

The Register

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Photo Courtesy of CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION

Hall of Fame Inductees

Katie Besancon
staff writer

Ten Omaha Central alumni were inducted into the Hall of Fame by the Omaha Central Foundation on Oct. 19, 2023. The induction put on by the Central High School Foundation was held at the Holland Performing Arts Center and included a dinner and award ceremony to celebrate the inductee's accomplishments.

Susan Breeding, Class of 1974 - Breeding worked as an Emmy Award-winning reporter and anchored in some of the largest TV markets around the United States, including Phoenix and Los Angeles. She won three regional Emmy Awards and a University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) journalism alumni award. While in Los Angeles, Breeding worked with A-list celebrities ranging from Taylor Swift to George Clooney. Breeding returned to Arizona in 2015, where she was hired as the communications director, providing leadership for the 2023 Super Bowl LVII and overseeing communications for the city of Glendale.

Hubert "Hub" Brown, Class of 1976 - Brown made his mark in journalism working as a TV reporter, anchor and producer and now as an educator. Brown earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in journalism at UNL. Brown launched his teaching career at his alma mater, educating students for seven years before moving to Syracuse University, where he became the associate dean of research, creativity, international initiatives and diversity. Brown was named the dean of the University of Florida's College of Journalism and Communications in 2021.

Gregory Erwin, Class of 1958 - Erwin graduated at the top of his class from the UNL Law School before moving to New York to start his career. Erwin later returned to Omaha in 1974 and became the ninth partner at Kutak Rock. In 1984, he co-founded America First Companies, a publicly traded fund of government-backed mortgages. In 1991, Erwin won the contract for Omaha's municipal lottery, enabling Big Red Keno to expand across Nebraska and become one of the nation's largest Keno operators. Erwin passed away in March at the age of 82.

Dr. Edward Fogarty, Class of 1989 - Once graduating from the University of Chicago, Fogarty returned to Omaha to receive his medical degree from the University of Nebraska Medical Center (UNMC) and to complete his residency in radiology at Creighton University. He is now the chair of radiology at the University of North Dakota, where he advances multiple innovations in clinical imaging and medical education. Some of his most significant work includes chronic neurological injury, including dementia. In 2020, Dr. Fogarty received a federal CARES ACT grant to implement countermeasures against COVID-19 based on the work of Central alumnus Albert Crum.

Bruce Hoberman, Class of 1965 - Bruce Hoberman co-founded Homer's record stores at the age of 24. After selling the business, Hoberman and his wife became volunteers with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), spending over a year living in Sub-Saharan Africa helping develop small and medium-sized businesses. In 1986, Hoberman graduated from Harvard Business School's Owner President Management program for entrepreneurs. In 1988, he won the Business Excellence Achieve-

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Central welcomes 3 new deans

Iyanna Wise
staff writer

Central welcomed three new deans this year. Josette Lovercheck, Cydney Griffin and Christine Smith have taken the place of four Central High deans who left the previous year.

Lovercheck has been in Omaha Public Schools for a little over 17 years. She made her move to Central because she was ready to take on an administrative role and was interested in Central's vast pathways program.

She started as a school teacher at Miller Park Elementary. She then transitioned into counseling at Burke High School, where she worked for nine years. Lovercheck wanted a higher job title, so she became the counseling director at Northwest High School.

Lovercheck doesn't plan on staying a dean for long, hoping in the future to become

an assistant principal and data administrator. She said her job as a counselor, making schedules and managing behavior, prepared her for an assistant principal role.

Outside of school, Lovercheck is a wife and mother to two kids. In her free time, Lovercheck started getting into Etsy, the online shop for small businesses, by making T-shirts and embroidering.

Though she doesn't have a system yet, Lovercheck said she's getting there, taking things as they come and preparing to manage her new position.

Lovercheck admires the attitude of Central students.

"They want to see change; they stand up for what's right, and they advocate for themselves," she said.

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Freshmen visit Omaha Public Library, connect with library resources

Fiona Bryant
opinion editor

More than 500 Central freshmen and over 30 teachers learned how to access public transportation and library services on a field trip to Omaha's public libraries on Oct. 4.

Students were spread out across the W. Clarke Swanson, Florence, A.V. Sorensen, Downtown, Charles B. Washington and Benson branches of the Omaha Public Library in morning and afternoon sessions. Field trip groups used Omaha's ORBT and Metro bus routes to reach the branches.

Martha Omar, the Freshman Academy lead and organizer of the field trip, developed the excursion as a community outreach program with the input of the Freshman Academy Advisory Board. Freshmen engaged as "public library ambassadors" in a "literacy access event" by creating videos to introduce

public libraries to OPS elementary schoolers.

Freshman Kristiana Velasquez visited the A.V. Sorensen branch with social studies teacher Adam Raffety's group. In her video, Velasquez read a Pete the Cat book and informed students about using the library for homework and hanging out with friends.

"Within in your free time or even just your worktime, that library was perfect for anything," Velasquez said.

"Having the next generation of young people hear from the big kids, 'Here's the library. You should go. It's a place for you,' that sounds different than [from] a teacher or another adult," said Central's Pathway Coordinator Christy Flaherty-Colling, who was also involved in the logistics of the field trip.

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Some Central students participate in one of the most unique and unconventional sports, competitive roller derby

New club at Central brings light to Latino culture

Lily Hartley
staff writer

Central music teachers Juan Oropeza, Chiyo Trauernicht, and Jeff Mount, started the new Mariachi and Banda instrumental club, and are currently welcoming any new students who express an interest in becoming a member.

The club is located in room E128, and rehearsals run from 3:15 to 4:15 every Monday afternoon. The club's purpose is to teach students different styles of music and culture, as well as the history of each genre.

Mariachi is a small orchestral ensemble made up of various instruments like guitars and trumpets. Banda utilizes wind and percussion instruments. The club practices all kinds of music from older traditional styles to newer music that someone would hear on the Spanish radio every day.

The environment surrounding the club has been positive and full of energy. "We have only had a few rehearsals since the start of the school year and so far, the environment has been positive, and I can see the happiness it brings the students to be able to play this music," Oropeza said.

The club is meaningful for the Latino students at Central as they tie into the student body's cultural diversity. "We have a large Hispanic and Latin population here at Central, and music is a great part of our culture and a tremendous part of Mexican culture and everyday life. Having this club is a great way for students to express themselves and show pride in their culture," said Oropeza.

"This club means a lot to me because in music classes I never had a chance to embrace my Latino background before coming to Central High," senior Betsy Tenorio-Hernandez said.

"This club means a lot to me, especially because of representation of culture through music. We also get to explore different forms of rhythm and tone, allowing us to be able to express the emotion the music and composer intends," Miranda said.

During rehearsals, students get the opportunity to learn



Three students practice in room E128 on Oct. 9. MAURO GUTIERREZ|The Register

more about the songs and style of music that they are learning and performing, as well as practicing with the group at large. The club splits up into sections, and at the end of rehearsal they all come together to play the songs with the entire group.

Community is a key idea presented to all students and staff at Central High. The club allows students with similar interests to get to know one another and bond over shared

likeness.

"I do plan to keep coming back even after my student teaching to help this group grow and become part of the community," Oropeza said.

"I am hoping to see Mariachi and Banda thrive as the year progresses and gain more members as the time passes. Hopefully even perform and participate in multiple events,"

Central High Foundation inducts 10 in ceremony

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ment Award from the UNL Business School Alumni Association. In 1991, he was named Small Business Administration District II Businessperson of the Year. Later co-founding Proxibid, he served as chairman of the board until the company was sold in 2020.

Richard Kaslow, Class of 1961 - Dr. Richard Kaslow played a major role in groundbreaking federal and academic research into infectious diseases such as HIV. Kaslow graduated from Harvard Medical School, attaining board certification in internal medicine, infectious disease, and preventative medicine. Working for 23 years with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Prevention and the National Institutes of Health (NIH), he conducted studies of HIV and other epidemiologic investigations. Soon after, he worked with the University of Alabama at Birmingham, where teams identified genetic determinants of HIV, Hepatitis B vaccine responses and other conditions. Dr. Kaslow currently serves as President of the American College of Epidemiology, and in 2009, the American Public Health Association recognized him with the John Snow Award for his incredible contributions to epidemiology.

Rachel Tomlinson Mindrup, Class of 1992 - As a professional artist and art educator, Mindrup is using art to raise funds to fight the genetic disease Neurofibromatosis (NF). Mindrup earned her master's of fine arts from the Art Institution of Boston at Lesley University and studied at the Art Academy of Los Angeles. When her son was diagnosed with NF, she realized the disease received little funding for research and started painting portraits of people who donated to related charities. Her "Many Faces of NF" collection has been shown internationally. In 2020, she was appointed by Dr. Richard L. Deming, the chair of medical humanities at Creighton University School of Medicine, to bring art and medicine together on campus.

Rodney Mullen, Distinguished Educator - Mullen made a prominent mark during his 24 years at Central as an award-winning history teacher. After the Omaha Public Schools and University of Nebraska at Omaha graduate joined Central in 1999, he showed dedication to both his profession and students, particularly about African American history. He helped uncover lost history in Omaha minority communities as part of the OPS Making Invisible Histories Visible program. Before retiring in 2022, Mullen was honored as Central's Teacher of the Year in 2019, the Alice Buffett Outstanding Teacher Award in 2020 and History Nebraska's Excellence in

District announces new inclement weather remote learning schedule

Lily Hartley
staff writer

The Omaha Public Schools District announced a new Inclement Weather Remote Learning Day Schedule for all OPS students and staff. For the 2023-24 school year, the new remote learning day schedule entails key changes in the procedure.

Interim Superintendent Matthew Ray announced the changes Oct. 6.

Teachers will publish asynchronous lessons and hold office hours for students and families. By 8:30 a.m. material needed for classes will be published on either Canvas or Teams.

Teachers will use office hours to provide students and/or parents an opportunity to meet via Teams, as well as allowing students to ask about the work given digitally. Teacher led professional learning for students will offer time for virtual development and collaboration. Teachers may decide to post sign-up sheets, or even post and share the links for meetings when the time comes.

Student attendance will also no longer be taken.

Before COVID, the snow day schedule was much different. Early in the mornings teachers would plan and prepare for their day and for all the meetings. From 9:10 to 11:05 were the four scheduled meetings required for students who wanted to be

counted for attendance, each 25 minutes long. After the planned periods were finished, the rest of the day was more teacher office hours, and more plan/preparation would be made.

When COVID first started, schoolwork was transferred from in person to completely online for the health and safety of students and staff. Students were obliged to regularly attend their scheduled classes virtually, as well as complete and learn the required material.

Even after COVID ended and students returned to regular in-person classes, true snow days vanished. Even on inclement weather days, students were required to be present for Teams or Zoom meetings.

"As a student I do like the fact that we don't have to meet anymore, because it just feels like a waste of our day off," Lattison said.

While the changes are not a return to true snow days, they are a step toward it.

"What I would really like to see is them going back to traditional snow days, but this a good compromise," American Government teacher Jordan Boyer said.

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 Broderick Hilgenkamp at broderick.hilgenkamp@ops.org or come to room 029 to discuss your idea.



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Lovercheck, Griffin and Smith join Central

DEANS from page 1

Griffin is a Central alumnus from the class of 2009. Griffin explained why she felt it was time to come back to Central.

"Being in the place that molded me into the adult I am today was the goal," she said.

During her time at Central, Griffin was involved in DECA, Student Council, Minority Scholars, basketball and Homecoming Court. She enjoyed her time at Central as a student but is kind of nervous about what to expect as a staff member.

She was also a product of other OPS schools such as Harrison Elementary and Lewis and Clark Middle School.

She started as a paraprofessional (a teacher's aide) at Benson West Elementary for five years and soon after became a behavioral classroom para. She then took two years off for her undergraduate degree and, after her break, moved to Monroe Middle School as a math and STEAM teacher.

In her free time, Griffin likes to spend time with her family. She likes shopping, traveling and watching trending shows on Netflix.

Griffin is still learning balance in her new position and looks forward to connecting with students. She plans on staying in the dean position as long as she needs to, and said that Central is where she's supposed to be; she doesn't want to disappoint anyone.

Griffin likes how she can have deeper, more mature conversations and connections with high school students compared to middle and elementary schoolers. For high school students who haven't matured yet, Griffin wants to connect with them to encourage better choices.

Christine Smith has been in OPS for 20 years. She applied to Central because of the school's rich history in the district and historic community. When she saw an opening, she jumped for it.

She started at McMillan Middle School as an English teacher, instructional facilitator and Title I coordinator. She then moved over to Bryan Middle School as a reading teacher.

Though she didn't attend an OPS school herself, Smith

went local for college. She graduated from Creighton University with an undergraduate degree in English and Secondary Education. She got her master's degree in Reading and ESL (English as a Second Language) from Concordia University and an Educational Leadership degree from Midland University.

Smith is married and has a son, and she spends most of her time driving him to his activities. In her free time, she loves to travel and plan vacations with family and friends.

Now, as a dean, Smith finds it hard to interact with students outside of a classroom setting but is most looking forward to working with students and preparing them for life after high school.

Smith is not sure where her career will take her, nor if she'll stay in her new position long, but she's enjoying the challenge and new adventures.

Smith likes the atmosphere of Central. She enjoys connecting with both the staff and the students.



