skate rental, which is considerably cheap compared to most other rinks.

The only other rink that offers public skating on a consistent basis is Motto McLean Ice Arena. However, the atmosphere is incomparable to that of Moylan and Conagra. If both places are closed, and you are truly craving some ice time, Motto McLean is not the worst option.

After a while, public skating could get boring. That boredom does have a solution; curling is offered by Moylan Iceplex if you sign up through the Aksarben Curling Club. Also, on occasion rinks around the Metro offer free events to try out the largest sport played on ice: hockey. With all of the events going on, particularly on the frozen water, you will be able to enjoy the winter season without feeling too cold.

Casual reading important skill for all

Reading is one of the most important skills for all people to have. Many different jobs and daily tasks require the ability to read. The importance and need for reading is something taught in schools across the nation. A simple google search for teens and reading will bring sources claiming that teenagers are no longer reading. It is a common belief of most people that teens no longer read. Instead they spend more time on the internet and electronic devices.



GRACE TURNER
COLUMN HEADER

It is true that teens are spending more time on electronics. With programs such as Netflix and new forms of technology coming out often, there is no doubt that the use of electronics is greater. This constant use of technology also seems to be lowering how much teenagers read. On average teenagers are reading only four minutes a day for free time. Compared to young adults (around the age of twenty), the number does not go up that much, only to eight minutes. The drop in reading for teenagers is almost entirely due to the use of technology. Teenagers are also spending more time on school work and sports than in earlier generations. This combination explains the lessening of reading for teenagers.

However, more than likely, teenagers have read more words than any other generation. This is because of the constant interaction with media. The reading that most teens are doing is in the form of messages, quotes, and social media posts. This reading differs from reading books or other longer works. When reading a book, there is much more thought and effort put into the reading. This means it is more likely to boost reading comprehension than the media teens are currently seeing. All of this considered, reading for fun is not lost with teenagers. In fact people from the ages of 16-18 are more likely to have read a book within a year, than people from the ages of 20 and older. 88 percent of people between the ages of 16 and 18 have read at least one book in the past year. This is larger compared to people age 20 and older where only 76 percent read a book in the past year.

Teens are also reading from many less traditional sources. The use of e-readers and online books, such as over-drive has gone up. These forms of reading are not being taken into consideration when looking at the amount teens are reading. Books such as Harry Potter have caused many teens to start reading again. The creation of the young adult genre has brought many teenagers to start reading again. Many teens have started reading young adult books for fun, even if not very often. People who read for fun has always been a minority in teenagers. Even in earlier times, people did rarely read for fun. This being said, the amount of teens reading has dropped compared to past generations. People who are older (generally over the age of 40) have always been the driving force for reading. The use of libraries is also going down. Many teenagers would rather buy books than rent them from the library. The use of libraries have dropped in all age groups, not just teenagers. Teenagers are also the largest group to say that there is valuable information that is not online. Other ages groups (20 and older) are much more likely to believe all information can be found online. Teenagers understand that sometimes a library may be a better place to find information. As a whole, reading is going down due to the use of technology. This does not mean that reading is or ever will disappear, and it is still prevalent in today's society. Reading will continue to be important even if it is not as active as in the past.

Frazier
Chiropractic

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Photo Courtesy of 123WALLPAPERSHD.COM

series:

Vasili Sgourakis
staff writer

Even as “The Walking Dead” continues on to the seventh season, popularity continues to grow. For the most part new developments are made each season. As a result, old viewers remain

attracted to the plot, and new audience members are drawn in with each episode. This season is no different, although some characters have left; “The Walking Dead” remains as suspenseful as ever.

The last episode of season six left the audience awaiting news of who would be the first of Negan’s victims. One of the fan favorites, Glenn, turned out to be the one to go. In a gruesome killing, Negan bashed his head in with his infamous bat. Since this episode, Negan now controls the group formerly led by Rick. They are forced to give offerings in the form of supplies and weapons every week, which drains their inventory. Moreover, Bob and Carol reside in a separate village waiting to be reunited while Maggie and Sasha are receiving treatment from a doctor in the Hilltop camp.

This season is different than previous because the group is no longer in control of their fate. Unlike seasons before they must concede that Negan and his followers are above them on the totem pole and at this moment there is nothing to be done about it. As a result, a new presence has been given more view time. For viewers who like more parody, this season is good for them. However, for those keener to the traditional format, the season will take some getting used to.

Season seven is continuing the format of following each group individually and in a chronological manner. For example, the first episode featured Rick’s group and their interaction with Negan, then Carol and Morgan and their insertion into the Kingdom and Ezekiel, after this the show addressed Daryl and the Saviors (Negan’s group), and in episode four Negan visits Rick again to collect his first round of contributions. A more effective format would be to interlace these stories together and give us little pieces of them at a time.

In contrast to other seasons as well, there has not been as much action on this season as the last. The plot has been developed more while less combat has been utilized. It seems as if this season is setting the stage for a more dramatic event rather than all out warfare against the dead and other people occurring throughout all episodes.

Episode four was an extra-long 90-minute episode, usually these are meant for a pivotal moment such as an intense climax or season finale. Instead, this one consisted of mattresses and guns being taken from the group. This could have been done in the standard 60 minutes. This is yet another illustration of the dragged on commentary and gloating of Negan.

Negan, the main villain being developed throughout these episodes becomes a focal point of the show. Although he plays a huge part, he is one of the downfalls of the spectacle. He continues to talk in a redundant, annoying manner. Most of what he says is meant to be intimidating, however, after a while one simply wants him to shut up. He could be used more effectively being involved less. Instead, they should focus more on what he does rather than what he says.

Negan started the season off as a textbook villain by killing two characters that the audience really cared about in Glenn and Abraham. However now it seems as if he is only talking endlessly. If he is going to be cemented as the villain and main character, he must keep the audience on their toes with actions, not just words.

Furthermore, the new season is exposing holes in the leadership of Rick. Because of his decisions people are dead and the survivors have no way of fighting back since Negan took all their guns. Their only option now is to earn for Negan and listen to his taunts while contemplating and fearing the subsequent consequences.

One can only hope that the rest of the season does not proceed this way. If Negan is really to be a villain then he must strike fear into the audience and not simply frustrate them. Moreover, although they have stuck with the format of focusing on groups individually, it would be a benefit to intertwine some of the stories so the audience does not grow bored with an episode that may feel longer than it needs to be. While season seven has not gone as well as some previous, with only a few tweaks it could be turned around.

films:

Miles Kay
staff writer

Doctor Strange directed by Scott Derrickson is a mind-bending and visually stunning journey into a whole new world. Though set in the same universe as the Avengers (Stark Tower is even visible in aerial shots of New York), the film is far different from any other Marvel movie. Part of this is the fact that it feels isolated from the other Marvel heroes; previous movies in the franchise are not referenced; this is a film that can be appreciated by both die-hard Marvel fans and people who have never seen a superhero movie.

Though it follows the same pattern of other Marvel origin stories, Doctor Strange is anything but a typical movie. Dr. Stephen Strange, played by Benedict Cumberbatch, is an arrogant neurosurgeon, who is injured in a car accident. With his career destroyed by his inability to continue to operate, Strange sets forth on a journey to find a mystical solution to his problems. He encounters Mordo (Chiwetel Ejiofor) and the Ancient One (Tilda Swinton), two members of a magical order that protects the world from supernatural threats through the mystic arts.

As Strange learns from the Ancient One and begins his transformation into a sorcerer, he discovers the existence of an ancient darkness and is forced to learn quickly to combat the evil Kaecilius (Mads Mikkelsen) and save the world from destruction. Strange’s journey takes him from Kathmandu to Hong Kong to New York City, and between countless dimensions in a fun, wild ride that leaves viewers in awe. Rachel McAdams and Benedict Wong also star as Strange’s co-worker and love interest Dr. Christine Palmer and the sorcerer Wong, respectively.

The most breathtaking element of the entire movie is its use of visual effects. Reminiscent of Christopher Nolan’s Inception, reality is literally bent. Buildings fold into themselves, gravity becomes irrelevant and cities transform into kaleidoscopes. Though some movies may be overwhelmed by too many visual effects, Doctor Strange incorporates jaw-dropping visuals with its plot seamlessly; the movie never feels excessive.

Early in its development, Marvel was accused of “white-washing” by choosing Tilda Swinton for the role of the Ancient One. In several comic books, the Ancient One is an elderly Asian male, while in others the Ancient One is Celtic. Marvel chose to use the Celtic iteration of the character. To many, this seemed to be another instance of Hollywood’s failure to cast Asian actors in major roles.