MAURO GUTIERREZ | The Register

Students visit OPL

OPL from page 1

Omar's planning started in May and involved collaboration with the district and each library branch, as well as arranging paperwork for library card applications. Library card applications require proof of address and photo identification, but the field trip yielded card registrations for more than half of the freshmen.

With a library card, students have free access to OPL's thousands of books, visual materials, listening materials, online databases, newspapers, seed packets, website subscriptions and partnership passes to local attractions.

Yet, libraries also serve as a "third space" for students outside of school and home, according to English Learners (EL) teacher Sarah Lehn.

"We think about the library as being a place to get books," Lehn said. "We don't think about it as a place to get internet access, community ... services."

OPL offers resources for applying for citizenship, English Learner materials, GED courses, career readiness information, college prep, legal aid and connections to outside social services. Additionally, library branches are quiet, climate-controlled buildings with free internet and computer access.

"It's a [safe] place to be a person," Omar said.

However, many students do not have access to public libraries. Omar, Lehn and Flaherty-Colling cited poverty, language and inconvenient work schedules as barriers to library access. Additionally, once a student becomes a teenager, getting set up at a public library may be intimidating or unfamiliar because students feel they should have gotten a card sooner.

"We [as teachers] are in a position of really wanting to touch students' future interactions with services that are available to them," Flaherty-Colling said.

By traveling to the library via city buses, students learned routes to the library from Central. ORBT, Metro and Moby



Photo Courtesy of MARTHA OMAR

transportation is free for all K-12 students, and numerous transit stops are within walking distance of Central.

Understanding Omaha's public transportation allows for access to any part of Omaha on a bus line, and therefore increased independence and academic, social or employment opportunities.

"Being able to get on a bus can get them to the next level," Flaherty-Colling said. "You can't underestimate the power of access."

Science teacher Matthew Hamill, Omar and Lehn said public education, public libraries and public transportation all have a similar goal: access.

"Access to knowledge, access to places, access to a huge body of knowledge ... to me, public libraries and public education, those are the backbones of our democracy," Hamill said. "If you are going to have a democracy, you have to have educated citizens."

Visit omahalibrary.org for information on OPL locations

Central part of mass rabies vaccination campaign

Isabella Smith
contributing writer

Central High School is one of the 43 Omaha Public Schools that are involved in a mass campaign against rabies after a stray kitten was taken in with a strain not found locally.

The United States Department of Agriculture and Centers for Disease Control are actively working to stop the spread of rabies along with other local agencies.

Two of these agencies are Nebraska Humane Society and Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services, which are working directly with CDC to help trap and test any animals who may be acting abnormally.

"We're trying to quantify the risk that we may have here," Douglas County Health Director Dr. Lindsay Huse said in a statement.

The main reason these organizations are taking great precautions is because they do not want this particular strain of rabies to spread; if it does it can put humans and their pets at risk. "What we're worried about is the raccoon variant showing up in Douglas County," Huse said.

OPS is helping set up these traps in any school from F to Fort streets and from 72nd Street to the Missouri River. The traps are placed out of walkways and ultimately hidden from view.

Once the animals are trapped, they are tested, vaccinated, and tagged to know which animals have been assessed.

According to data from Douglas County's enhanced rabies surveillance program, there has been 245 animals tested for rabies since November 1 and all of them have come back negative. Another way they are combating this is by distributing 18,000 oral vaccine bait packets throughout Douglas County.

Rabies is almost always a fatal disease if unvaccinated so that's why there have been all of these precautions and steps to stop an outbreak like this from happening. "We hope to be able to save those pet and human exposures and the tens of millions of dollars it would cost if it were to become established here," Huse said.

New Quiz Bowl team bonds over shared quirky knowledge

Millie Jackson
staff writer

Central's new quiz bowl team, run by math teacher Rachel Mulder, was established at the beginning of this year, and there are currently about a dozen members.

Mulder enjoyed teaching a quiz bowl team at her old schools, Ralston and Burke, and she was thrilled to make the announcement that Central would have a team this year. Many students were also thrilled to see there would be a team.

The team environment has been described as encouraging and positive.

"The team environment is another great aspect of the activity. If you don't know something, your teammates likely will," senior Brayden Simpson said.

Some members were previously on a middle school team, which inspired their decision to join the team this year.

"I joined quiz bowl because of my positive experience in middle school and the wonderful teammates I knew I would have," senior Valur Jaksha said.

The team practices on Tuesdays after school. A usual practice consists of Kahoots and questions from previous competitions with buzzers. Mulder said it can be hard to study because you never know what is coming in the competitions.

The team recently had their first competition and placed second. There were 14 teams competing and Central won the round robin, which decides who is predicted to perform best in the competition. The team was the number one seed going into the afternoon.

"It's nice to have a well-rounded team. One of our students is really good at math, one is really good at social studies, one knows a lot about music, so it's a good way to get a mixture of strengths," Mulder said.

At competitions, there are four people on a team. When the question is presented, whoever buzzes in must answer within 10 seconds. If the question is answered correctly, the student is given another question where they can consult their team. If the answer is incorrect or the student is out of time, the other team is given the opportunity to answer.

"The [sharing] of knowledge is what makes us a successful



Photo Courtesy of Rachel Mulder

From left to right: Brayden Simpson, Valur Jaksha, Sam Morris, Jaden Cheloha, Charlie Yale. "Quizbowl is fantastic," Yale said. "It's a great output for all of this otherwise useless knowledge that I possess. And, the community that we have around the team is wonderful."

team, and you've got to be willing to listen just as much as you are willing to talk," Jaksha said.

There is a competition coming up in December, to which Mulder hopes to send two teams.

Mulder said that the team is still open to new members.

"You don't have to be the smartest person in your class to

do well at this; you just have to have something that you are strong in," Mulder said.

Central gym to get scoreboard update next season

Ethan Hughes
staff writer

On Oct. 9, the Omaha Public Schools (OPS) Board of Education agreed on a plan to get new scoreboards for most high schools in OPS installed by Digital Scoreboards, LLC. Central's scoreboard is in a package with North and Benson scoreboards, which costs an overall \$698,993. Other high schools had separate packages approved.

Rather than being a standard scoreboard, the planned replacement is going to be a video screen, which can show videos alongside the current score.

According to Robert Locken, athletic director at Central High School, this plan has been on-and-off for around seven years. The current plan doesn't go into effect until after the season is over, Locken said. The current scoreboard is outdated, so they felt the need to replace it.



WHITMAN RUTLEDGE | The Register

According to Robert Locken, athletic director at Central High School, this plan has been on-and-off for around seven years.

Winter choir concert set for Dec. 5

Gaby Antunez
contributing writer

On Dec. 5 the choir groups will have their second concert at Central High School which is their winter concert.

Choir teacher Kathryn Bohn is helping students get ready and prepared. Students like Kennya Marilyn Peña and Tyler Wayne Cook are getting ready to perform at the winter concert. They had a concert at First United Methodist Church on Oct. 3, Bohn thought the fall concert went really well.

"The first concert of the year is really exciting and also a challenge because it's every group's first time singing together usually so I thought there were things that went really well and things that could be improved also," she said. She is very proud and happy how it went last year and knows what the groups should improve on.

They are learning a lot of new music, Peña's favorite song being "Once upon a December" by Lynn Ahrens and Cook's favorite song being "Stars" by Eriks Esenvalds. They are focusing

on getting those as good as possible. "We practice the music, work on any issues then memorize it" Bohn said. They are continuously learning those new songs and moving past the fall concert songs. She thinks it will be just as good as the first concert and if not even better.

She is excited to see what all the groups are going to perform and is looking forward to all of them. She doesn't conduct all the choir groups, she conducts three of them, but she is still just as excited to see the other groups.

"I'm looking forward to hearing the groups that I don't conduct and seeing what they've been working on," Bohn said. They will be many groups performing but she has high expectations for all of them and knows they will all do well.

Peña is a soprano in bel canto group, which Bohn teaches. Peña and Tyler believe that the songs are going really well because they learned a lot from one another from the last

concert. "We've gotten pretty used to each other's voices at this point and can harmonize really well. If something is not working out, we can talk it over so that we can work through each other's voices," Peña said.

The group has learned a lot from the fall concert and know how to dodge obstacles if they ever come across any. Tyler also thinks it is going good but is having a little trouble but he is getting used to it. They are both in their second year in choir.

Both Cook and Peña took choir again because it has always been a passion of theirs. "I love singing and I had a lot of fun in junior choir last year and wanted to continue it," Cook said.

Peña joined choir again because she wants to make new friends. "You could make pretty great friends in there who are interested in the same things you're interested in," she said.

Sophomores explore career opportunities through pathways



Journalism pathway sophomores, Isacc Percival-Aizenberg (sitting) and Raven Brye, went to University of Nebraska, Omaha on Eagles Take Flight Day.

BRODY HILGENKAMP | The Register

Grace Sunseri
staff writer

Central sophomores took part in a day centered on their pathways on Oct. 4. “Eagle Take Flight Day” was a day of career related activities. Half the day was a field trip or guest speaker, and the other half was PreACT prep from John Baylor, who owns the company OnToCollege.

Not everyone left Central, though. The political science students stayed at school and listened to invited speakers Judge Joseph F. Bataillon and Dr. Randall Adkins.

Political science student Chloe Wilkins felt the day was boring and had some ideas for what can be changed for future years. “Let the political science pathway do something more fun... like go to a courthouse or visit a law school,” she said.

The IB students did however leave the nest for the day. The pre-IB students went to the Durham Museum. At the Durham they got a tour and looked at the exhibits. The students also participated in a scavenger hunt.

IB pathway student Audriana Reese said it was fun but didn’t relate to their pathway. “I feel like it was just to help us with our problem solving and teamwork skills...,” Reese said. “We are going to be in class with these same kids for the next two years, so we need to be able to work together.”

Another pathway that left the building were the International Business and Finance stu-

dents. They went to the First National Bank building and got a tour to see what the day-to-day is like for someone who works there. Sophomore Benjamin Dempsey found this day especially useful for international business students.

“I got an idea of what my life would look like if I continued with my pathway after high school,” Dempsey said.

The Fine and Applied art pathway also stayed put at Central. Many artists from around the city and Joslyn Art Museum staff members came and were arranged through Central’s partnership with the Joslyn. Students used new media and created self-portraits using ink. Sophomore Maurice Sherrod enjoyed it, but felt it wasn’t needed for him.

“It kind of benefited me, but I really wasn’t that excited for it because I already know what I want to do with the arts,” Sherrod said.

One more pathway that went off campus was Global Health Science. This pathway went to the University of Nebraska Medical Center. There they toured the education building and got to get hands-on in a surgical lab. Some students even got to mimic CPR on a dummy and “resuscitate” it.

Sophomore Aoife Healy, who got to go on this trip, enjoyed and valued this experience.

“I loved it,” Healy said. “I thought it was really cool we got to explore a possible future at the Med center.”

Inaugural two-sentence spooky story contest hosted by library

Paris Moore
contributing writer

Disclaimer: Some of the short stories have been copy-edited for clarity.

For Halloween this year, the Book Club hosted a two-sentence spooky story contest for the very first time at Central High School.

This idea came from universities that have hosted similar events many times over the last few years. “Why not bring the fun here?” said Jen Kawecki, a Central librarian and the club’s sponsor. The window to submit a spooky story closed Oct. 27, and there were 159 submissions in total and three winners chosen.

The chosen few were picked by the Book Club themselves, who read and judged all the stories together. Winners of the contest were selected on Halloween and announced the day after. The prizes for first place were a \$25 gift card to The Next Chapter bookstore and a \$6 gift card to Zen Coffee. The second-place prize was a \$10 gift card to The Next Chapter, and the third-place prize was a \$6 gift card to Zen.

The winner of the contest, coming in first place, was Connor Jorgensen with the story, “The

crisp night air sent chills up my spine as I pushed my way through the cornfield bordering our house, calling for my lost dog. When I finally saw a pair of animal eyes in front of me, I should have been ecstatic, but my dog isn’t taller than me.”

In second place was English teacher Kelsey Baldrige with the story, “My mask is atrocious, blood-curdling and so ghastly the faux rotted flesh made my best friend cry, and my dog scampered into hiding. Tears of laughter stream down my face — I try to rip off the mask — tears cascade, but not from laughter.”

And at a tie for third place were Ray Barrett and Scout Vacek. Barrett’s story was, “Our hands join together in the watery tomb home to one grave. As you sink down, I continue to rise; our exchange of human breath and beating hearts tangled in the bubbles of your yells — as you take your final bow, I make our entrance with a new soul in tow.”

Vacek’s story was, “As she lay in her bed, she heard her own voice softly whispering from the closet, ‘I’m here.’ The chilling part: she lived alone and hadn’t spoken all night.”

Apply2College campaign draws over 400 seniors, 800 applications

Brayden Simpson
staff writer

Over 400 seniors completed college applications through EducationQuest’s Apply2College program this October.

The campaign called students down to counselor Angela Meyer’s office every Tuesday during the month, where several advisors were on standby to assist students using the Common App, Naviance, or an online application form.

The Apply2College program is part of a national effort by EducationQuest to help high school seniors prepare for their futures. Central has been using EducationQuest to assist with applying to college for years, and Meyer said this year’s results are typical to those past, but that it took more effort than it used to.

“Block scheduling makes it more difficult to reach students,” Meyer said. Still, more than 800 applications were filled throughout October.