Despite this controversy, Tilda Swinton is one of the strongest characters in the movie. Her calm and collected character is a fitting mentor for the impulsive and arrogant Strange. Her wisdom guides Strange, and her mesmerizing voice captivates viewers as she asks, “What is real?”

The entirety of the cast does a phenomenal job in their respective roles. Benedict Cumberbatch is outstanding as the title character. He believably plays both the arrogant Doctor Strange and the humbled Sorcerer supreme perfectly. Cumberbatch also brings additional humor to the Marvel Universe, managing to lighten the tone and keep the movie light-hearted. Chiwetel Ejiofor, Rachel McAdams and Benedict Wong bring further diversity, humor and top-notch acting to the already expansive Marvel Universe.

The movie does struggle in parts of its story. Once again, Marvel fails to properly develop its villain, and Mads Mikkelsen’s Kaecilius does not have an adequate backstory to make audiences feel anything for the villain. Even his motives seem murky, he merely seeks power without a true reason. Though the movie accomplishes its goal of establishing the character of Doctor Strange and his larger universe, Marvel fails to create a suitable nemesis for Strange. In future movies, Marvel will need to find equally complex and well-established villains; audiences can look forward to the introduction of Thanos in Avengers: Infinity War, a villain who has been teased and seen in several movies and will go head-to-head with Strange and the other Avengers.

Doctor Strange is one of the best blockbusters of the year. Its visual effects and impressive actors make it a memorable film, one that stands out from previous entries in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.



Photo Courtesy of VIEWALLPAPERS.COM



Photo Courtesy of LAINEYGOSSIP.COM

films:

Gabby Witkowski
staff writer

“Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” was as fantastic as people had hoped. The ninth movie in the acclaimed Harry Potter series was just as, and maybe even more, marvelous than many had expected. It ignited the magic that many Harry Potter fans had forgotten was there, and it attracted new fans as well.

Not only were theaters sold out, but there were sold out showings the night before the release as well. Many people dressed up in costumes with their wizard robes and their magic wands, waiting for the familiar theme song to play once again. The expectations for the movie were extremely high, and some were doubting if the movie could live up to the high standard the previous movies had exceeded.

“Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” focuses on a young British wizard, Newt Scamander, who comes to America with a briefcase full of magical animals from around the world. Everything goes horribly wrong when the briefcase is accidentally opened and some creatures escape. He and a witch, Tina Goldstein, travel around New York City in hopes of finding all the creatures before something bad happens.

Because the movie is set in the 1920’s, there aren’t any characters that appear both in Harry Potter and in “Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them,” except for Scamander and Gellert Grindelwald. Grindelwald is an evil wizard on the run, causing mayhem and death wherever he goes. The movie is a concoction of comedy, action and drama. There is even a little bit of romance between Scamander and Goldstein, along with two of the other main characters, Queenie Goldstein, a witch, and Jacob Kowalski, a No-Maj (no magic; muggle).

“Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them” has become popular for many different reasons. It is a continuation of the world of Harry Potter, a world of magic, which fans everywhere have come to know and love. Many fans believe that the main character, Scamander, is one of the best characters in the entire Harry Potter series, and that he is the embodiment of what many young Harry Potter fans are like personality-wise today: awkward, quiet and interested in everything the world has to offer.

There was no particular downside to this movie, for almost any Harry Potter fan would gladly sit through hours and hours of a movie just to get one more glimpse of the world they wish they could live in. The special effects were like none ever seen before. They were life-like and captured the audience’s attention. It flawlessly created a new part of the magical world, and for many, the next movie cannot come fast enough.

The filmmakers exceeded all expectations given to them, and they set the bar even higher than it was previously. The magical world of Harry Potter just got even more breathtaking.



Our staff reviews some of the most popular places in Omaha to grab a bite of traditional Asian cuisine.

CHINESE CHOW-DOWN

LILY GILLILAND, ANNA KAMINSKI | The Register

1 CHINA TOWN

Javier Lepas
staff writer

Located near midtown right on Leavenworth Street is a small brick building that serves traditional Chinese food dishes.

The outside of the restaurant isn't so appealing because of its bland light tan brick appearance with a small yellow sign located on the side in the 5 car parking lot that displays the restaurant name, their services and the restaurants phone number.

Right when I walked in the restaurant you see the front desk and a large tree type plant that is on one side of the front desk that stretches to the entrance.

As soon as I opened the entrance door the man at the front desk immediately asked how I was, and was pretty polite throughout the whole time I was there, he kept me informed about what the dishes were as he showed me the menu.

I asked many questions about the meals and what the meals would come with and instead of getting frustrated he took his time to answer my questions as he tried keeping up with the constant phone calls he was getting for orders from many customers, he also was well informed about what the dishes were as he was descriptive while answering my questions.

The restaurant on the inside also isn't so appealing as there are several holes in the tiles in the ceiling all around the building due to what seemed to look like water leaks. The dine-in area was also not clean as there was lots of pieces of trash and food leftovers scattered around the floor.

The dine-in area was located on the left side from the entrance and only had about

five tables. On the right side of the restaurant, it seemed to look like a storage area as they had boxes all around with many supplies and trash.

The restaurant only has one bathroom allowed to the guest and was not close to being clean. There was once again many water leaks coming from the ceiling and dirt all around the bathroom, and there was even a broken kitchen knife laying in a bucket of water that was there to prevent the leaking from the ceiling from splashing around the floor.

The restroom sink was pretty much detached from the wall that it was attached to and looked to be held up by the pipe that runs from the sink into the wall.

I ordered a plate of beef and broccoli along with 2 vegetable eggs rolls. From the time I ordered it, it only took ten minutes to be cooked and served.

The food was fresh and hot while tasting really good at the same time. The overall look on the outside and the inside doesn't look nice but the attitudes of the people who work there seem to act like they really care and have pride in how they make the food.

While I was waiting there was almost constant yelling about the orders that I can hear coming from the kitchen. Some my take that as a disturbance but I didn't really mind as I thought it was a sign that they cared about the orders.

The employees that interact with the customers were all really nice and polite throughout my experience there. I would recommend this place but only for take-out, because I wouldn't want to eat once again in a space that isn't cleaned and has many leakage problems throughout the building.

2 GOLDEN PALACE



Georgia Chambers
editor-in-chief

Golden Palace off of 132nd and West Maple Road incorporates a peaceful atmosphere, good service and quality of the food to ensure that one will most certainly leave the restaurant content and full.

Walking into the restaurant, one is taken away from the commotion of Omaha and immersed into what seems to resemble a quaint town in China. The dim lights hide aspects of the restaurant, but there are Chinese scripture, pictures and even unique architecture within the restaurant that entice the customer and create a pleasing experience. The soft instrumental music accentuates the atmosphere further, and, overall, it is an ideal place to go to wind down after either an eventful or stressful day.

Customers are seated almost instantly, and the employees are very polite. Throughout the meal, they continue to be available whenever needed, and they make sure that the water cup is never even half empty.

The menu features a variety of different Chinese delicacies, ranging from sesame chicken and Mongolian beef to lighter options such as their egg drop soup. I ordered a cup of the egg drop soup, one egg roll and their lunch portion of sesame chicken and fried rice.

The soup and egg roll came out first, momentarily after ordering the food. The egg drop soup was almost steaming hot, and it was hard for me to wait to enjoy it. Their egg drop soup obviously contains bits of egg, but they also make it with corn. It seems

odd, but this combination makes their soup unique, and the recipe is very good. As for the egg roll, it has a crunchy outside and just the right amount of flavor and ingredients such as various vegetables and beef on the inside, serving as a good side to the soup.

Not too long after I finished eating the soup and the egg roll, the main course came out. The sesame chicken was delicious; its crisp, crunchy outside gave way to a soft inside, and a sweet, rich sauce immersed the chicken, adding even more flavor to the meal. The portion size was more than enough, so I would advise ordering the lunch portions. Their dinner portions better suit two or more people. Of course there was a fortune cookie at the end of the meal, and its sweet taste served as a nice way to finish up the meal.

However, the greatness of this restaurant does not stop there.

This restaurant is relatively inexpensive. I only paid about 11 dollars, and this included a meal I could not even finish, plus a cup of soup and an egg roll.

Also, due to the efficiency of the restaurant and the attentiveness of the employees, I was out of the restaurant in about half an hour. Therefore, customers can have a filling and delectable meal in a relatively short amount of time for not a lot of money. In my opinion, Golden Palace serves better food than P.F. Changs, and it is not nearly as pricey. I highly recommend this restaurant to anyone who enjoys Chinese cuisine and is looking for a cheap, quick meal.



3 KING FONG

Carlson Koch
staff writer

King Fong offers a classy environment in which the dining include, the walls are plastered with coverings of what are possibly symbolic figures of China, and the ceiling is most decorated with chandelier that has existed before the time of computers and before the Civil Right Movement.

Of course a restaurant would not be spoken of and maintain business if it yielded distasteful food, but King Fong has rather stayed in business for so long for the reason of their taste.

There are a lot of Chinese Fast Food chains in Omaha such as Panda Express, but a dining experience with a less modernized atmosphere with tasteful food is quite unique.

I ordered the Chicken Chow Mein dish, which turned out to be many of their customers' all-time favorite rice at the restaurant. The restaurant was rather empty and I ate alone as my food was delivered in a rather timely manner (maybe because there were not much occupancy), but nonetheless it came out quicker than I expected.

The chicken was rather real, unlike rubbery pieces of "meat" that we all hope to be real, the chicken of the Chicken Chow Mein was something that you could taste in every bite of it as the sauce and vegetables that came with it served as great compliments.

The portion of this dish did not disappoint, in fact, the meal filled me up, and did not eat the fortune cookie until quite a while after the meal. Because the platters were brought out with metal lids on top of them, I felt a great deal of respect that King Fong had the class to keep the food hot in this fashion. Many other restaurants just bring the plate, with no lid and in some cases, a rather not so hot chili. This topped off my meal, leaving a sensational taste as I got out of my seat to pay.

When it came time to pay, I had to walk up to the front and bring them my receipt, I was mortified when they told me that I had to pay with cash only. Thankfully, I found a sufficient amount and easily covered the expense, as it was less than I had expected.

Overall, the experience of King Fong is unlike any others, and because of this the restaurant should receive more publicity in the near future since reopening in August of this year.

As for a rating, King Fong yields an enjoyable experience for all ages, and at a reasonable price, deserving of a four out of five star rating. Most importantly, the identity that the restaurant has held makes them stand out among everyone other restaurant as the oldest restaurant in Omaha.

King Fong fills its customers up not only in the stomach, but with a taste of history and many of the classical sorts of styles in which a restaurant is presented, that many modern restaurants do not offer. The experience at King Fong is worth the trip, even if the food does not live up to expectations, King Fong could be turned into a live museum for its many artifacts and historical purposes inside.



4 JADE'S GARDEN



Zoia Morrow
staff writer

Omahans often have trouble finding a decent Chinese restaurant. By decent I mean affordable, set tastes buds into overdrive, and plentiful. There are many Chinese restaurants that are not very good and overpriced. Which is not worthy for the small amount of shrimp, beef, or vegetables given.

If you are looking for a quality- enough restaurant, go to Jade's Garden. They are located in the multiplex off 120th and Blondo. It is a small restaurant with a home like feeling to it because the atmosphere is always pleasant and the employees are kind.

The options to dine in or carry out are there when you need a quick pick up for Chinese for a night in or looking to bring a date for dinner. Speaking of, the menu varies from a single platter of food to a family size. On the menu is every Americans idea of Chinese from lo mein, to sesame chicken, and a wide variety of soups. Jade's Garden has their menu set up differently; it is categorized under beef, chicken, pork, and shrimp and then goes into individual items.

Jade's Garden is stingy with their portions of meats. There is a less amount of shrimp in the shrimp fried rice than any other Chinese restaurant. I think it is because they want you to order the dollar for an extra amount. Though it only seems to happen when the order involves chicken and shrimp.

A dollar does not seem to be that much but when the total is already somewhere around seven to \$13 and you are spending your own money, you become stingy and think "I don't really need that extra scoop of shrimp anyway" but you do. It should already be a given and it is not. Every item is served with a crab rangoon or an eggroll for a complimentary side-possibly why they are stingy with their portions for shrimp and chicken. To top it off is of course, a fortune cookie.

The least expensive items on the menu are the soups and appetizers. Surprisingly, Jade's Garden offers hot wings and chicken wings as appetizers. You get them in sizes of one, four and six. That goes for crab rangoon, eggrolls, fried dumplings and fried won ton.

A problem with the location of Jade's Garden is that it is difficult to find. Because it is located in a multiplex, it is hidden behind and next restaurants. Though the big green sign that has Jade's Garden in cursive is hard not to see upon finding it.

It is up to you to if you decide to spend your money on a place that can be stingy with their seafood and meat portions, if you want to consider the quality of the restaurant and the way they precisely make their food. It isn't much of a lose-lose or a win-win, because somehow you are losing something, amounts of food or a dollar, but win in the end with the delicious Chinese food from Jade's Garden.

Christmas tunes more than holiday music, symbols of family, love

The most divisive issues in November do not pertain to the presidential election. Hillary's emails, accusations against Donald Trump and poll numbers in Florida may dominate the news, but the most important debate across America is rarely covered. The debate over when the holiday season truly starts has divided Americans into various schools of thought that bitterly oppose each other.

Department stores are infamous for advertising for different holidays months in advance. Halloween and fall themed decorations can be seen in Von Maur beginning in August, and before Halloween has hit Christmas displays start appearing. Most Americans grumble at these extremely premature holiday sales, and with good reason.

Holiday displays at the mall in October represent the commercialization of the holiday season. Stores do not actually care about spreading holiday cheer, they just seek to reap maximum profits. In the process, though, stores have contributed to the decay of the actual values and principles associated with the holiday season.

Christmas music, however, represents the true nature of the holiday spirit. It reminds listeners of the importance of family and friends, and never fails to evoke feelings of joy and happiness. For these reasons, Christmas music should be enjoyed at any time of the year.

Many would argue that Christmas music should not be played until after Thanksgiving, believing that people should focus on one holiday at a time. People forget, though, that the fundamental values behind Thanksgiving and Christmas are similar and present in holiday music.

Christmas music conveys many important themes. Consider some of the most popular Christmas tunes. At their hearts, they are about the hope and possibility of the holi-

day season. Possibilities for love are lauded in "All I Want for Christmas Is You" and "Baby It's Cold Outside."

These songs embody part of the holiday spirit; the romances in these songs are expressions of heart-warming love stories that are associated with the magic of the holidays.

Other Christmas songs are primarily about the magic of the season's traditions, including stories about Santa Claus and Frosty the Snowman. Despite the fact that many of these songs seem to be aimed at children, they are loved by people of all ages. The fairy tales that they present act as a form of escape through belief in holiday magic.

Today, the world often seems to be overwhelmed by horrible and saddening events. ISIS commits atrocities against civilians, the American presidential campaign has brought out the ugly side of politics and friction between police officers and communities has led to violence against officers. These issues have caused pessimism and despair to grow

within people.

Christmas music presents a partial cure to this ailment, a medicine against despair. Songs about Santa Claus may seem childish, but the magic in such songs allows people to escape, at least temporarily, from a world torn apart by violence and racism. The holiday miracles and magic that are subjects in these musical compositions spread joy and happiness.

Most importantly, Christmas music represents the powerful bonds between family and friends, a bond that can be appreciated regardless of the time of year. For example, consider some of the most famous Christmas songs ever: "White Christmas" and "I'll Be Home for Christmas," both by Bing Crosby.

Both songs were recorded during World War II, "White Christmas" in May 1942 and "I'll Be Home for Christmas" in October 1943.

Notably, the songs were recorded and released well before the holidays. Despite this, they were instant hits, and to this date have sold millions of copies and become some of the most popular songs across all genres.

These songs, which are still heard during the holidays today, were originally written to appeal to soldiers stationed overseas and their families. "I'll Be Home for Christmas" was written from the perspective of a soldier writing a letter home to his family. During the war, families were separated and traditional family holiday celebrations were not the same. The songs were successful well-before and during the holidays because the desires people had to be reunited were not isolated to a single time of the year. Songs like Crosby's convey the sense of longing soldiers had for home and resonated with the American people.

Today, these songs still hold meaning. We are living in a world where families are separated more than ever. Often-times, it is impossible for families to spend holidays together due to work, travel expenses and other factors.

Thus, songs about families, friendship and unity are still appreciated, and though families may not be able to spend the holidays together, they can share the music of the season and be reminded of old traditions and better times.