Individually, however, the program was quite simple. Seniors received passes to travel

to Meyer’s office during class on Tuesdays. Upon arrival, they were asked about any applications they had already completed. From there, students received assistance with linking their Naviance to the Common App, acquiring recommendation letters, and filling out applications to local and state schools. They then were given a free T-shirt and a bag of Wild Berry Skittles and sent on their way.

Meyer urges students who have not yet completed an application not to worry, as it is normal for seniors. What is important is that they are thinking about their futures.

“Whether your plan is to go to college, enlist in the military, attend a trade school, or direct employment, it is important to have a Plan A, B and C,” Meyer said. “If students need help with their desired plan, we have counselors ready to help students take that next step.”

College planning aid does not stop in October for Meyer. She works yearlong to help students prepare for the future. Eagles in need are encouraged to reach out at angela.meyer@ops.org or make an appointment to meet in Room 134.

“If students have not completed their college application, it’s never too late,” Meyer said. “Every day is Apply2College day in my office!”

Activity cards free for all OPS students

Jane McGill
staff writer

Omaha Public Schools students will no longer have to pay to play sports or attend games hosted at OPS schools following an overhaul of athletics funding in the district. Student fees for activity cards and entry into sporting events, previously the main revenue source for athletics in the district, were waived for the 2023-2024 school year by the OPS School Board at an August meeting upon the recommendation of OPS administrators.

"We were looking to provide equal opportunities across the district," said OPS Athletics Coordinator Dr. John Krogstrand, who spearheaded the planning of the new funding formula. "We thought we could really have a better impact with more consistent funding across the district through a different model than being so reliant on things like gate receipts."

The formula provides \$45,000 to each OPS high school plus funding multipliers for the size of the school's student body and the number of students eligible for OPS Educational Benefits, which are available to students from low-income households, households receiving food stamps or federal nutrition assistance, students in foster care, as well as migrant, runaway, or homeless students.

Before the new funding formula was adopted, OPS high schools that sold fewer activity cards and tickets to home games had less money to fund athletics, a system Krogstrand argued led to unequal opportunities across the district.

The \$45 activity card fees were also waived for students eligible for OPS Educational Benefits, almost guaranteeing less money for athletic departments at schools with a higher proportion of students struggling with poverty. Schools will keep all money earned by non-OPS students and staff attending games they host with the new funding formula.

OPS estimates that the athletic budgets will increase at every high school in the district, by an average of 170%. Central's athletic department will see the smallest increase of any high school, at 88%, but is projected to have a total budget of over \$180,000 this school year, the second highest after South High.

"It's a better way of funding athletics," said Central Athletic Director Rob Locken. "Before, I didn't really have a set budget, it was just whatever number of kids bought activity cards and whatever we made [from game attendees]. Now, we have a guaranteed distribution of funds, which will help us a lot."

Krogstrand said that the new funding formula will ensure equal opportunities for students regardless of which school they attend. "We wanted to remove the funding roadblock to having the most equitable opportunities possible at any of our buildings," he said. "We want to make sure that students are properly equipped to participate in games as compared to any other district."

Under the contract the district ratified with the Omaha Education Association in February all OPS teachers, their spouses and children will also be allowed free entry into games hosted at OPS schools.

"We're trying to provide for all of our kids at any of our schools with this formula. It was about trying to find the most fair and equitable way to address some of those differences across the district," Krogstrand said.

- Sports Editor Ann Carlson contributed reporting to this story.

Clubs host cultural celebration to highlight student body

Central High School is one of the most diverse schools in the state of Nebraska, and several clubs hosted a Cultural Roots night Nov. 4 at Gene Leahy Mall to highlight the different cultures represented at the school. DECA, Latino Leaders, Black Student Leadership Council and Asian Culture Club organized the event.

PHOTOS BY JILL BERTINO | The O-Book



Latino students pay respect during Día de los Muertos

Paula Gutiérrez Martínez
contributing writer

Grandparents, great grandparents, beloved pets, Central alumni, and even celebrities. These are among the lost loved ones honored in Latino Leaders' Día de los Muertos ofrenda, which was on display all of November.

Día de los Muertos is not, as is commonly thought, Mexican Halloween. The holiday is celebrated every Nov. 1 and 2 throughout Mexico and much of the Americas. It is believed that on these days, the border between the spirit world and the real world is dissolved, and the souls of the dead can return to their families to feast, drink, dance, and play music.

"The ofrenda is very important in Mexican culture because it's remembering our dead and instead of worshipping a god they worship their ancestors and that basically is what an ofrenda is for," said Cam Doña-Muñoz, the activities coordinator during the creation of the ofrenda. "It's an altar to worship and remember your ancestors with little mementos of their life and their stories passed down of the things they did in life."

To welcome back the deceased, living family members build ofrendas in their homes. Many

of them have some key elements: photos of the deceased, candles and incense, cempasúchil flowers, or marigolds, sweets, the deceased's favorite foods, and skulls.

For Latino Leaders, Día de los Muertos is more than just an opportunity to raise awareness and educate students about Latino heritage and culture. It's a way to keep the memories and traditions passed down through generations alive, and a way to remember and celebrate the things that made their childhood special.

Latino Leaders had made ofrendas in the past, but this year they wanted to go above and beyond. "We are going to have a voice in this school and we are going to make it big. Let them listen to us," said Emma Miranda, a senior and the president of the club.

Students from various cultures worked together in the assembly of the ofrenda, many of them contributing photos of their families. The preparations for the ofrenda ranged from crinkling colorful tissue paper for the handmade cempasúchil flowers to making forms for any students who wished to submit pictures of their loved ones.

Latino Leaders is looking forward to a busy year of upcoming projects, including their annual Cinco de Mayo parade.

BSLC works to increase engagement

Hadley Forsen-Yepes
chief copy editor

Officers of Central's Black Student Leadership Council hope to host more events and increase engagement after last year's low membership.

BSLC is "an organization that focuses on bringing young Black students and Black people together; that way, we can give back to the community," said Harrison Jordan, a senior and Central's BSLC vice president. The club also allows Black students and their communities to educate themselves about their history.

When Jordan was applying to attend Central, he was excited to see BSLC listed as a club offered at the school. When he got here, he was saddened to discover that Central's chapter was not active due to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was not until the 2022-2023 school year that BSLC was revived at Central.

BSLC's current president, junior Uriya Mushwas, has fond memories associated with last year's council. "It was just amazing ... getting to connect with others as we share the same difficulties in life and how we can bring up ourselves," Mushwas said.

However, students faced many barriers when starting the council back up.

"Last year was kind of rocky for us, simply because we only had like six people in our chapter because it [had] literally just started. We tried to do things around the school, but [administrators] wouldn't let us because they didn't know who we were," said junior Sanaii Houston-Wells, BSLC's chairperson of events.

"Things just weren't working out," Jordan said. "We couldn't really get a set place or a set spot and set time for our meetings,

so most of the time it was online ... it was just kind of challenging to get actual people to join."

But the head of Omaha BSLC took notice of Mushwas, Jordan and Houston-Wells because of their commitment and passion for the council and suggested that they lead Central's chapter this year. Jordan said they could not refuse.

The new officers have big plans for BSLC, but these plans first require higher engagement. The council has already seen a significant increase in membership, with approximately 20 people attending the first meeting and more showing up at each successive gathering.

"Right now, we're kind of planning on doing drives, so that would be our way of giving back to the community," Jordan said. Additionally, the council is planning to host events, such as an all-chapter meet and greet dinner on Nov. 15, where new, old and prospective members from across Omaha will have the opportunity to mingle over food and drinks.

"We do a lot of fun stuff," Houston-Wells said. "A lot of people, when they hear about BSLC, are like, 'Oh, it's just another school thing.' No! No, it's not! We travel, we go places, we have dinners, we do programs and meet and greets and we have career opportunities, not just college opportunities."

Houston-Wells and Mushwas both expressed their anticipation of BSLC's Black History Month program. Houston-Wells described the program as a more well-rounded approach to Black history than is typical, which usually does not include the dancing, poetry and Black history facts that the program features. "It's not just you sitting in a classroom and learning about it; it's you engaging, listening to music and stuff like

that," Houston-Wells said.

BSLC also hosts a Black history tour over the summer that invites members to visit Black monuments, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), and history museums, as well as savor food from Black-owned restaurants. This past summer, the council took students on a week-long trip to Tulsa, Okla.; Nashville, Tenn.; Houston, Texas; and New Orleans, La.

Other than the community outreach, learning and travel opportunities the council has given its members, Jordan's favorite part of BSLC is the bonds he has formed because of it. "It's nice because you meet so many different other Black people that you can relate to," Jordan said. "Honestly, sometimes you can't even relate to them for real, but ... you just put that behind you, and you're just celebrating your Blackness together."

"[BSLC] brings you out of your comfort zone because when I first joined, I was really shy and quiet ... when I met these people, they were just so lively and vibrant. I became a part of that, and it changes you for the better," Mushwas said.

Jordan's experience with BSLC was similar to Mushwas'. He said he used to be quiet but has become more social since joining. Jordan hopes that members will gain leadership from being on the council and develop a sense of individualism while still being surrounded by a network of like-minded peers.

If Mushwas wants members to take one thing away from the Black Student Leadership Council, it is this: "Black is beautiful. Be proud to be Black, be unapologetically Black, be Black, period, in whatever you do. Thrive in it."

Students interested in joining BSLC can attend the council's meetings held every other Tuesday.

Unified bowling wraps up

Josie McLaughlin
staff writer

This 2023 season marks Omaha Central's eighth year of having a Unified Bowling team. Compared to last year's team of 16 Alternate Curriculum Program players, this year Central consists of six ACP students as well as 13 partners on the team.

"We have 10 less ACP kids this year so just the starting pool is smaller," bowling coach Gerald Kreber said.

The unified bowling team started up their season Oct. 24 at Chops Bowling. Central played Omaha South and managed to beat South making this match their first win of season. "We won at bowling; I got a strike," ACP student Zion Dixon said. Unified Bowling is giving Central ACP students an opportunity to be a part of a team and to get out of school and into the community. Bowling provides ACP students with something new and enjoyable to participate in but also something they can practice on and work towards on getting better. "I practice really hard," senior Mario Lopez said.

The partners and mentors on the team are gaining new experiences as well. Partners are able to work with ACP students but also are able to enjoy just getting to bowl. "I'm really likening the season so far," sophomore Edie Titus said. "It's something new and fun to do which I like."

Last season the team was able to make it to state, making it to their fourth game out of five. However the team doesn't just focus on beating other schools, but really puts focus on improving themselves and trying to better their personal score from each match.

"You're competing against another team, yes, but you are also competing against your last score," Kreber said. "Basically, the competitiveness of it is indicative of your score."

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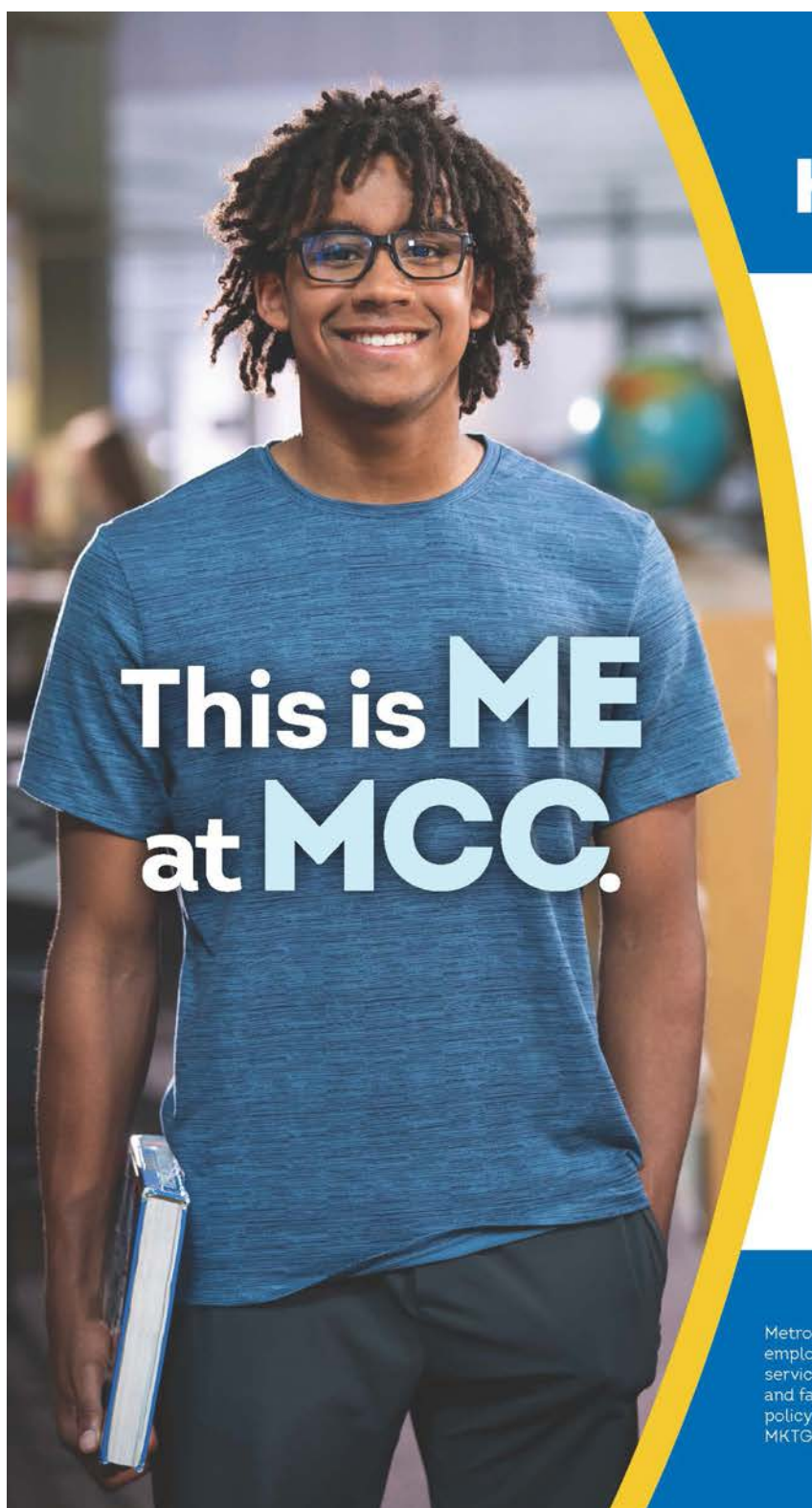
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TEENS TALK POLITICS

Americans lack global involvement

Ethan Hughes
staff writer

In America today, we, the people, have entered a new era – and this one is deeply problematic.