Though it is sometimes difficult to think about Christmas before December, Christmas music should be enjoyed starting earlier in the year. The themes of family, friendship, love and magic are all common in these songs and can be appreciated regardless of the season.

In a world divided by social, political and economic issues, Christmas music is a form of escapism, one that allows us to focus on the most important and positive characteristics of humanity.



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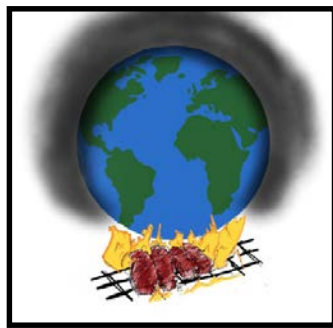
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perspective & commentary

the REGISTER • December 15, 2016 • Volume 132, Issue 3

(UN)SOCIAL MEDIA

Social media has caused a loss of meaningful relationships and has negatively affected social behavior.

Anna Kaminski
executive editor

Social media creates a bubble that becomes specific to a single person. We get to choose who we want to be and what we want others to see, which has led to an unfortunate trend of inauthenticity. Furthermore, this trend is only gratified and encouraged with the application of “likes” that we have begun to base our self-worth and the worth of others on followers and attention. Individuals are so wrapped up in this world of likes and favorites and retweets that we have lost ourselves within the vast continuum that is the Internet. This makes me wonder, are we even ourselves anymore?

Everyone knows the experience of texting someone, and if they don't respond to you right away, an almost instant feeling of unimportance washes over you. So much of our own value is correlated with a form of fulfillment from other people. Kim Stolz, a former America's Next Top Model contestant who now works on Wall Street, wrote a book titled *Unfriending My Ex (And Other Things I'll Never Do)* which discusses the extent to which technology and social media are affecting our personal lives. In an interview with *Time* magazine, Stolz said, “I think when you see your phone light up from across the room, it's that ping of dopamine in your system. You get that euphoric, excited feeling, and I think that's addictive. Now we text people, we Instagram, we Vine, we Tinder just to feel that again. And the more we do it, the more we get it back, so it becomes a very addictive process.”

This addiction feeds into competition, which has been so heavily instilled into society that it's almost unconscious. On Instagram, for example, we are simply competing to see who has the best boyfriend, the best girlfriend, the best parents, the best friends, the best life. This drive to approve and be approved has caused humans to miss out on the things that matter.

Instead of living in the moment, we film it on our phones. Instead of actually saying “I love you” to someone in person, we just text it. Instead of being real with ourselves and with

others, we choose the easier path and become narcissistic and petty. Thus, humans are beings who need to have Facebook friends and Twitter followers in order to be valuable. Value does not come from your social media page; your value comes from how you view and treat yourself and others.

As humans, we rely so heavily on our phones that we have become them, or they have become us. Our entire lives are held in the palms of our hands, but is that a good thing? One cannot deny that the technology behind iPhones and Samsungs are truly incredible, but has the human race outdone itself this time? Have we run too far ahead of what we are physically and emotionally equipped for?

I am in no way saying that everyone in the world should stop using Tumblr and Vine and Twitter right this instant, nor am I saying that I am above social media because I have indefinitely contributed to this cycle of falsity, but I think it is important to acknowledge how detrimental it can be to the self. Social media has taken our lives from us and has placed them in the hands of billions of Internet users who don't know us at all, yet we take their word when they call us “ugly” or “disgusting” or various other profanities from behind the screen of their iPhone when we know for a fact that they would never have the guts to say it to our face.

There is so much more to life than social media because it not only severely depletes our self-worth, but it oversimplifies the beauty of the human existence.

As cheesy as it is to say, this life is short. This life is way too short. Do we really want to spend it vying for the approval of others when we know deep down that we shouldn't care at all? These electronic devices are coming between meaningful relationships, and, furthermore, a meaningful life. We have to ask ourselves, do we really want to live this way?



2016 Presidential Election featured history's most beloved candidates

Small government is the hallmark of Republican ideas, aside from marriage, drugs, wars, police and military spending. That's why it is a god send Donald J Trump was elected president. His “small” government beliefs that he has held for nearly all of the last few months, prove that he is dedicated to his views and that they won't change. He's going to keep the government small by deporting 11 million people, because that obviously will not require hiring thousands of more ICE employees and he will prove to the world that only real Americans live in America, we don't have room for immigrants here, unless they are being used for construction labor, then we can make some exceptions.

He's going to keep government small by imprisoning and punishing the dregs of society for daring to smoke or even possess a plant, because, well. Freedom.

Trump knows that the only way to defeat terrorism is to drone strike more children, because then they can't grow up to be terrorists. Once again, keeping government small, because it's not like drones cost tax payer dollars, are operated by people paid with tax dollars and also their collateral damage can radicalize more people against the United States.

Trump knows that there's no such thing as a bad cop, just cops who are a tad bit overzealous in their mandate to serve and protect, by shooting people and having ticket quotas. Stop and frisk should not be considered “unconstitutional,” when the Founders wrote the Fourth Amendment saying the govern-

ment needed a warrant to search you or your property what they really meant was brown people should be allowed to be searched without a warrant, because that's not Orwellian, it's simply making America great again.

Trump has always been against the Iraq War, even when he has said he supported it. Essentially what we see here is a man highly skilled in reverse psychology. He's basically a doctor of foreign policy. Got a problem? Take two nukes and call him in the morning, you may just come down with a strong case of World Peace.



CHOTEAU KAMMEL
SHOW TIME

Obamacare has been a failure, and Trump has a plan to fix it, a plan so fantastically spectacular that he won't even reveal even one detail about it. It's almost as if he has no plan, but he's gonna build a wall, so obviously he knows that he's talking about with healthcare.

Trump has a plan to fine or imprison any woman who has ever gotten an abortion, because the only real way to prove that you want to protect life is by locking people in cages with rapists and murderers, or just stealing their money.

Unlike career politicians, Trump also doesn't seek to maintain the status quo. His favorite world leader you ask? Not Ronald Reagan, not Franklin Roosevelt, but Vladimir Putin and Saddam Hussein. Those guys got stuff done. When was the last time you heard of a journalist criticizing Putin? Never, because he does such a great job, and there is always room in Siberia for another labor camp. If they can make Russia and

Iraq great again, why are these communist Trump haters so opposed to making America great again?

All in all, Donald J Trump is exactly what was needed to save this country. His firmly held beliefs of the last 24 hours will help keep government small by hiring thousands of public sector employees to deport and imprison people, build nukes and ban trade with the world. He will truly make America great once more, just like we were in 1862.

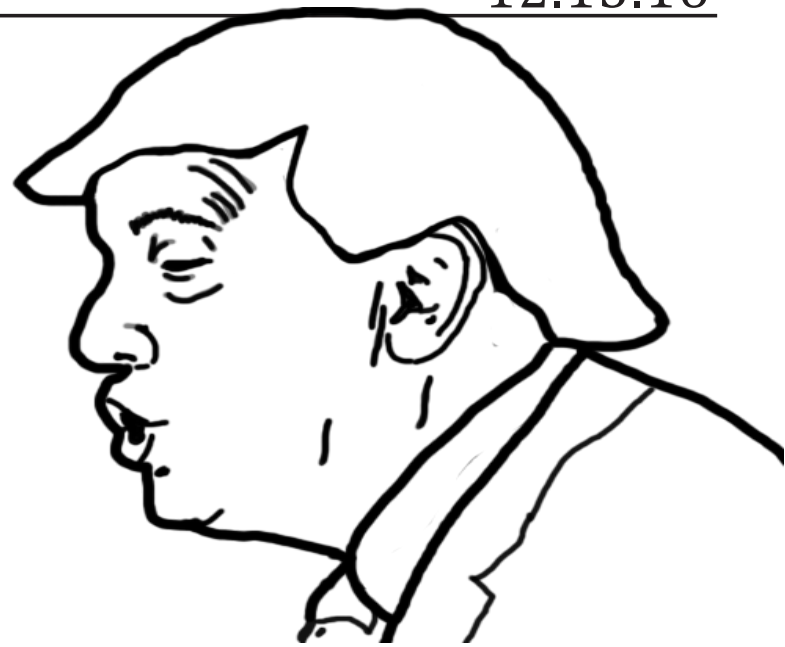
Government's role as the answer to all societal ills is the hallmark of Democratic ideas, aside from it starting wars, bombing children, shooting blacks, funding terror groups, wasting money and imprisoning people. That's why Hillary Clinton was the woman this country so desperately needed as the President of the United States. Her pro-little guy beliefs had everything necessary to actually make this country great again. She was going to change things up in Washington, by running deficits, passing regulations that close small businesses and by vowing not to use boots on the ground, because drones can kill children just as easily.

Unlike Trump, Clinton loves and accepts immigrants, as the Democratic National Convention emails showed, she fully related to their culture, even calling Hispanics “taco bowl voters,” just exemplifying her love for them. She would have continued the highly successful immigration reforms started under the Obama Administration, which include record high deportation rates, but that's neither here nor there.

CONTINUE TO 'SATIRE'
ON PAGE 24

AMERICA'S BEEN TRUMPED

The Register ponders the effects of Trump's pending presidency. We discuss issues such as climate change, social media and why Trump won.



ANNA KAMINSKI | The Register

Trump must learn to work with media, avoid Twitter rants

Alec Rome
staff writer

Throughout his campaign, Donald Trump preached the idea that the media was rigged against him and that nobody could truly trust the media.

While the media can show some bias, it is human nature to be biased on certain things. Therefore, Donald Trump needs to drop the charades and allow the media regular access in order to stay transparent and create positive change.

It seems as if every day there is a new reason for Trump to blame the media for something they did not do. A scan down his Twitter feed would find his rants about the New York Times story detailing his transition into the White House. Multiple sources have confirmed the reports that the Trump transition is filled with some anguish and struggle. He then went to Twitter to say, "The failing New York Times story is so totally wrong on transition. It is going so smoothly. Also, I have spoken many foreign leaders. I have received and taken calls from many foreign despite what the failing New York Times said. Russia, U.K., China, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, and more. I am always available to them. The New York Times is just upset that they looked like fools in their coverage of me." If there was a moment to define Trump's attitude about the media, that was it.

That rant was only on Nov. 16. He talked about the media almost every campaign speech, and made fun of journalists in a horrible, disgusting manner. How can a President be taken seriously if his relationship with the media is not one of transparency, but one of comedy?

His lack of worry about being a transparent leader has already become apparent. He failed to travel with a pool of reporters twice in one week, which brought with it a lot of push back. While the media pool is important so that the public knows who Trump is meeting with and what he may be doing, if anything happens to him, it would be a major national security problem. Trump is the President of the United States and while Secret Service may know where he is, the people deserve to know that their President is not in danger of being assassinated.

The other consequence of Trump's "rigged media" conspiracy

is that it justifies anything he may say, even when facts completely falsify it. He can flip-flop on issues without an objective viewpoint calling him out. Shockingly enough, as I was writing this story he tweeted out a comment about the election, stating, "In addition to winning the Electoral College in a landslide, I won the popular vote if you deduct the millions of people who voted illegally." That statement has no facts to back it up. There

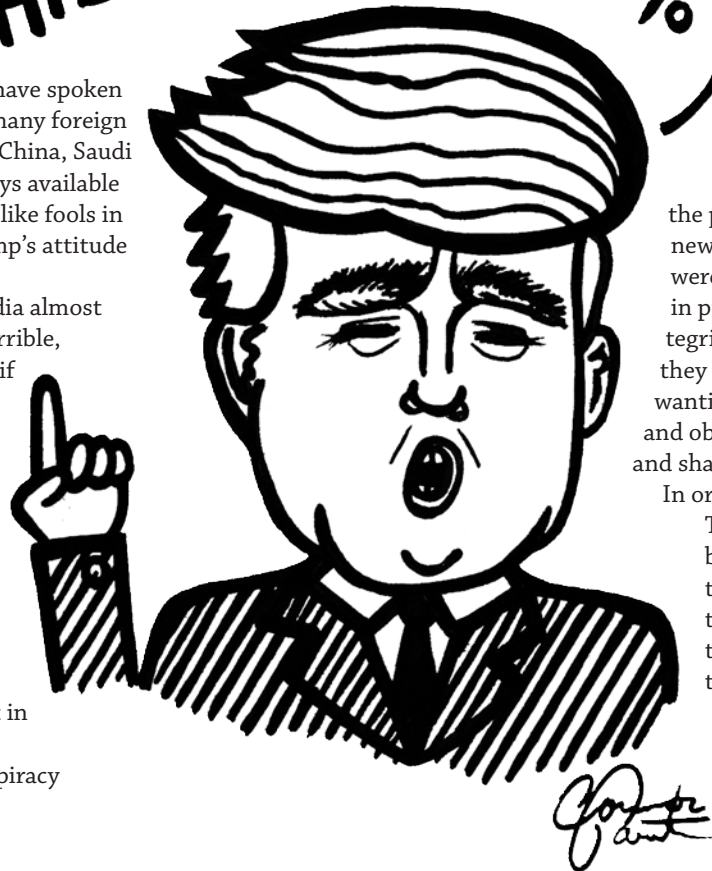
have been no confirmed reports of that many people committing voter fraud. He then backs it up, stating, "Serious voter fraud in Virginia, New Hampshire and California - so why isn't the media reporting on this? Serious bias - big problem!" Another statement with no true and concrete evidence.

However, because Donald Trump has kept such control of the media and has drove ratings for news networks, these statements are reported on and are sometimes unrightfully qualified by doing so. This then allows the fake news to gain more of a following from like Breitbart (the same Breitbart that his now chief Steve Bannon, was in charge of), because people then buy fear-mongering and believe in some of these stories.

Trump's outrageousness with the media has now changed the priorities for media outlets. The times have changed so much that news is now battling for clicks and shares, and Donald Trump's antics were so entertaining that it gave him more free coverage on television, in print and on social media. Instead of fact-checking, fallacy-finding integrity found in hard-hitting journalism, people now only listen to what they want to hear instead of what they need to hear. Everyone is guilty of wanting some dramatic, happy or entertaining news. Unfortunately, facts and objectivity do not evoke those types of emotions that bring in ratings and shares.

In order to be an honorable world leader and "make America great again," Trump must first abide by the law, both written and unwritten, of being a president. That means allowing the same access for the press that his predecessor Barack Obama gave to the media, and treating them with the same level of respect. No more Twitter rages against the New York Times, President-elect Trump. It is time for him to be the "great" leader he has proclaimed he can be.

"IF THE DISGUSTING AND CORRUPT MEDIA COVERED ME HONESTLY, I WOULD BE BEATING HILLARY BY 20%..."



CONNOR PAINTIN | Contributing Cartoonist

Ethical morality on full display before, during, after 2016 election

CONTINUED FROM 'CANDIDATES' ON PAGE 23

Clinton knew her foreign policy. As Secretary of State she supported and helped carry out numerous billion dollar arms sales to Saudi Arabia, knowing that the only way to help correct and change a state sponsor of terrorism is to give them more bombs. She has the stamina to make the tough choices when they are needed most, like whether or not to keep arming terrorist groups. She gave a resounding yes, and has not backed down. America is going to sell weapons to terrorists, and that is that.

If you really need proof of her foreign policy, look no further than the success of the countries of Libya and Syria. Clinton helped support the NATO no-fly zones that allowed the government to be removed and replaced with nothing! Libya now has several competing governments and even an

ISIL branch, the Libyan Dawn. So if anything, Clinton is basically a libertarian, she definitely supports smaller government. And Syria? Well that success story speaks for itself. Bombing hospitals and arming rebel groups certainly can help stabilize a country.

Clinton knows that we need an economy that works for the middle class, not this elitist trickle-down theory. By being funded by the biggest banks in the world and accepting donations from large corporations, she is proving she knows how to take them on. Clinton knows the hardships everyday Americans go through, as she was once stiffed for her speaking fees, only receiving a measly 200,000 dollars.

Women now make up a larger percentage of the population than men do, and Clinton would have brought the care and experience we need to truly help out new majority gain equality. She knew that all victims of rape and sexual assault deserve to be heard, unless the rapist was her husband. Then it's complicated.

As a businessman, Trump has completely failed in everything. Clinton however, through her years never working in the private sector, knew how to get things done. She knew the only way to help keep businesses in the United States was to tax them more and put small businesses out of business in favor of mega-corporations.

Lastly, did Trump help run a charitable organization that is funded by countries that murder gays and legalize rape against women? I didn't think so. The Clinton Foundation helps advances LGBTQ and women's rights around the globe, proudly funded by the biggest violators of those group's rights. Honestly you gotta give her credit for how sneaky that is.

All in all, Hillary R Clinton was exactly what this country needed, she would have brought fresh new ideas like funding terror groups, accepting bribes from corporations and turning a blind eye toward human rights violations, and the fact that she wasn't a man certainly should have won her the presidency.