Historically, the United States has generally switched from a globalist point of view (believing in worldwide involvement) to a nationalistic one (believing in a country sticking to itself) and then back again. This is pretty standard for Western countries, with the United Kingdom and Australia also taking this position. But as of late, there are more and more people who just don't care about either. This is an individualistic mindset where the world's and the nation's problems just don't matter; the only thing that matters is the individual.

But I'm here to tell you to knock that off. No individualism, no nationalism. You should care about current global events and how much the US gets involved.

A lot of people shy away from paying attention to foreign affairs. "It won't affect me," they say. "It's their problem, not mine. Why should I care?" But with two separate wars currently capturing the world's attention, this argument begins to fall apart. No longer can we argue that Israel or Ukraine are none of our concern. With a violent "President" Vladimir Putin and a terrorist group in Palestine – and I'm not arguing against Palestinians or saying that Gaza is evil, that's just where the Hamas group originates from – Americans really need to start caring.

We can't ignore two full-out wars and just pretend that they don't exist. It's war! Hundreds of thousands of people have been killed across these two places. At that point, you can no longer argue that it's just some minor fighting in Slavic Europe and the Middle East. As of Aug. 18, around 500,000 people in Ukraine have at minimum been injured, according to the New York Times. As of Nov. 15, more than 11,000 people have died in the Israel/Palestine region, most of whom are civilians and most of them are Palestinian. At this point, not caring is equivalent to saying, "Those lives didn't matter anyway."

But why are we Americans like this? This level of uncaring and personal importance is uniquely American. I think the reason is that the U.S. is isolated – not culturally or politically, but from conflict. There have been no wars on U.S. soil since Hawai'i in World War II, no terrorists killing thousands since 2001 and no power-hungry governments attempting to control our capital since Britain in the Revolutionary War. While this is objectively a good thing, it also isolates the American way of thinking to be very war centric. In most places, war is the last option, but America fights so many wars outside of the country that we've become desensitized to it. We don't feel the dangers of the war we wage because we don't fight wars on American soil. We need to acknowledge that this way of thinking is dangerous, and if we ever run into a land war in North America, in the Contiguous 48 and Alaska, we will regret our lack of empathy for people going through this.

Ironically, America as a government – which historically is terrible at appropriately caring about foreign affairs – seems to care the most about what is happening, especially in Israel and Palestine. This isn't particularly surprising in this case, since they helped set up Israel as an independent nation, but, regardless of whether you support Israel or not, you have to acknowledge that we need to care about this. If the infamously uncaring U.S. government can care, you sure can as well. Pay attention! If you feel like I'm wrong, go out and prove it. Go show you care.

Nebraska's Bacon, other Republican Representatives shift from moderatism

Charlie Yale
co-editor-in-chief

There are no moderate Republicans left in the House of Representatives.

Unfortunately for Omahans, this blanket statement includes Rep. Don Bacon.

As a leader of the Problem Solvers Caucus, a bipartisan group of legislators, Bacon outwardly shows his supposed willingness to work with the other side. And, for a while, many Nebraskans believed him – he's now serving his third term. Bacon himself explained that "[w]e need leaders in Congress who search for areas of agreement and not just where we disagree."

Bacon even stood up to the ultra-conservative agitator Rep. Jim Jordan in his bid for the House Speakership, a position that is second in line to the presidency and the highest position in the House of Representatives. Jordan is the most prominent faces in Congress who tried to overturn the 2020 election. But Bacon showed his true colors on Tuesday when he cast his vote for Rep. Mike Johnson of Louisiana.

Before the Oct. 25 speaker election, most Americans probably wouldn't have been able to pick Mike Johnson out of a lineup of white guys with black hair. But that all changed after three weeks of continued Republican dysfunction in the House of Representatives.

After Rep. Matt Gaetz's ouster of former Speaker Kevin McCarthy, more than 10 different members of the Republican caucus (a group of Congresspeople who vote similarly on issues that matter to them) threw their names into the hat to become Speaker.

Rep. Steve Scalise went down first; he never opted to have the whole Congress vote on his candidacy after failing to convince enough Republicans to vote for him. The Democrats never got the opportunity to vote on his candidacy, but they made it clear that they wouldn't support him. Next up to bat was Jordan, who, after a controversial pressure campaign and three embarrassing floor votes, withdrew from the running. Third was Tom Emmer, who was hailed by former President Donald Trump as a "Globalist [Republican in Name Only]" after Trump withheld support because of Emmer's failure to vote to overturn the election. Still in Trump's grip, the Republican caucus immediately rejected Emmer, even after he repeatedly tried to show his alliance and loyalty to the former President.

The chaos-stricken and exhausted GOP then turned to its fifth option, Mike Johnson. The Louisiana Congressman serving his fourth term is a relative newcomer compared to the rest of the Republican leadership, but he unanimously secured the vote of the Republicans in the House, beating out Democrat Hakeem Jeffries in a final vote of 220-to-209.

Johnson, renowned by many of his colleagues to be a "policy wonk," has had a deeply conservative streak of votes



CRIS BATAILLON | The Register

since he was elected. He was also instrumental in the Republican House Caucus's attempt to overturn the 2020 election. If Jordan was the public face of the House's effort to overturn the election, Mike Johnson was the architect who gave Jordan his marching orders.

Johnson authored and filed a legal brief to the Supreme Court, supported by over half of the House Republicans arguing in favor of overturning election results in Georgia, Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, which would have secured Trump a victory. When asked about this effort during his first press conference, he rejected the question, and the Congressmen around him booed the reporter who asked.

Questioned by a Fox News reporter on his controversial views surrounding LGBTQ+ rights, he responded that his ideology was to "go pick up a Bible." He is for raising the age of Americans to get on entitlement programs like Social Security and Medicare, which means that Americans won't be able to access these vital programs until later in their life. He's railed against no-fault divorce, a practice that makes it easier for people to leave abusive marriages. He also said during a sermon on the campaign trail that gay marriage, abortion and feminism have all led to increased mass shootings.

Before running for Congress, Johnson worked for a group called the Alliance Defending Freedom, classified by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a hate group. The ADF sues and fights on issues surrounding religious freedoms; some of their primary goals include limiting the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, outlawing abortion nationwide and expanding Christian practices within government and the public school system. This paragraph can't contain the entirety of Johnson's unsavory views, and it isn't meant to. But what it is meant to illustrate is the fact that Johnson is nowhere near a moderate.

But Don Bacon still voted for him.

This means either one of two things: either Bacon didn't care about Jordan's policy views, or Bacon believed that his constituency would realize that Johnson is a quieter but more violently effective Jordan.

The former has some backing. Bacon took issue with how Jordan was nominated to become Speaker. Jordan's campaign for Speaker involved slews of constituents calling and pressuring moderates to flip their vote to Jordan from McCarthy or other candidates. Bacon told Nebraska Public Media, "Mr. Jordan needs to make clear that this behavior is wrong. There's been a bullying campaign to corral the votes and they're messing with the wrong people."

It wasn't Jordan's policy that Bacon disagreed with – it was a personal grievance, which is exactly what caused the ouster of McCarthy in the first place.

And Bacon has already had to answer to the latter. In a KETV interview, Bacon told reporters that he disagreed with Johnson on his vote to certify the 2020 election. But what Bacon needs to realize is that this sentiment is nowhere near enough to convince voters that he didn't just elevate an election denier and a far-right MAGA conservative to the seat that is second-in-line to the Presidency. Bacon tried to paint Johnson as an individual who respected the institution of the House of Representatives, but Johnson has shown how he uses his position to skirt the rule of law.

There's no turning back for Bacon. Moderate House Republicans have earned the nickname "squishes," a cheeky insult at their apparent willingness to fall in line behind party leadership and negotiate with Democrats. And for at least three votes, journalists and policy wonks thought that the squishes had grown spines and become vertebrates.

But the elevation of Johnson showed that Bacon and the rest of the squishes did what they do best: fold over in the face of hard right conservatism.

Scouting benefits continue in high school p. 9

I've been a Girl Scout for the past 10 years, and even today, the skills I learned as a kindergarten Daisy Girl Scout continue to improve my life.

My experience with Girlhood p. 9

It was maybe the end of August when I was mindlessly going through my social media and came across Girlhood, a blog for teenage girls run by teenage girls.

Do teachers trust their colleagues? p. 10

As a kid who has grown up going to different Omaha Public Schools, I would hope my teachers would be confident enough in their profession to send their kids to a public school.

Consent, communication essential p. 11

Today, I would like to share with you how to engage in safe sex; more specifically, I would like to discuss consent and communication.

My experience with Girlhood

Arisa Lattison
arts & culture editor

It was maybe the end of August when I was mindlessly going through my social media and came across Girlhood, a blog for teenage girls run by teenage girls. Applications were open, and I decided to try my chances after learning more about the organization and what it stood for. A week later, right when I was starting to lose hope, I got the email enclosing my acceptance. “Hey Arisa!” it said. “We are excited to inform you that out of over 4,000 Girlhood applications, we reviewed yours and thought you’d be a perfect fit for our team.”

I was overjoyed. At the time of my application, there’d only been around 1,000 applicants, and I was surprised to know that the number had grown exponentially in the mere days since.

But what exactly is Girlhood? Girlhood is a nonprofit, student-run blog that encourages girls to share their experiences and bond with others. Started by two girls in Washington, it works to include diverse perspectives and doubles as both a community and a resource.

“We want every girl to know that they belong and that there are girls all over the world willing to help,” the website reads. “Every girl has a story, and Girlhood gives them a chance to share it.”

I really liked the message they were promoting, and the volunteer roles they had available also suited my interests. Their primary positions were big sister, blogger and graphic designer. As a big sister, you are responsible for responding to submissions seeking advice on situations. Bloggers write about their personal lives to share what they are going through, and graphic designers are in charge of creating social media posts or covers for blogs.

When I first tried the big sister position, I was able to read about the experiences of other girls around the world. Some of them were heart-wrenching, some I could relate to, and some were so outright crazy that I couldn’t formulate a response. I wrote around five emails a day as I went through submissions, all illustrating both unique and universal situations.

I tried writing a couple of blogs with prompts given to me by Sophia Rundle, a founder of Girlhood. One I wrote was on

the topic of finding intrinsic motivation rather than external motivators, and I found this to not only help others but also myself. It felt good to be able to self-reflect on my own experiences while knowing my story would benefit others. A few hours after my blog was published, a girl reached out to me on Instagram, thanking me for the message behind my blog. She loved my intentions behind it and found it to be relatable.

Graphic design was another thing I tried my hand at. I’ve always loved making little designs on Canva or decorating my stories on social media to be aesthetically pleasing, so I thought this would be a good fit for me. The first post I worked on for social media was inspired by a checklist I keep to help determine whether my romantic interests are right for me or not. Once people are invested, their judgment tends to get a bit clouded, so having a list really helped me, and I wanted to share that with others. This post, once uploaded, also received very positive feedback.

Now, I rotate positions, doing whichever suits my schedule and what I’m up for that week. They all have a special place in my heart, as I love the elements of each role.

I talked to Mia Sugimoto, one of the founders of Girlhood, about why they had decided to start it.

She said she was inspired by the “Barbie” movie, one that had a big impact on girls as she witnessed reactions of “girls of all ages through tears and smiles.”

“Later that night, I came up with the idea of Girlhood,” she said. “I wanted to create a safe space for girls, encapsulating the feeling in the movie theater.”

With this, she began creating the website with Rundle, and through social media communities, the organization spread. They came out with their first promotional post on Aug. 20, 2023.

“Girlhood showed that when girls come together, they can create something magical,” Sugimoto said. “I encourage everyone, regardless of [their] gender, to check out our website. You are not alone; you are loved and belong to this world.”

So far, the community is positive, and I’ve yet to see any instances where there’s been public negativity. Within the volunteers, things are also very connected. We all have a group chat on Snapchat and discuss our everyday activities along with tasks involving the organization. The girls are people I



Photo Courtesy of MIA SUGIMOTO

can trust with things that are gnawing at the back of my mind and also just to talk about updates with our personal lives. I think the community is very beautiful at the moment and can continue to blossom.