President Trump must acknowledge reality of climate change

Miles Kay
staff writer

There are many pressing issues in modern America. People across the nation bitterly debate topics ranging from immigration to the economy to American involvement in the Middle East. However, there is no issue more pressing than that of climate change, and it affects not only Americans but every person on Earth.

Recently, Stephen Hawking publicly stated that he estimates that in 1,000 years, Earth will be threatened by crises that may end the human race's time on Earth. Humanity's mistreatment of the environment is one likely cause for Hawking's concern, and under the leadership of Donald Trump, America will contribute to the steady march towards Hawking's pessimistic prediction.

Though President Obama has pushed for stronger environmental legislation, these measures are threatened by a Donald Trump presidency. Obama helped pass measures such as the Clean Power Plan, which will give companies tools to cut down on harmful emissions, and the Clean Energy Investment Initiative. Furthermore, Obama worked with world leaders to secure international agreements, including a Joint Presidential Statement on Climate Change with President Xi Jinping of China, which outlines both countries' plans for reduction of emissions and an amendment to the Montreal Protocol which drastically limited hydro-fluorocarbons.

President-elect Donald Trump has a starkly different point of view on the issue of climate change and the environment. In fact, Trump denies climate change altogether, and seeks to withdraw the United States from several key international agreements on the environment. While campaigning, Trump stated his intent to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, which set goals for countries to reduce their greenhouse gas emis-

sions to mitigate the effects of global warming.

When examining Trump's proposed policies, it is evident that Trump's refusal to believe in climate change is based in his commitments to big business, especially businesses in the oil and natural gas industry. During his presidency, Obama focused on expanding renewable energy, investing in alternative energy sources instead of the oil industry.

Trump, on the other hand, wants to shift funds back into oil and natural gas and undo certain EPA regulations which limit nonrenewable energy sources. Though Trump sees this as a path to restoring jobs and "making America great again," he ignores the issue of the environment.

Trump does not seek to limit renewable energy, which now holds a larger share than ever of the United States' energy economy, but his proposals to undo regulations such as the Clean Power Plan and the Paris Agreement are troubling. Trump is effectively going to reverse some of Obama's monumental achievements in the area of climate change legislation, which will set the United States back substantially.

Furthermore, Trump's position on the environment is decidedly contradictory. Trump is a firm supporter of efforts to protect clean air and clean water, yet he also supports the production of shale gas. Hydraulic fracturing has become a common method associated with natural gas production, but it has steep environmental costs. Particularly, water resources, including aquifers, are threatened by fracking, which pumps a mixture of sand, water and chemicals into the earth to open up natural gas reserves. The waste water from this process, if not properly treated or disposed, can seep into and contaminate groundwater and other reservoirs. Clearly, Trump cannot let go of his commitment to big business in order to adequately protect the environment.

When Trump enters the White House, the Republican Party will control both the House of Representatives and the

Senate. This means that many of Trump's proposed policies may become a reality.

However, certain promises Trump made to voters may not come to fruition. Though actions such as Trump's proposed Muslim ban, the wall between Mexico and the United States and deportations of millions of illegal immigrants hold popular support amongst many of Trump's supporters, there is a fairly slim likelihood that these measures will get through Congress. These policies are very extreme, and are unlikely to generate enough support, even within the Republican Party, to pass. Though there will undoubtedly be new, stricter immigration legislation, actions such as the Muslim ban will never pass Congress- it is simply too extreme and unrealistic.

Though Trump will, inevitably, have to moderate many of his stances, he will not need to drastically change his stance on the environment and climate change. Despite overwhelming scientific evidence, a large number of Republicans in Congress do not believe in climate change, and those that do oftentimes choose not to support climate change deals and other efforts, which may be seen as overstepping the rightful boundaries of the federal government.

What does all this mean? The environment is in greater danger than ever. When our politicians choose to ignore the world's most pressing issue, they do not consider the future for all Americans. The world is at a crossroads, and by electing a president who has called global warming a hoax created by the Chinese our country has effectively removed itself from the international fight against climate change. If Americans are to save the Earth, they must continue to push for stronger environmental legislation and investments in renewable energy. Donald Trump must alter his proposed policies so as to protect the future of not only Americans, but every person on Earth.

Overall lack of civility, insults, ultimately led to Trump's victory

Choteau Kammel
editor-in-chief

Hillary Rodham Clinton, the next president of the United States, the first female president of the United States: nearly every newspaper, news channel, poll and countries from Germany to Saudi Arabia wanted to see these words scrolling across the bottom of the television come Nov. 9. Alas, history now tells a far different tale, with Donald Trump emerging as the president elect, becoming one of the few candidates in American history to win the Electoral College without a majority of the popular vote.

As the dust settled and the tears began to flow at Clinton's "Victory Party," one question was asked across all of liberal America; how in the world could this have happened? After all, all the reliable news outlets such as the Iraq War WMD endorsing New York Times and the highly factual rape case investigators at the Rolling Stone all said Clinton would win in a landslide, plus, she is a woman and every sane human being would know that voting against her would be a sign of misogyny. Instantly social media and all those same highly impartial news outlets exploded in one unanimous answer for why Donald J. Trump could ever have just beaten such a warrior for the common man like Hillary Clinton; it must be and can only be that America is sexist, racist, transphobic, Islamophobic and every other phobic or -ist there can possibly be. In reiterating their supreme leaders own words, America really is just a "basket of deplorables."

Now, I may not have an Ivy League degree, nor do I plan to major in a field as highly beneficial to humanity as gender studies or feminist literature, but I do comprehend that if you spend all of your time insulting people rather than attempting to find common ground with them, they tend to not like you and will express that disgust in the ballot box. Frankly, that's why Trump won.

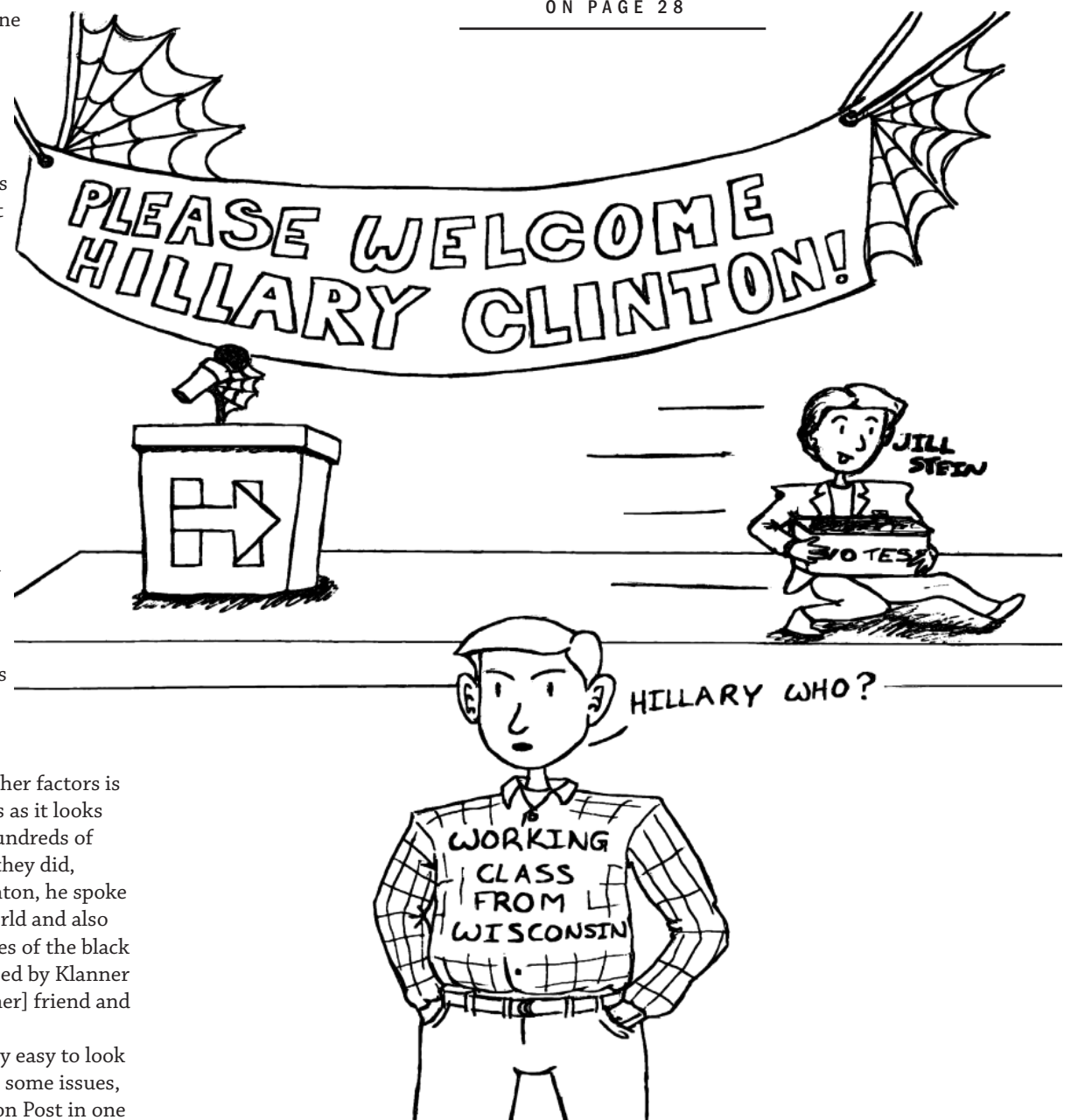
When attempting to pinpoint why exactly the election outcome is the way it is, it is important to first gauge where most of his support came from, that being white working class and rural Americans who have customarily voted Democrat in the past. These are people in states such as Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and parts of the South who for the last two elections voted solidly blue, eagerly buying into the "Hope and Change" promised by Barack Obama, but ultimately hung out to dry by his policies as the last eight years have seen more wealth transferred upward and burdensome regulations passed on their small businesses and incomes. The bulk of the anemic recovery seen throughout Obama's presidency has gone to those already at or near the top and Clinton the Queen of Wall Street offered only a continuation of this.