There is a chance that the platform could take a turn for the worse. If our resources are abused or conflicts break out within the volunteers, negativity is more likely. However, I think that the people chosen to be a part of Girlhood were chosen very carefully to fit the image, and that all things have the potential to go awry. It’s just a factor that comes with bigger communities, and it’s one we can only overcome when the situation arises.

For now, I appreciate what Girlhood has to offer me and all its impacts.

“We are grateful that so many girls are wanting to support others in any way possible,” Sugimoto said. “A beautiful message is being spread throughout social media, and that has been our goal since the beginning.”

Scouting benefits continue in high school

Fiona Bryant
opinion editor

I’ve been a Girl Scout for the past 10 years, and even today, the skills I learned as a kindergarten Daisy Girl Scout continue to improve my life. Ten years of practicing cash handling, creating sales pitches, identifying issues in my community, and fostering interpersonal skills have allowed me to excel in jobs and volunteer work.

I know how to make change for a customer or become involved in my community. I have continued with Girl Scouts because of the opportunities and life skills the program grants me. This winter, I am participating in a program that teaches car care, cooking skills, financial literacy and career readiness; with the program’s completion, a \$1,000 scholarship is awarded. In my last two years as an Ambassador Girl Scout, I also hope to explore the opportunities and scholarships opened as soon as I earn the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Yet, even with the extensive and similar benefits of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts, many Scouts drop out of Scouting around late middle school or would never consider joining Scouts for the first time in high school. Sticking with Scouting provides high schoolers with these benefits in preparing for post-secondary paths.

For college-bound students, Scouting is an excellent extracurricular and form of volunteer work for an application. Earning a Gold Award or Eagle Scout Award also makes one eligible for numerous scholarships on the regional and national levels. For students joining the military, Gold Award Girl Scouts and Eagle Scouts can be ranked up upon entry. On job applications, Scout membership shows employers that an applicant has contributed to their community, has customer service experience from selling cookies or popcorn, and has developed the traits of a Scout.

The Boy Scouts of America (BSA) strives to “prepare young people to make ethical and moral choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law,” as stated in their mission statement. Members of BSA are reported as being more likely than non-members to embrace positive social values, have a greater sense of hope for their future, and develop kindness, helpfulness and cheerfulness.

The Girl Scouts of the United States of America’s (GSA) mission statement outlines Girl Scouts as building “girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.” According to a 2017 study by the GSA, Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to exhibit strong leadership outcomes; earn “excellent” grades; graduate college; feel hopeful about their future; and aspire to STEM, business and law careers.

For junior Ryan Dang, who has earned his Eagle Scout Award, staying with Scouts was worth it. Boy Scouts has equipped Dang with camping skills, perseverance and job interview experience. “We’re not torn into adulthood so quickly...[Boy Scouts] does a pretty good job of transitioning from kid to a teenager to an adult,” Dang said. Dang said he has an advantage over non-Scouts in his readiness for life. “I think I’m a lot more prepared than other boys my age,” Dang said.

Time restraints are often a barrier to continuing with or joining Scouts in high school. Attending monthly meetings, council activities and finding the time to sell cookies or popcorn with a troop can be hard to fit into a high school schedule. Even if someone has time for Scouts, they do not necessarily have time to devote to the over-80-hour service project that many Scouts work towards. However, joining Scouts is an investment in one’s future. The life skills and development of character are not just extracurriculars; everyone will need to learn these skills at some point. Scouting teaches these skills before students enter the professional or post-secondary world. Devoting time to Scouts now will pay off in the saved time and leg-up in your future. For instance, the financial literacy badges I have earned over the years will make managing my money as an adult that much easier.

The benefits of being a Boy Scout or Girl Scout do not stop in elementary or middle school. In preparing for adulthood, Scouting is an invaluable asset. Both the BSA and the GSA aim to provide youth with the necessary social, moral and life skills to make a difference and be successful adults. Girl Scouts has been the number one factor in developing my confidence and sense of responsibility.

The appropriate time to decorate

Katie Besancon
staff writer

The time is coming when people are starting to decorate for the holiday season, but when is the proper time to decorate? The official start of winter, which many assume is the proper time, is Dec. 21. This seems to be extremely late, but before Halloween seems entirely too early.

Many decorate for the holidays after Halloween because that is when a lot of the holiday drinks are released, the weather gets colder, snow may start to fall and holiday music starts to be played more often on the radio.

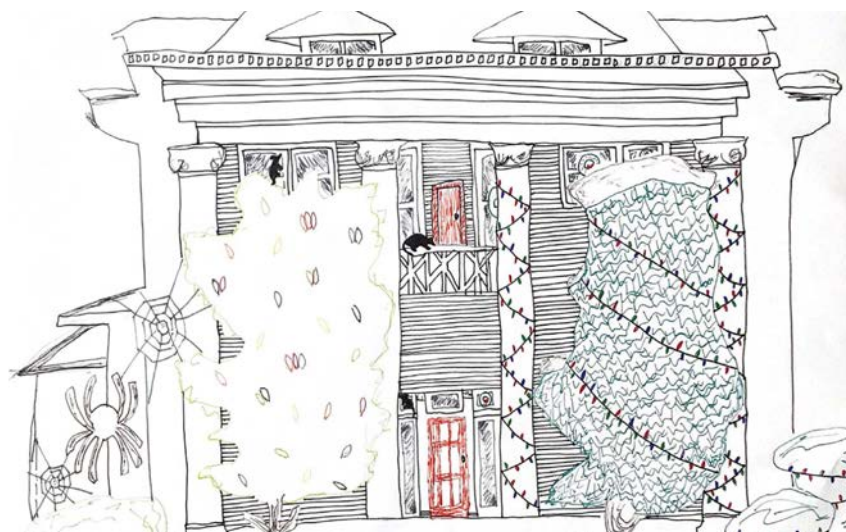
The first day of November is the proper time to decorate for the holidays. You are leaving Halloween and all the fall decorations in October, with only one exception — Thanksgiving. I think, when decorating the day after Halloween, the decorations should be minimal, and as you creep closer to the holiday season, you add more. That way, when Thanksgiving comes around, you are still able to have some of the fall decorations out to celebrate that holiday.

Once Thanksgiving is done, though, it is full swing into the holiday season, with all the holiday movies, drinks, scents, baking, pajamas and traditions that many partake in.

I believe that decorating for the holidays around the beginning of November is the best option because you have been able to enjoy the fall decorations for about three months. Normally, you find a lot of people decorating for fall around the end of August to the beginning of September, and once Thanksgiving comes around, you have reached those three months.

This is just in time for the holiday season to creep up and to start taking down those fall decorations to put up all the holiday décor. Once it becomes November and the weather gradually becomes less enjoyable, but before all the snow starts falling, putting up holiday decorations is the perfect pastime.

Some believe that the holiday decorations should go up after Thanksgiving because it is still its own holiday and deserves to have its own decorations. However, when Thanksgiving comes around, you are starting to near the end of the enjoyment of those seasonal fall decorations. Everything is starting to die, and it feels more like winter than fall around Thanksgiving, especially in the Midwest. While, yes, Thanksgiving is its own holiday, you still have some decorations out from the fall, making it easier on Nov. 24 (the day after Thanksgiving) to “Deck the Halls” and go all out with your holiday decorations.



ELLA LEVY | The Register

Is less really less?

Becca Rock
staff writer

Minimalism is an extreme that I will never be able to accomplish. In homes, minimalism is seen as bland, white plastered walls and no sense of a “welcome” into a home. In lifestyles, it is letting go and not holding on to material items, which is seen as a stress reliever in the busy modern life. There needs to be a middle ground, a place where minimalism can be based on reducing consumption and not on the idea that color and design need to be minimized.

In the 1960s, several artists were breaking through the normality and restrictions in “fine” art. This was the idea that art was seen only as classical and a picture of ideas of world events. Artists adopted the idea of minimalism, which resulted in geometrical shapes and simple art with metaphors behind their pieces.

This idea of simplistic design transferred to mainstream media in the early 2000s. “Less is more,” was a statement in the design and arts industry. Many bloggers state how their life is perfect because they have disconnected from material items. They have disconnected from their lives being full of color and creativity- while ignoring their own personalities.

Minimalism was started by Millennials being a part of the climate change movement to lessen the material

objects one uses. While this idea of using less to save the planet is good in theory, it takes away someone’s individual personality by pushing the idea of “plain” over the idea of using less. One can still use fewer material items without their personality not being reflected in their spaces.

Today, people live in houses that don’t reflect them as people because of a loss of individual personality. For example, YouTuber Emma Chamberlain’s home in 2020 did not reflect her eclectic bold and spontaneous personality. Her home was full of wasted space that followed the ideas of minimalism. The walls were white, and from the background of her videos, the house seemed cold, dull and depressing. This home had an open floor layout creating a plethora of wasted space- while being “minimalistic.”

In September 2022, Chamberlain finished designing an eclectic-style home that reflects her as a person. She was finally able to create a space that she felt comfortable in. Her father’s art covered the walls and the rooms felt warm and cohesive.

The United States suburbs have homes that all look copied and pasted. The U.S. has adopted regulations in these suburbs that control how people can express their own personalities in houses. In many suburban neighborhoods, residents are forced to only paint their homes white,

gray or gray blue. Differing from these few options can lead to fines from the neighborhood association. Thus, to fit this theme of neutral colors, the inside of these homes follow suit with white walls, white furnishings and no creativity. People’s spaces should reflect themselves as people. One should feel comfortable in their home.

This idea of minimalism is said to reduce one uses of items and lead to a better world where we as a society can stop the trend of mass consumption.

I agree to save the planet from the effects of climate change, we need to lessen our use of products especially in fast fashion and consumerism. But the idea of minimalism needs to be “re-branded” into showing that minimalism is consuming less, living with less, and using items that are already created, while not over constantly needing the “new” and “trendy”.

A way to combat this is buying secondhand which is one of the only ways as a society we can slow down climate change in consumerism.

Thus, my issue is not with the overall idea of minimalism as a way to lessen one’s effects on the planet and to live a simpler life. The idea of taking personality out of the items one owns is the issue.

Do teachers trust their colleagues?

Isabel Hoiberg
web editor

As a kid who has grown up going to different Omaha Public Schools, I would hope my teachers would be confident enough in their profession to send their kids to a public school.

“I think public education is critical. I am a firm believer in the value of public education, or I wouldn’t be working in it,” said sociology teacher and Central alumnus Casey Denton. “And I think the health of a public education system is a great indicator of the health of the public. And I think the health of a public education system is a great indicator of the health of a society. The more the investment in education, the more the investment in the youth and the future of that society.”

Denton is part of the 77% of Central teachers, according to a survey I conducted of more than 50 teachers, with children old enough to be in school and is also part of the 4% who send their kids to a private school.

Along with her husband, Denton went to Saint Cecilia for grade school and Central for high school, which is the path they decided to send their son on as well.

They chose to send their son to Saint Cecilia because he would be getting more personal attention in small class sizes, he would be getting knowledge about Christian principles and the diversity and inclusion this seemingly small school prioritizes.

“We felt like we were getting the best of both worlds there where he gets some elements of the real-world microcosm diversity,” Denton said. “But he also has a smaller, more controlled sheltered setting, which we thought was both really important for us growing up.”

Her ultimate goal is for her son to then have the “social maturation and awakening by coming to Central [for high school].”

Denton was the only teacher to give her name and talk about why she chooses to send her child to a Catholic school. To me, this hesitancy to discuss why they send their kids to private schools communicates a lack of faith in the public school system.

Many students realize there are teachers who put their children in private schools, but never draw a conclusion that they may send their kids to public schools outside of OPS.

Jordan Boyer is in his 15th year as a teacher at Central and has two children who go to Papillion La-Vista South.

He went to public school his whole life and gives credit to his social studies teacher for being the reason he got into teaching.

Boyer said his children had every opportunity to come to Central but their overall pull to stay in Papillion La Vista Community Schools was staying with the friend groups they grew up with.

“And so that friend group, just the comfort level and everything, I just don’t know that they could see themselves outside of it,” Boyer said.

There is overall a difference between suburban and urban public schools.

“I’ve been happy with my kids’ education at Papillion, but there is a part of me that feels like if they were to come to an OPS school, I think it would be pretty difficult for them to do the same type of teaching that they do in Papillion as they do in OPS,” Boyer said. “I mean, there’s all sorts of other challenges there that you don’t have in the suburbs. And it’s just a natural thing.”

Although it does not seem like it, there are teachers who send their children to not just Omaha Public Schools, but to Central High School.

Brent Larson has been teaching math at Central for 25 years and has two children: one who graduated from Central in 2023, and one who is a sophomore at Central.

“When people ask me about Central...I can’t give it any higher praise than I would send my kids here, and I know that when they leave Central, they are prepared for what is out there.” Larson said. “And I don’t think enough people take advantage of that.”

There has been a website that has come out called greatschools.org, which ranks schools based on college readiness, equity, graduation rate, ACT scores and Advanced Placement course participation. When you are on Zillow, the local schools and their rankings are included. Central and all of the Omaha Public Schools are ranked at one out of 10.

I hate that people use test scores as a factor for where they choose to send their kids to school. Going to Central has been one of the best things that has happened to me. There are so many students that kids are bound to have friends with the same interests. This school gives us so many opportunities to do amazing things, like school trips. I went to Belize last year. You can start a group based on any interest. For students who are very academically inclined, not only do we have one of three International Baccalaureate programs in the state, but we also have an amazing AP program. I love Central, and I will continue to praise it for the rest of my life.

No matter where they send their kids, the teachers at Central love it in a distinct way, and agree it is the best high school anyone could go to.

“I think Central is the best high school in the state. I think that the kids who come to Central not only get an amazing traditional education but again it’s a microcosm of the real world. Our kids are being exposed to ideas and people.” Denton said. “And when someone asks me where I graduated from, I don’t say UNO. I say Central. I take great pride in this building. And the impact it’s had on me.”



Combating climate change requires student involvement

Millie Jackson
staff writer

We see the effects of climate change everywhere across the world. Even in a place like Omaha, the dire state of the Earth is evident. The intense heat or cold and other harsh drastic weather events are a direct result of climate change. We have begun to see hotter, longer summers and warmer, shorter winters. There is polluted air from wildfires across the continent. The list goes on.

According to the North Carolina Institute for Climate Studies, since the year 2000, Nebraska's temperatures have risen by at least 1.6 degrees. Our recent annual temperatures have been comparable to those of the Dust Bowl Era, when Nebraska set its record for its hottest temperature at 118 degrees, which still stands today. We have seen unusually warm overnight temperatures during winter, pointing to the Earth's warming. These effects will only become more intense if nothing is done.

Faye Sitzman is a committed member of the Sierra Club, an American environmental organization that works to protect and advocate for the wilderness. She has been working for decades to respond to the climate crisis here in Nebraska as well as across the U.S. She was recently awarded the Oliver Kehrlein National Outings Leadership Award.

"If we want healthy lives, we have to protect and continue research on our air, water, land, wildlife, trees and plants," Sitzman said. "To do so, it basically entails fighting greed and deniers, educating global residents and officials, and developing new habits in our daily lives while getting large corporations to look beyond their immediate profits. Our resources are not, and never will be, limitless."

"Students and youth have the most at stake," Sitzman said.

Climate change strongly affects youth both psychologically and physically.

The physical health risks resulting from climate change are already affecting youth everywhere, even in Nebraska. In the summer of 2022, an 8-year-old boy swimming in the Elkhorn River was killed by a waterborne infection found in warm rivers and lakes, and there is evidence

that the temperatures of Nebraska's lakes and rivers have risen significantly recently due to the changing climate.

According to the World Health Organization, air pollution also deeply affects the health of developing youth. It is directly linked to impairment of the lungs and brain and increases the risk of cardiovascular disease, type two diabetes, obesity and metabolic syndrome.

According to research published by Cambridge University, most children around the world are aware of and worried about the effects of climate change. Strong feelings of worry, anger, fear, depression and hopelessness are expressed by youth spanning the world. A true understanding of the appalling state of the Earth obviously leads to these strong feelings.

According to research published by Cambridge University, a survey of 15,000 Australians from ages 14-23 showed that one in five plan to have few to no children due to their climate change concerns. Young people should be involved now because we will be the ones left with the aftermath. If climate change continues to grow at these alarming rates, our futures are doomed.

It is evident that dire effects on our environment are taking place, but how exactly can we work towards stopping them? There are plenty of ways to contribute, big and small, and the opportunities are endless. Writing letters and speaking with decision makers and officials; donating to environmental organizations like the Sierra Club, Green Omaha Coalition and Keep Omaha Beautiful; joining sustainability groups like the Central High Green Team, Students for Sustainability and the Sierra Club; participating in marches and protests; volunteering at local cleanups and simply being educated are all great ways to contribute to the climate movement.

You don't have to do everything possible to make a difference. Large numbers of people all making small contributions will always surpass just a few putting in all the effort. Never feel belittled or discouraged for not doing enough. Comparing your actions to others or criticizing their efforts does nothing but bring down the movement.

Climate change is a pressing matter with serious consequences that should be addressed and acted on by everyone. Any action taken against it is valid, and it is important that youth all over the world make themselves aware and involved.

PreACT more headache than helpful

Grace Sunseri
staff writer

All sophomores were required to take the PreACT on Oct. 25, including me. The test is designed to help prepare students in eighth, ninth or 10th grade for taking the ACT junior year.

On its website, the ACT states, "PreACT assessments are designed to provide students with an indication of the education progress in the context of preparing for the ACT and exploring postsecondary educational and career options." It also claims, "PreACT scores are accurate predictors of ACT test scores."

In theory, I think the test could achieve all these things, but there are circumstances that prevent this.

My biggest complaint was that my testing room was anything but a testing environment. The ACT requires a "WorkKeys testing session." This is meant to ensure that the environment of all tests across the country are the exact same. Some examples of irregularities that have to be reported are

looking ahead in the test booklet, an examinee becoming ill or leaving the room, or even sharing a calculator.

In my testing room, many of these "irregularities" happened. There were people talking during the test and distracting others, and it got to the point where my proctor had to file one of these reports. This then affected my testing in a way that did not happen to anyone else, which is not how this test is intended to be taken.

Something that is not supposed to happen is "disclosing test questions or answers, in whole or in part, in any way or at any time, including through social media."

I think this rule is extremely hard to enforce and, honestly, is just not going to happen. I have heard so many people in the days and weeks after the test talking about the questions they had and what they got as answers. It is understandable why this rule is in place, but it shocks me that they expect high schoolers not to talk to each other about their experiences.

The date of the test was less than ideal for me personally because it was my birthday. Taking this important test was the last thing I wanted to do on my 16th birthday. All I was thinking about were the plans I had after the test, such as driving. But I got dismissed at 1 p.m. and was then able to enjoy the rest of my day, so I really cannot complain.

Something I did like about this test, though, was the fact that it is free. Therefore, this provides free ACT prep to students who might not otherwise have access to that service. This is especially important for students in Nebraska as the ACT is required for all high school juniors.

While I think the PreACT can be beneficial for test familiarity and prep for junior year, if it is going to be a mandatory test, the school and ACT organization should ensure the testing environment is the same for everyone, so the results are as accurate and beneficial as possible.

Consent, communication essential

Aiden Whalen
contributing writer

Today, I would like to share with you how to engage in safe sex; more specifically, I would like to discuss consent and communication.

Now, it is important to note that neither the word nor the act of having sex is dirty, and treating it as such fosters an environment of stigma and shame, which furthers unsafe sex practices.

First, before ever engaging in anything, sexual or not, it is important to ask for consent. To obtain clear consent, follow F.R.I.E.S:

Freely given means there is no pressure to say yes.

Reversible means that just because you said "yes" before, it does not mean you have to continue if you are uncomfortable.

Informed means that you always know what you are consenting to.

Enthusiastic reiterates that all consent should be enthusiastic; if your partner says something like, "I guess" or "maybe," that is not consent.

Specific means that consent is not a one-time thing, and you need to ask before engaging in anything new.

Here is how an interaction might unfold, using Person 1 and Person 2 as our characters:

Person 1 could ask, "Can I kiss you?"

Person 2 could reply, "Yes."

Woah! Look at that communication. As you can see, consent does not have to be a long and complicated process.

When focusing more on the communication aspect of sex and relationships, remember that communication is a fundamental aspect of healthy relationships and interactions. Communication, as well as consent, does not start and stop at sex, either! We often think of consent as sexual, but it is also prevalent in everyday life, such as asking for a bite of someone else's food or not hugging someone even if their arms are open. Remember that you do not owe anyone a "yes," and if they force you into saying "yes," that is not consent or a consensual interaction.

Back to communication: it is important to set boundaries and communicate them with your partner. If you have a boundary that they keep overstepping, such as calling you a name you do not like or touching your hair when you do not enjoy that, it is important to talk about that.

However, it is not your responsibility to constantly set boundaries when they are being disrespected. Your partner should know your boundaries if you have communicated them, and if they are not respecting those, then you may want to consider reevaluating the relationship.

Like consent, boundaries are reversible. Something might have made you uncomfortable, but now you enjoy it, so communicate that with your partner. The same is true for the opposite; just because you liked something before does not mean you always will, and you need to communicate that with your partner so that they are aware of the new boundary.

Communication can be scary

to start, but it is important to make sure you are having constant communication about how you are feeling and what you want out of the relationship. It is also important to note that aggression toward communication and/or setting a boundary is not normal, and that is a sign for you to get out of that situation if it is safe to do so.

Remember, consent and communication are vital aspects of

healthy relationships and interactions. And, if you do not know if someone is consenting or not, it is important to ask or assume they are not. Never assume someone is consenting, always communicate what you want to do, and make sure to maintain healthy and open communication with your partner.



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arts & culture

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'For all the Dogs' is oppressively mediocre



Photo courtesy of OVO Sound

Jane McGill
staff writer

Drake is undeniably one of the most influential figures in contemporary music. With a string of chart-topping albums, the expectations surrounding each of his releases are nothing short of monumental. However, his 2023 album, "For All the Dogs," fails to live up to expectations, delivering a thoroughly mediocre listening experience.

One of the primary disappointments with "For All the Dogs" lies in Drake's lack of innovation. Drake, known for pushing the boundaries of hip-hop, seems to have fallen further into a creative rut with this album. The sound is familiar, almost formulaic, echoing his previous works without introducing anything new. When other artists are constantly experimenting and reinventing themselves, "For All the Dogs" feels like a missed opportunity for Drake to showcase growth.

The album's production, while polished, lacks the freshness that has characterized Drake's finest works. The beats are predictable, with the same repetitive hi-hats and basslines that have become all too common in mainstream hip-hop. There's a noticeable absence of the innovative production techniques that once set Drake apart from his peers. In an industry that thrives on pushing sonic boundaries, "For All the Dogs" falls short, offering a sound that feels dated and uninspired.

Lyrically, Drake's prowess as a storyteller has always been a cornerstone of his success. Unfortunately, "For All the Dogs" fails to deliver the compelling narratives and introspective lyricism that fans have come to expect. The album's lyrics often feel repetitive and lack the emotional depth that characterized Drake's earlier work.

Moreover, the guest features on "For All the Dogs" fail to elevate the album to new heights. Drake has a history of collaborating with some of the biggest names in the industry. However, the features on this album seem almost obligatory, contributing little to the overall sonic landscape. The collaborations lack the chemistry and innovation that have defined Drake's best joint efforts, leaving listeners yearning for the magic of previous partnerships.

Another notable flaw is the album's pacing. The track list feels agonizingly lengthy and disjointed, with a lack of cohesion that makes it difficult for listeners to fully immerse themselves in the tale of romantic ennui Drake is attempting to tell. Transitions between songs are abrupt, and the overall flow of the album feels forced rather than organic.

"For All the Dogs" is not without its moments. Drake's signature vocal delivery and knack for catchy hooks are still present, providing glimpses of his old talent. Tracks like "Tried Our Best" and "Away from Home" showcase flashes of the brilliance that has made Drake a household name. However, these moments of brilliance are overshadowed by the album's overall mediocrity. The lack of innovation, uninspired production, and a failure to deliver anything innovative make it a forgettable addition to his discography. While Drake's die-hard fans will undoubtedly find solace in the familiarity of his sound, most listeners will be left wanting.

Blume's novel extends reign of relatability on big screen

Fiona Bryant
opinion editor

Judy Blume's quintessential and highly relatable "Are You There God? It's Me Margaret" has been adapted into a film of the same name 53 years after its original 1970 publication. Loved for its frank depictions of puberty, religion and preteen awkwardness, "Margaret" is a classic among generations of American women who have felt seen in the protagonist, myself included.

"Margaret" follows 11-year-old Margaret Simon as she moves to the suburbs and begins the process of growing up. While in sixth grade, Margaret seeks answers to questions about belonging, budding crushes, her changing body and the conflicts about faith that cause tension in her family. With this inquiry, Margaret joins her three classmates in the Pre-Teen Sensations group, which fosters her first sense of sisterhood and enables Margaret to explore religion through the lens of her friends. In the backdrop of exploring puberty with her friends, Margaret hopes to define her personal relationship with God. The movie and book both excel at appealing to preteens who find themselves in Margaret and to adults who reminisce about their tween years and own experience reading "Margaret."

The film strikingly resembles the novel, with direct quotes taken from the text and all major plotlines portrayed. The film may hold more adult interest when compared to the book, as a plotline around Margaret's mother is fledge out. With the Simons' move, Margaret's mother becomes a housewife, a role that is implied to be foreign and unwelcome. The film further explores this conflict and the entire character of Barbara Simons; however, in both mediums, this plotline is subtle and written for an adult to notice and find relatable.

I have read around 14 of Blume's books; in all of them, regardless of the protagonist's age, the voice is effortlessly age appropriate. The only indicator that a Blume book is not merely a diary is in the subtle "adult" conflicts in the background. In "Margaret" specifically, this feat has added relevance. The classic novel revolves around the mystery and discovery of the preteen years; Margaret knows of the "adult" topics and problems faced by the adults in her life, yet much is left to her imagination. Reading "Margaret" after one's preteen years reveals the "adult" issues that were present in the storyline all along. Blume's talent at this ensures audience investment in the book and film, regardless of age.

The relatability of puberty and family problems across time also immortalize the book's relevance. The film succeeds at emphasizing the universal confusion, loneliness and anticipation of puberty coupled with the heartache of a divided family. Consequently, a film depicting a girl in 1970 that could seem so irrelevant and outdated instead touches audience's hearts.