The idea that Trump won solely because America is racist and there are no other factors is childish and embodies the elitist attitude that the established political class holds as it looks down on the working class, and obviously does not fit the facts, as Trump won hundreds of counties also won by Barack Obama. Did racists vote for Trump? Most certainly they did, however, most of the poor white working class voted for him because, unlike Clinton, he spoke to them like people with dignity, not dirty coal miners who are destroying the world and also need to check their privilege. As a side note, Trump also did win larger percentages of the black and Hispanic votes than either McCain or Romney and just as Trump was endorsed by Klanner David Duke, Clinton eulogized former Klan recruiter Robert Byrd, calling him "[her] friend and mentor."

For us as well-educated and "progressive thinking" youth, if you will, it is very easy to look down on the working class for their simple lives and perhaps backwards views on some issues, but the proper response to this is not to just sit back with a copy of The Huffington Post in one hand and the UN Charter on Human Rights in the other and scornfully demonize them as rac-

ists, sexists and stupid bigots. Guess what? If you spend all your time insulting people they tend to not end up agreeing with you. If you are going to spend all day tweeting "Love Trumps Hate," and then also telling all Trump supporters that they are racist and hate blacks and gays and need to die, you are part of the problem. You don't fight bigotry by trying to be more of a bigot, you use free speech to fight hate speech. For far too long the Left has sought to silence opposing viewpoints rather than debate them, and this election brought those chickens home to roost.

CONTINUE TO 'WHY TRUMP WON'
ON PAGE 28



PRESTON McLAUGHLIN | Contributing Cartoonist

Animals' lives given little value, meat industry proves immoral

Anne Gallagher
contributing writer

“Animals are not ours to eat, wear, experiment on, or use for entertainment” is the slogan for the People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA) organization. Since the beginning of time, man has captured, killed and eaten animals. From primitive hunting to current farms, living creatures have been slaughtered for the nourishment of humans. Large scale factory farming often leads to the unjust treatment of animals resulting in other negative impacts to the earth.

The fact that there are no federal laws governing the conditions in which farmed animals are raised makes the ending of these animals lives easier and more meaningless to the responsible farms. With over 99 percent of farm animals in the U.S. raised in factory farms, which focus on profit and efficiency at the expense of animal welfare, it seems like nothing can be done for the prevention of ending these innocent lives.

Models for improvement upon this system can be viewed worldwide in places like the European Union where chickens are killed by electrocution before making their way down the slaughter line, unlike in America where mass torment is endured before the animals are actually killed.

An additional intent to pacify animal cruelty is seen in Norway where there is a comprehensive Animal Welfare Act applying to livestock, birds, rabbits, crustaceans, reptiles, fish and honey bees. It also states that animals must be killed out of the sight of other animals.

A reason to search for a national solution to this problem is the harmful effects these U.S. factory farms have on the environment. The raising of farm animals is damaging to the atmosphere and people around it in many ways.

Large animal factories often give antibiotics to animals to promote their growth, or for illness resulting from crowded conditions. These antibiotics enter the environment and the food chain resulting in an unnatural effect on the consumers and the landscape. Another negative environmental effect is the air pollution.

Factory farming accounts for 37 percent of methane (CH₄) emissions, which has more than 20 times the global warming potential of CO₂. The lack of realization of these facts is the reason the problem has grown to its current state.

The obvious solution for this aspect of factory farming is for humans to obtain their meat products from local and less harmful farms. The main issue with this answer for most Americans is the fact that eating this way costs more money and time, yet the positive impact on our planet is enough of a cause for this action to be taken. Each small step taken toward the abolishment of cruel factory treatment has a more wide-spread effect than some may think.

A final and extremely prevalent argument can be developed around the fact that humans do not need to consume meat to live. This proves that meat is a luxury and its treatment should be as so. The way factory farms handle what is put on Americans plates is not appetizing at all.

This leads to the explanation of Paul McCartney's saying, “if slaughterhouses had glass walls, everyone would be vegetarian.” Through confinement and mishandling (such as stepping on, pulling the heads off of, de-toeing, debeaking, prodding, and most importantly raping [in order to inseminate and mass produce]) of these animals, their importance to humans and factory producers becomes lessened.

The entire world is negatively affected by this process, making a strong case for its prevention.

The only lifestyle option that can impactfully punish these institutions and prevent further harm is vegan/vegetarianism. If just one person becomes vegan, the industry will have been changed that little bit. This action is an important step on the journey to a cruelty-free world, and it appears to be the only way that these farms can be penalized due to the lack of the modern government's assistance.

One small action produces an important impact in the lives of a person, and the beings around them.



ANNA OVERBECK | Contributing Cartoonist

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'Senioritis' cure lies in making memories, maintaining grades

Georgia Chambers
editor-in-chief

Urban Dictionary is not an reliable source by any means, but when searching for the definition of 'senioritis,' their definition was humorously accurate.

According to them, 'senioritis' is "a crippling disease that strikes high school seniors. Symptoms include: laziness, an over-excessive wearing of track pants, old athletic shirts, sweatpants, athletic shorts and sweatshirts. Also features a lack of studying and a generally dismissive attitude. The only known cure is a phenomenon known as graduation."

For some, this has been the case since their freshman year. However, more and more of my peers have seemed to join the bandwagon, and more teachers have been complaining about a lack of effort in some seniors.

Whereas the definition Urban Dictionary gives is obviously an exaggeration, there are some days where I decide to switch it up and wear jeans, most of this definition has some truth in it.

Especially after one gets accepted into the college of their dreams, it is as if high school is put on the back burner. I cannot speak for everyone, but for me, I am already focusing a lot of my available time on scholarships and what is to come. More than likely, many seniors are feeling the same way.

I have a million things swirling around in my mind right now about college. What is it going to be like? I am going out of state, so are people there going to like me? Am I going to keep in touch with all of my friends here? What if I don't like it?

Sometimes it is easy for me to get distracted with all of this consuming my thoughts. Plus, junior year was very stressful, so I have told myself it is okay to use this year as an easy year before I go off to college. It seems as if senior year, especially after first semester, is a block of time where seniors believe they could be spending their time doing something else.

'Senioritis' is becoming a reality for me, and I am searching for a cure because not only would my parents bury me alive if my grades started slipping, but also because I know that I want to make the most out of my time in high school. After all, I want to enjoy high school as long as I can because I know I will be leaving a lot of my friends next fall.

So, what is the cure to this so-called "crippling disease" to make sure my fellow seniors and I end high school on a high



DONOVAN DINOFF | Contributing Cartoonist

note?

Urban Dictionary said graduation was the only cure, but I would have to disagree. For me, my friends and college itself are enough to motivate me to continue to focus on my time left in high school and to continue to do well in school.