Independent of its enduring plotline and expansive fan base, "Margaret" as a film is just satisfactory. Much of the intended audience is already familiar with and invested in the plot; this made sticking to the plot all the more essential. Yet, it is obvious that the soundtrack and cinematography were not the priority. The quality of "Margaret" is professional grade, yet slight changes in filters to depict the changing of seasons and deliberate camera framing are not enough. Very few symbols are employed throughout the film, and the look of scenes become repetitive or uninteresting. The entire artistry of the film feels minimal and surface-level. The

only exception to this is the vibrant and maximalist set design. Ultimately, however, no risks were taken cinematically, and it shows.

"Margaret" stands as a persistently relatable and laughably dorky story, and I highly recommend an introduction to Judy Blume's writing for everyone. Both the book and movie are essential to the experience, but the book wins at capturing the uncertainty of puberty, especially for younger audiences. Adult audiences will find the movie as a more in-depth addition to the nostalgic novel. "Margaret" is a classic for a reason, and that status is maintained in its film adaptation.



Photo courtesy of Lionsgate

'Rocky Horror' live is a worthwhile fall experience

Hadley Forsen-Yepes
chief copy editor

I've known how to do the Time Warp for virtually my entire life. I've jumped to the left and stepped to the right countless times. But I've never gone back to the source of this iconic song — "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" — until this year when I saw Rave On Production's show at The Slowdown.

It began as "The Rocky Horror Show" in London's Royal Court Theater, eventually landing on the Broadway stage. The musical was even beloved by Her Royal Highness Princess Diana. A year later, the musical was adapted into a movie, retaining many of the cast and crew members from the original production. According to the BBC, it was "A box office flop so ker-splatty it was pulled from the few screens showing it back in 1975, only to be lovingly resurrected by a devout fanbase."

I was first introduced to the world of "Rocky" after reading Stephen Chbosky's "The Perks of Being a Wallflower," in which the main character is thrust out of his comfort zone by attending his local "Picture Show" with the encouragement of his new friends, who comprise the show's cast. Chbosky painted it as a unifying experience, where all sorts of people come together to embrace the show's quirks, shout comebacks to the characters and enjoy 1970s-era rock 'n' roll with a science fiction twist.

As for the show's plot, think "Frankenstein," but much gayer and lustier. The insan-

ity of its contents and its cult following make for a fulfilling live performance coupled with constant audience participation. I'm talking shouting profanities at the cast, throwing bread at the stage, and singing and dancing along with the music. The characters weaved in and out of the audience throughout the runtime, so you were still close to the action even if you didn't have pit tickets.

Throughout the experience, I met a vast array of characters, and not just ones in the production. From the people behind me in the entrance line who judgmentally mumbled "virgins" at the sight of concertgoers who weren't dressed up in racy attire typical of the show's attendants to a veteran "Rocky Horror" couple beside my friend and I who gifted us words of encouragement upon discovering we were "Rocky Horror" virgins, it was a mostly welcoming environment.

I'll even argue that for those who were at the picture show for the first time, the environment was a bit too welcoming. I knew coming into the show that there were going to be cues I didn't know and references I didn't understand. Rumor had it that first-timers are even put through an initiation before the show begins. I was shivering with anticipation, expecting to be humiliated, hazed and a bit clueless during the interactive bits. But they went easy on the virgins, providing prop bags for \$10 and projecting all the cues on screens that hung above the stage. However, Rave On Productions did explain, "Personal props are not permitted

for safety of audience & performers."

But I assumed there is a deep history behind these "Rocky Horror" traditions (there is), ones that were crafted by the show's cult followers after seeing it time and time again, and as silly as it sounds, the knowledge of those cues felt like something that should be earned after multiple viewings, not handed to me. "Rocky Horror" is one of those musicals that everyone memorizes the script of, but it's probably the only musical where it's socially acceptable to shout the lines out and respond to them as if you're a part of the show.

The actors were lively and effortlessly embodied their characters. Many of them have been performing "Rocky Horror" with Rave On Productions for years, and it shows. Benn Sieff commanded attention as Frank 'n' Furter and expertly portrayed the nuanced character, who is simultaneously charming and unsettling. Nina Washington wowed the crowd as Janet and nailed the voice of Susan Sarandon, who portrayed the character in the movie. Billy McGuigan as Brad was a man who knew exactly what he was doing. Megan Berger as Columbia was fierce, Kevin Buswell as Riff Raff was wonderfully creepy, Erika Hall-Sieff was devious as Magenta, and Jonathan Berger was the ultimate himbo as Rocky.

The costumes on stage were hilariously scandalous. The most notable outfit included the cast's matching red corsets, stockings and feather boas during "Rose Tint My World,"

which was one of the greatest performances of the evening. Other standout performances included "Dammit Janet," "Time Warp" and "Touch-A, Touch-A Touch Me," so essentially everything that featured Janet or Frank 'n' Furter. "Science Fiction/Double Feature" and "Eddie" were underwhelming because the former only featured one cast member and did not add to the musical's plot, and the latter just felt out of place. These are not the faults of Rave On Productions' show but simply of the musical itself.

The show's greatest asset was a live band providing the background music. The band was visible throughout the entire production and often captured my attention, even though they were supposed to blend in as opposed to stand out. A benefit of attending a live performance of "Rocky" is the energy that the instrumentalists bring to the venue. Their presence contributes to the feeling of being not just a viewer of the show but an active, vital part of it.

An homage to horror movies that has a killer soundtrack and allows viewers to immerse themselves in a fantasy world for a few hours, "The Rocky Horror Picture Show" is a pop-cultural phenomenon for a reason. Whether you simply watch the movie at home, attend a midnight screening or catch a live production at the Slowdown, "Rocky Horror" is worth your time. Add it to the top of your bucket list, folks, because there's truly nothing like it.

Anderson's Dahl shorts are exceptional, full of flair

Brayden Simpson
staff writer

Nearly fourteen years after the release of "The Fantastic Mr. Fox," Wes Anderson has proven once again that he is the best director for producing Roald Dahl stories. The filmmaker's four-short collection of Dahl adaptations began premiering on Netflix in late September over the course of a week and includes "The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar," "The Swan," "The Rat Catcher," and "Poison." Each story is a delight.

Anderson's typical directorial flair is ever-present throughout these shorts, but they are nevertheless quite different from the rest of his filmography. Notably, Anderson's dialogue is missing due to his decision to use Dahl's prose exactly word-for-word (with a few minor edits). Also new in this collection is the overall presentation. All four short films are performed like a play, with sets which are often constructed and deconstructed while the cameras are still rolling. Unlike Anderson's "Asteroid City," which featured aspects of live theatre as part of the story, the use of these techniques in the Dahl shorts serves only as a pleasing aesthetic which enhances the films. Stagehand characters run on and offscreen to give characters props and costume pieces, and the narrators of each story address the audience directly, staring into the camera as they deliver their dialogue. The cast of the show is rotational, with named characters all being played by the same few actors. This includes actors who have worked with Anderson before, like Ralph Fiennes and Rupert Friend, as well as several newcomers such as Benedict Cumberbatch, Richard Ayoade, Ben Kingsley, and Dev Patel. Fiennes plays Roald Dahl in each short.

"The Wonderful Story of Henry Sugar" was the first of the collection to be released on September 27. It is the longest of the shorts at 41 minutes and stars Benedict Cumberbatch as the titular "Mr. Henry Sugar," a pseudonym for an unnamed man. The film follows Cumberbatch's character, a bored, wealthy bachelor, as he attempts to learn a new technique to become more successful at gambling. The short is told in nesting-doll style as he follows the research of a doctor who studied a peculiar circus performer with a mysterious power. Sugar's journey to learn this ability changes his outlook on life for the better. The delivery of this story is simply delightful. The set pieces for the short are intricate and beautiful, and seeing them come together onscreen inspires wonder. The colors of the costumes and backgrounds pop, a collection of bright hues that sell the cheery tone. And the message of the short is one of charity and hope, sure to please audiences. It is a lovely little story presented in a unique way and was a spectacular start to the collection.

"The Swan," the second short to be released, is a very different kind of story. It is narrated by Rupert Friend's character, Peter Watson, who tells the story of an encounter he had as a young boy with two bullies who tormented him. The tone of this short is markedly less whimsical and lighthearted than that of the previous one. The tribulations which the bullies put Peter Watson through range from emotionally devastating to life-threatening. This is coupled with a much blander color palette in the set — while "Henry Sugar" was filled with bright greens, reds, and blues, "The Swan" follows the adult Watson walking through a beige maze set against a gray sky. Splashes of blood provide some of the little color in the short. The lasting effect of the bullying can be seen as Rupert Friend's Watson often acts out the punishments he faced rather than the child actor portraying the young Peter. It is a rather sad story, but I found it to be my favorite of the collection. It holds the most emotional weight of the releases and has a lot to say about the human condition. Anderson illustrates Dahl's melancholic language perfectly, putting on display the harmful effect bullying has on children, both immediately and for the rest of their lives. "The Swan" is immensely powerful.

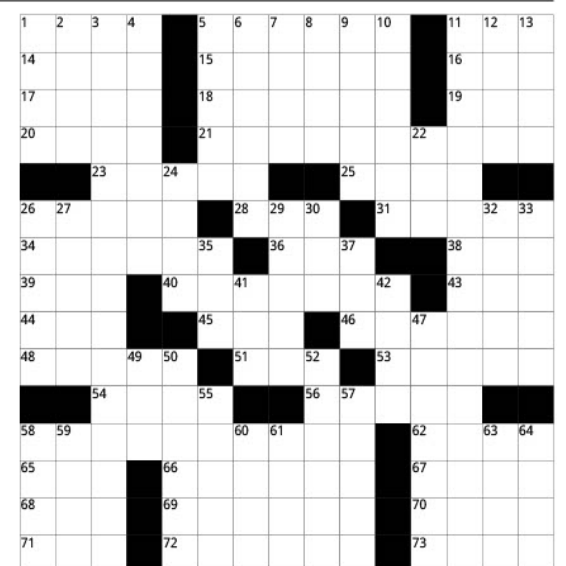
"The Rat Catcher" was the third film Netflix released. This short sees Ralph Fiennes as the titular exterminator as well as in his role as Roald Dahl. It is perhaps the most play-like of all the shorts, as it often uses production methods typical to the stage, such as painted backdrops and pantomime, allowing the actors to act out the use of nonexistent props. It also utilizes stop-motion animation more than any of the other shorts, with a scene of an animated rat which provides excellent characterization to Fiennes's exterminator by making the rodent "speak" at the same time as the Rat Catcher, implying his rat-like nature. It is very

well done and shows Anderson's aptitude for the medium. The whole short was rather macabre and strange, and seemed to me to be more of an experiment in style than a story with any kind of meaning or point, but it was definitely very enjoyable regardless.

"Poison" was the final short released. Benedict Cumberbatch stars in this short as Harry Pope, while Dev Patel plays the narrator, Supervisor Woods. Woods regales the audience with the tale of Pope, an Englishman visiting India, who lay stiff as a board in bed while a snake slept on his stomach. It is a masterclass in creating and sustaining tension, elevated by the performances of each of the actors, especially Patel, who speaks with a tempo and cadence that alerts the nerves of anyone watching. The climax is heart-stopping, but with an unexpected twist that turns the narrative on its head. It is truly a stellar piece of filmmaking.

Issue 2 Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Letter before Bravo
 - 5 *Jean ___ (item of clothing)
 - 11 OPS headquarters
 - 14 Corp. heads
 - 15 Surround with light
 - 16 Strong acid, chemically
 - 17 Nickname for Rihanna
 - 18 2,000 pounds
 - 19 Historical period
 - 20 Sign of boredom
 - 21 Anchor, e.g.
 - 23 **The dating app designed to be deleted"
 - 25 Mother of the Valkyries
 - 26 Origami bird
 - 28 Nor. neighbor
 - 31 Indian honorific
 - 34 Horse Operas
 - 36 "Selma" director DuVernay
 - 38 "It's ___-brainer"
 - 39 Sundial 7
 - 40 *"I'm So Sick" 2000s rock band
 - 43 2016 Olympics city
 - 44 Approx.
 - 45 Cereal grain
 - 46 Take by force
 - 48 Follower of Jah
 - 51 "Ctrl" and "SOS" singer
 - 53 Green gemstones
 - 54 Dine's partner
 - 56 *Backbone
 - 58 End of the world
 - 62 "¿Cómo ___ usted?"
 - 65 Broadcast
 - 66 Fib, not in?
 - 67 Hand out cards
 - 68 Do something
 - 69 "Yeah, right!"
 - 70 Killer whale
 - 71 Campfire residue
 - 72 *Bowler's bane
 - 73 College on the Thames
- DOWN**
- 1 ___ for help
 - 2 "Star Wars" princess
 - 3 What one says before giving information that may not be helpful
 - 4 Foolish
 - 5 Comedian/actor Ken of "The Hangover" films
 - 6 "Years" in French
 - 7 Enjoy, as gum
 - 8 Kit ___ (candy bars)
 - 9 Run off to get hitched
 - 10 Complexion aids
 - 11 Large portion of Africa
 - 12 Prefix meaning "height"
 - 13 Extended family
 - 22 Nutritional fig.
 - 24 Spongy toy brand
 - 26 *Recording of another performer's song
 - 27 Mrs. Gorbachev
 - 29 Ballroom dance
 - 30 Night before
 - 32 How seafood may be shipped
 - 33 Reserves, or what's anatomy is being described in the starred clues
 - 35 ___-mo
 - 37 Satisfied sigh
 - 41 "___ queen!"
 - 42 Water brand from an island nation
 - 47 Unidentified woman
 - 49 Nervous twitch
 - 50 Not digital
 - 52 Guarantee
 - 55 Peace Nobelist Root
 - 57 Flying Pan
 - 58 Tiny battery
 - 59 Photos
 - 60 Tomorrow's opposite, abbr.
 - 61 Sulk
 - 63 Food in a shell
 - 64 Mathematician Turing



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'Five Nights at Freddy's': The best 7/10 you'll ever watch

Ethan Hughes
staff writer

When I was younger, I was infatuated with the "Five Nights at Freddy's" series by Scott Cawthon. A horror game franchise? About ghosts and robots? What more could a young 10-year-old ask for? But as I got older, I drifted from the series as it left the mainstream of the internet, and I gained new interests.

So, when I heard they were making a movie back in 2019, my interest was piqued, but I didn't look further into it. But when the trailer dropped and it actually looked good, I was extremely interested. This movie is part of a massive video game franchise with millions of fans, made by the creators of "M3GAN," Blumhouse Productions.

And to express my opinion a bit, I think it does just fine satisfying the many fans of this series.

The movie was written by Scott Cawthon himself, Chris Lee Hill and Tyler MacIntyre. It stars Josh Hutcherson (who you might know as "The Hunger Games's" Peeta Mellark), Elizabeth Lail, Piper Rubio and Matthew Lillard (who you also might know as Shaggy Rogers from the live-action "Scooby-Doo"). It was released in theaters on Oct. 27.

Hutcherson stars as the problematic Micheal Schmidt, a struggling man between jobs who goes to a career counselor named Steve Raglan (Lillard) for a job after mistaking an angry father for a kidnapper. Raglan suggests that Schmidt goes to work as a security guard at the abandoned Freddy Fazbear's Pizza, and despite his reluctance, Schmidt takes the job in order to take care of his young sister Abby Schmidt (Rubio). Upon taking the job, Schmidt is contacted by Vanessa Shelly (Lail) about the animatronics, telling him that they are haunted and more than a little murderous.

A thrilling story featuring real animatronics from Jim Henson Studios, this movie is a real mixed bag of quality. The

dialogue and acting are phenomenal – Lillard and Hutcherson, in particular, really sell their characters – and the animatronics are super impressive, but the CGI has some sore spots, and the set design is a little too dark at times to tell where characters are meant to be in the building.

On a positive note, Blumhouse nailed getting cameos for the film. Popular YouTubers Matthew Patrick and Cory DeVante Williams both received significant roles, serving as a waiter and cabbie, respectively, with more minor appearances such as Lewis Dawkins's photo on an "Employee of the Month" board. Well-known YouTuber Mark Edward Fischbach was also contacted for a role, much to many fans' delight, although he declined the role due to conflicting time schedules between "Five Nights at Freddy's" and Fischbach's own film, "Iron Lung." Patrick's role, in particular, was generally applauded by fans, as it not only features a popular member of the community but also features him saying, "That's just a theory," a phrase he is well known for online.

Another, more important, positive is the animatronics the series is known and partially named for. Many people – myself included – thought that the movie would stick to CGI models, in order to not blow too much money. But no. They went to Jim Henson Studios – the makers of many well-known puppets, including Elmo and the Muppets – and had them make life-sized, complete animatronics. Aside from just being impressive, it's also a great touch to preserve the spirits (get it?) of the original game.

But with all those positives, there are more than a few things holding this film back from being truly amazing. For one, there's the CGI. Because most of the movie looks extremely good and compelling, the moments of mediocre CGI really stick out, such as one scene where a child has post-production pure black eyes that are almost comically bad. These moments can really drive you out of the movie, but it uses CGI

sparingly enough that it's definitely forgivable.

Another flaw is the pacing. The movie treats itself like it's over two hours long, but it barely hits one hour 50 minutes, resulting in an extremely busy ending, but an extremely drawn-out middle. Since the name of the main antagonist is a large part of the mystery of the film, it feels fair but frustrating when said antagonist doesn't make his first true appearance until roughly one hour and 35 minutes in. That being said, the ending to this movie, which I won't spoil, is phenomenal and almost makes up for the oddly cheesy and generic middle.

A much more minor flaw is the lighting on the sets. The set design itself is amazing and perfectly matches the intended feeling, but the lighting is a bit poor, and it can sometimes be hard to tell where the characters are meant to be.

As for the characters, aside from Hutcherson and Lillard, who nail their roles, most of the actors serve their roles just fine. Lail's Vanessa Shelly is an interesting addition, as she serves as a major catalyst for the plot, but is also the primary reason why the middle drags its feet so hard. Overall, though, the role she plays is vital to the story and is done decently. Rubio's Abby Schmidt is very compelling, successfully pulling off the "quiet artist kid" archetype, although it comes off a lot more creepy than cute.

With a compelling cast and story, held back by some questionable CGI and pacing choices, I can't recommend this movie enough to people who like the "Five Nights at Freddy's" franchise – but with that, I can't say it's any more than a 7/10.

As Andy Hill (a voice actor for the franchise who usually plays a not-quite-honest salesman) would say, "Sit back, grab some pizza, and enjoy this thrilling ride full of mystery, drama, a few scares, a little bit of cheese for flavor, and above all – fun!"

Four vintage stores you need to know about

Ella Levy
co-editor-in-chief

Omaha should be a well-known spot when shopping for vintage clothing. The city has great stores in many different areas. These shops should be checked out and appreciated by more than just the locals.

Albany and Alvers
Location: Dundee

This vintage store popped up in the Dundee area this summer. They call themselves "a sustainable mix of curated vintage." Their store has both modern and vintage pieces, so they have something for everyone. This store participates in summer markets, including Hutchfest and Junk Stock, so customers can get their vintage in multiple

places. They even have a TikTok account with over 3,000 followers. The pieces in this store are handpicked to ensure they have the best vintage out for their customers. The owner, Amanda Tjarks, is also a Swiftie!

The Flying Worm
Location: Old Market

This store has been in Omaha since 2009, and there is a reason it has stayed around this long. It is an essential stop when walking around the Old Market. They sell funky, current accessories, including earrings from local artists, along with vintage everything. They always have a huge selection of vintage jackets. Whether you want letterman, denim, leather or just something crazy, they have it all. They also carry many vintage sweaters

and T-shirts. This store has something for everyone, from eccentric sunglasses to cowboy boots. It is an Omaha staple.

1404 Collective
Location: Little Bohemia

1404 Collective has brought life to its street in Little Bohemia. They participate in events such as Hutchfest and Kindling Co, providing vintage to many customers. Their store is about the idea that fashion and eco-consciousness can go hand in hand. They call themselves "a vibrant community of fashion enthusiasts and sustainable fashion advocates." This store is unique in the way they have what is called a closet cleanout, where they allow individuals to purchase hangers and sell their clothes with 1404 collective,

earning half the profit. This store not only has great vintage but is dedicated to connecting environmental morals with reselling.

Weird Wild Stuff Vintage
Location: Morton Meadows

This store is just as the name says; this is not your typical vintage store. This store caters to people's hippie side, specializing in 60s-80s vintage clothes, go-go boots, tapes, and jewelry. They describe themselves as a "curated brick and mortar vintage store." This store supplies carefully collected vintage to continuously provide retro styles in this new era of fashion. This store proves Omaha has something for everyone!

40 years later, "Stop Making Sense" still remains a classic

Peter Jensen
contributing writer

For years, I'd heard about the massive hype behind Jonathan Demme's "Stop Making Sense," with many declaring the documentary covering a 1983 live performance of the band Talking Heads one of the greatest in the concert documentary genre. So, I was excited when it was announced that independent production and distribution company A24 was set to rerelease the film in select theaters for its 40th anniversary. I quickly snagged tickets for a Sep. 30 showing when I learned it was playing at the local Film Streams' Dundee Theater. Although I had no real attachment to the band, I was interested to see if the film was really the masterpiece others had made it out to be.

I was not disappointed. "Stop Making Sense" is still an accomplishment in documentary filmmaking 40 years later. What impressed me the most was the sheer spectacle and energy present throughout the film.

"The film gets bigger as it gets longer, literally [sic] in a very literal sense. And the band keeps that energy; the audience keeps that energy. The lead singer of the band, everything feeds into this growth in the film," one attendee said.

David Byrne initially appears on an empty stage with just his guitar and a boombox, playing an acoustic version of the band's debut hit "Psycho Killer." Over the course of the film, every element of the performance grows in scale. More band members join the stage with each successive song: bassist Tina Weymouth, drummer Chris Frantz and keyboardist Jerry Harrison. Several additional musicians are also added: backup singers Edna Holt and Lynn Mabry, percussionist Steve Scales, guitarist and vocalist Alex Wei and keyboardist Bernie Worrell.

As the film progresses, the sets also become more elaborate. Large projected screens are utilized, which display various decorative words and backdrops. The lighting changes,

including a sequence featuring strobe lights and another in which a pitch-black stage is illuminated by a single floor lamp. The sets are particularly mesmerizing, giving the film an ethereal, dream-like quality to it. This is supported by the choreography, particularly the erratic movements of Byrne, which border on hypnotic during songs like "Life During Wartime."

A stand-out moment of the movie is "Just the sheer ecstasy of David Byrne going nonverbal and entering into that song ["Slippery People"], flailing his limbs around full of what I can only imagine has to be a taste of the Holy Spirit. Life-changing to see and an aspiration to experience," the attendee told me.

Byrne's personality is one of the biggest factors that makes this movie stand out among a sea of concert documentaries.

Another factor that makes the film stand out is its cinematography, which differs from many other contemporary concert documentaries. Like many other aspects, as the film goes on, the cinematography becomes more unhinged and erratic as cinematographer Jordan Cronenweth ("Blade Runner") works to capture the band's eccentric and energetic performance. Unlike many other films, the movie has little reliance on crowd shots. It tends to direct its focus towards the stage more than anything, with zoom-ins, focus shots of band members' faces and wide shots of the entire band playing. One detail that stands out to me is how the camera captures the progression and deterioration of the band as the film goes on. You can see every detail of sweat, grime and exhaustion on the band members, leading to an experience that resembles a live show. Moreover, the film is cut from four separate shows, all performed at Hollywood's Pantages Theatre, but the editing masterfully transforms it into one cohesive performance.

The film's seemingly endless escalation culminates in a legendary crescendo, as Byrne enters the stage clad in an

almost comically oversized gray suit during the song "Girlfriend is Better." The now-iconic attire shines in the moment, as Byrne capitalizes on his physicality and the stark contrast in size with his previous outfit to elevate the performance's energy and spectacle to new heights. There's a reason this moment has remained so iconic – it's purely mesmerizing to watch the strange movements Byrne performs in the suit.

While another film might conclude with this iconic moment, "Stop Making Sense" is far from ordinary. The film holds its energy through two more songs before finally ending on a high but satisfying note. This features the band members leaving the stage and various crowd shots, emphasizing the scale and energy of the concert. A moment of the finale that stands out is when Byrne introduces all the performers on stage, retroactively feeling like a send-off to Talking Heads (who formally disbanded in 1991) as a whole, a celebration of everything that made the band unique.

In conclusion, "Stop Making Sense" stands as a testament to the boundless creativity and infectious energy of Byrne and Talking Heads. With its innovative staging, charismatic performances and unique cinematography, "Stop Making Sense" remains a cinematic gem that continues to captivate audiences, reaffirming its status as a classic in the realm of concert films. With the re-release pushed by A24, I can only hope that a new generation of moviegoers get an opportunity to experience this masterpiece.

Six festive winter activities to fill your free time

Arisa Lattison
arts & culture editor

1. Ice Skating

When thinking of staple wintery activities, one that comes to mind is definitely ice skating! The UNMC Ice Rink, Grover Ice, Motto McLean, Moylan and Baxter Arena are places you can go for some fun on the ice.

2. Sledding at Memorial Park

Memorial Park is a good place to sled once snow falls. It is one of the most popular sledding locations and is also in the heart of Omaha.

3. Felius Cat Café & Rescue

Felius is a cat café and adoption service center. People can buy coffee or tea and hang around with cats that are available to be adopted. You can walk in or make a reservation — it's only \$7.50 for half an hour!

4. Lauritzen Gardens

This location is very pretty during the winter, and it has model trains available indoors to view. Nov. 18 through Dec. 31, they have a Bright Nights event from 5 to 8 p.m. There, you can view the floral hall, enjoy food and drink, and a 20-foot-tall poinsettia tree is on display.

5. Henry Doorly Zoo and Aquarium

The zoo has a lot of indoor attractions for when it gets colder. Since there are also fewer people when it gets chilly, you can relax and enjoy the animals at your own pace and in less crowded conditions. The Desert Dome, Lied Jungle, Kingdoms of the Night and the Aquarium are a few of the exhibits you can enjoy inside.

6. Planetarium

UNO's Mallory Kountze Planetarium is a great place to go to see the stars as you learn about the patterns and mythology of it all. Admission is \$6.50 per individual, and it reopens in January after the remodeling.



Felius Cat Café & Rescue

MAURO GUTIERREZ | The Register



The aquarium at the Henry Doorly Zoo.

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