As I mentioned before, my friends and I will more than likely be separated after senior year, so I want to make sure I do not wish for college to come faster than it already seems to be. Central brings many people together, and a regret many would have after graduating if they had become careless their senior year would be missing the opportunities Central had to offer for them and their friends.

A more pressing source of motivation is college itself. After all, high school is what determines where one will go to college,

and if a student lets their academics slip enough there is a good chance the college they got into will no longer want them. Even worse, there is a chance their scholarship could be pulled, which would be a nightmare severe enough to motivate anyone to continue to perform to the best of his or her ability in school.

So, saying that senior year will be a breeze and that nothing really matters after your pivotal junior year is false. And blaming it on 'senioritis' is even worse. High school, especially senior year, is the time to take advantage of a free education while still having fun and enjoying the time together with friends.

Forget the urge to do nothing the rest of the year and instead live in the now and enjoy high school while it lasts. Let 'senioritis' be a joke and nothing more.

BCS championship should move to six-team playoff to avoid controversy

Ari Saltzman
contributing writer

The BCS was a complete disaster for college football. Now it is better with a selection committee, instead of some arbitrary standings, and a four team playoff. But, it is now guaranteed that all five power conferences will not be represented. It also makes it impossible for any group of five conference to make the playoff. This is why a six team playoff is the best way to determine a champion in the Football Bowl Subdivision.

Going from two to four teams was certainly an improvement. The NCAA tried out a playoff format and it worked well. We are now coming up on the third year in the playoff era. Two years ago a very good TCU team was left out of the playoff. Therefore, the Big 12 was absent from the inaugural College Football Playoff. Last year, there was not really a controversy on the Selection Sunday, but a very good Stanford team was left out and so was the Pac-12. The reason, an opening day loss at Northwestern.

One of the best things about college football is that every game matters, if a team makes one major mistake, their chances are over. In a six team playoff, things would stay the same, eight teams would be different because too many teams would get in. This is a huge problem in college basketball, where it is possible to go winless during the regular season and still win the national championship. Also, the group of five schools, or non power five schools, are very good as well.

On New Years Eve of last year, the Houston Cougars shocked the Florida State Seminoles in the Chick-fil-A Peach bowl, by beating Florida State 38-24. Then on opening day this season Houston beat number 3 Oklahoma 33-23. Another American Conference team, Navy, ended up beating Houston in Annapolis two weeks ago. Also, Western Michigan is ranked number 13 in the latest AP poll after a 12-0 regular season, and beating two Big Ten teams in the non-conference, including Northwestern who went into the Horseshoe and lost 24-20.

And then there is Boise State. Sports fans all remember what happened in the 2007 Fiesta

Bowl, when Boise State shocked the world when they beat Oklahoma. It would be very interesting to see what would happen if the group of five was allowed in the playoff, they are now but it is virtually impossible. Also, in the New Years' six bowl games only one group of five teams is guaranteed to participate. That is also outrageous.

The best possible way to decide a champion is clear, to have a six team playoff. At the end of the season the selection committee releases their final rankings. The top five are in the playoff, with the top two getting a first round bye and going straight to the semi-finals. The last spot goes to the highest ranked group of five team, unless a group of five team is in the top 5 then number 6 in the rankings qualifies for the playoff.

The bracket would then look like this: the number 3 team in the final rankings would play either the highest ranked group of five team or the number 6 team in the rankings. It would be a home game for the number 3 team. The winner would move on to the semifinals and play the number 2 team in the rankings. Then after the first game concludes, the second first round game would take place. It would pit the number 4 team vs the number 5 team, and a home game for the number 4 team. The winner would go on to play the number 1 team in the semifinals. The first round games would take place the Saturday before Christmas, and on years when Christmas is on a Saturday, they would play the following Monday. After the first round then only one thing would change from the current four team format. The games would be played on New Year's Day every year.

College football has no reason not to adopt this. The group of five is treated with respect because they are guaranteed a spot. Also, one more deserving power five team is allowed in, or in years where Notre Dame is good, they could also be considered for a spot. Lastly, the importance of the regular season would not be taken away, with only one more additional spot added because of the group of five. This is a clear and obvious change that the NCAA should make.



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Despite offering no solutions, Trump won by addressing working class Americans

CONTINUED FROM 'WHY TRUMP WON' ON PAGE 25

Even Bill Maher, who often is seen as being extremely far left, owned up to the presidency of Donald Trump being the fault of the Left and its obsession with policing thoughts and speech. For the last decade calling people racist has been the ultimate trump card of the Left, choosing to shut down debates by calling the dissenters bigots rather than facing off in a battle of ideas, which if the accusation was really true would end up with the truth winning out in the end anyways. Too bad that's just so much more difficult when saying "he's racist" can shut down the conversation immediately.

By calling every Republican who has ever run for office and their supporters racist for the last decade, the Left effectively neutered the word of any meaning, so that when a real racist actually came around it had no credibility to make any such accusations. People stopped listening to those baseless insults a long time ago, and many voted for Trump solely because he made those media elites and politicians angry. The same media elites and politicians who have treated them like garbage for daring to hold views contrary to what the Left has deemed acceptable.

Trump won because many people are sick of seeing those who oppose abortion as being labeled sexist and women haters, rather than debating them as human beings with a different opinion. Trump won because people are sick of being told that if you think there are only two genders then you must obviously be a bigot who supports the suicide of trans teens. Trump won because people are sick of seeing mass protests chanting "love wins" and then Christian bakeries being shut down because they wouldn't bake a cake. Democrats have sold themselves as the party of choice, but yet the choice to hold a dissenting opinion is one to be met with lawsuits, bans and censorship. Stop saying you care about freedom of choice if you are unwilling to extend that freedom to those with whom you disagree. The government cannot force social acceptance. Only human beings working from the goodness of their hearts, without a gun to the

other person's head, can do that.

Trump won because although he offers no real solutions to anything, he spoke in layman's terms and didn't try to force anyone to think any which way. In fact, in order support much of what Trump says, thinking isn't really required, but anyways, Trump did not win because of who he was, he won largely because Clinton represented nothing but the status quo which has disenfranchised and impoverished millions of Americans and because the American political system has reached the breaking point of identity politics. The Left has finally seen that it takes more than calling people racist, shutting down bakeries and getting people fired to win an election and to change a society.

Donald Trump won because the white working class has long been denied its existence by political elites because being white and poor does not fit the narrative.

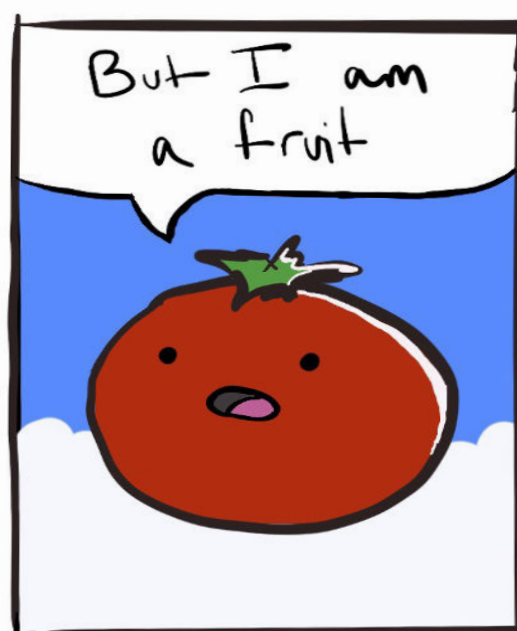
These people were sick of being scorned as backwards and stupid by the media and the liberal establishment and they got their revenge in the voting booth by electing Donald Trump, for better or for much more likely worse. These people have been driven so deeply down by the status quo that they would rather vote for a moron who pisses off their overlords than to choose a safer alternative that their liberal masters agree with. Every single election poll was wrong because the American populace is so afraid of being demonized and attacked for

simply expressing how they may feel. Interesting fact, the best way to out bigots and to socially ostracize them is to allow them to speak freely and openly so that we as free, independent and beautiful human beings may combat their lunacy with our own words of sanity. You don't change a society by banning opinions you don't like, you change it by voluntarily changing hearts and minds.

All in all, British liberal and journalist Johnathan Pie summed up Trump's victory best as he called out his fellow Leftists when he said, "Stop thinking that everyone who disagrees with you is evil or racist or sexist or stupid and talk to them. Persuade them otherwise. Because if you don't, I'll tell you what you get, you get President Trump," and that's exactly what they got.

“ The best way to out bigots and to socially ostracize them is to allow them to speak freely and openly so that we may combat their lunacy with our own words of sanity. ”

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