In the 1980’s the innovational film, The Breakfast Club, came out and stunned people everywhere and continues to stun me as well.

One of my most favorite scenes consists of the teens eating their lunch. Seems pretty mundane at first, but it holds a lot of truth concerning teen eating habits.

While Bender critiques Claire’s lunch of sushi, Andy Clark unloads his grocery bag and Brian Johnson makes a face at his lunch, which looks like it was made for a first grader.

But behind Johnson, the basket case, otherwise known as Alison dissects her own lunch. She peels the unnaturally round, slimy, sticky bologna out from in between the Wonder bread and replaces it with about three sugar sticks and a handful of Cap’n Crunch.

I myself have tried this concoction, and let me just say, it’s not as bad as it sounds. However, I did warrant an array of odd expressions at my lunch table.

I don’t consider myself a basket case, but I did show the basic signs especially where Ally Seedy is concerned. However, I do think my motivation to try new things (including food) is completely and utterly positive. As opposed to the everyday: “there’s-nothing-in-the-cafeteria-so-I’m-having-the-leftover-pizza-they-served-yester-day” outlook.

Frankly, a one-time sugar sandwich has got to hold more nutritional value than a greasy day-old pizza where the cheese slides off with the first bite.

I’m pretty sure Michelle Obama wouldn’t like the look of that.

Yes, I realize the crust may consist of whole grains and a bunch of other stuff to scare kindergarteners off, but the pepperoni-shaped oil bowls have got to cancel out the “good stuff.”

And, they probably wouldn’t even stick if I threw them at the wall like Sheedy’s bologna. So along with a completely non-nutritional lunch, it also has no fun aspects whatsoever.

But the most interesting part of all: most teen boys continue to eat it. Taking a bite of those food experiments would take off at least twenty years of my life… I think jumping in front of a bus would accomplish the same thing. And honestly it would be less painful than watching teen obesity rates continue to grow and people asking the same question of how to stop it.

The answer literally sits right in front of our noses. On our plates. Scooped so fast, a good, hard look at it is almost impossible.

“Growing children” of the world need a variety. They need the sushi, the soup AND the Cap’n Crunch, but only on occasion.

Yes, I admit, I have had the sporadic turkey bacon, dipped in Nutella and downed with orange juice. But what else am I supposed to do? Go against the norm? Impossible.

I suppose I could eat more like the teen girls now-a-days. Or, I stand corrected, not eat more like teen girls.

I hear an endless,

“I’m not hungry.”

“I had a big breakfast.”

“I have a stomach thing.”

If there’s a way to have a time-release breakfast that refills up my stomach when lunch comes around, sign me up. Maybe then I wouldn’t have to deal with growling stomachs interrupting my math tests.

I hate to break it to the other girls of the world, but skipping lunch and then bingeing when arriving at home does not help to fit in the new super-skin-tight-skinny jeans.

In most cases, I would not recommend following in the Breakfast Club’s footsteps, considering the movie takes place during Saturday school, but in one way, they provide good role models for the public.

Eat what’s good, and eat what’s good for you.

If the princess, the criminal, the brain, the jock and the basket case all do it, I don’t see who wouldn’t fit in with this timeless advice.

Column Writing
Kassidy Arena, Millard West
Entertainment Writing

When I first began watching student Paul Cline's speech, I was honestly a bit skeptical. Was this going to be yet another social justice rant? As if I hadn't seen a million of those before. I braced myself for the explosion of every other controversy I had seen, only to be pleasantly surprised when Cline humorously transitioned from a vague introduction into his brutally hard to admit confession: he is Italian. The change in pace piqued my interest, but it was his voice, flow, and engaging tone throughout the dialogue that truly kept my attention.

Cline clearly an experienced public speaker, seamlessly integrated humor and sarcasm into a well-performed critique on Italian stereotypes. Self-proclaimed heir to the "loud, hungry, yet greatest culture known to man," Cline debunked several myths about what Italians are like through presenting a host of facts on becoming an Italian. Get a tan, gain 50 pounds, learn to speak with your hands, grow a mustache, and marry a beautiful Italian woman. Perhaps the most important is also an acceptable religion, as Italians evidently cannot get enough pasta. Of course, the true-tale signs of a true Italian include being chatty, family-oriented, insane, and always on time.

Throughout the speech, which was very organized despite Cline's swift transitions from topic to topic, there was never a still moment in which I lost focus. His use of amusing visual aids (I seem to recall a picture of Snickers, which he later replaced with a headshot of himself) kept the audience engaged and laughing. Although at times his flamboyance was almost too much, it helped reinforce his message. Overall, his speech was very entertaining and gave me a much-needed breath of fresh air. Cline brought light to his observation that stereotypes are very evident in his culture, and by making fun of them, helped to demonstrate how outdated they can be.

Cline, a seasoned high school speaker, displayed his talents in this engaging take on stereotypes-based stereotypes. While often times social justice speeches can become repetitive and difficult to pay attention to, Cline's use of humor and satire made the dialogue worth listening to. I hope not to perpetuate one of his stereotypes by giving his speech two very vibrant and enthusiastic thumbs up.

Entertainment Writing
Desiree Wilson, Bellevue East

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Editorial Writing
Rachel Dweikat, Lincoln East
The facts

Studies show that the best performance levels are found when adults and children adopt the 8-8-8 circadian rhythm of life, meaning

8 - 8 - 8

hours of work hours of play hours of sleep

The average school day lasts from 9am to 3:15pm, a total of 7 hours and 15 minutes.

less than 30 mins 25%
30-45 mins 32%
1 hour + 45%

On top of school, students have reported spending over three hours on homework alone.

Headline Writing

Story #1
1. Texting technology now leading to more than just social stress
2. Text Neck:
   - Smartphones at hand for spinal pressure
3. Texting Trouble:
   - With increase in cellphone usage, neck issues become more frequent

Story #3
1. Make-a-Wish Foundation produces powerful joy to ill girl
2. Making Memories:
   - Donations provide happiness to sick child
3. Dreams do come true:
   - As youthful girl fights illness, Make-a-Wish delivers hope

Story #4
1. Educator alters attitude towards students following shadowing sessions
2. Teaching Tactics:
   - Shadowing students cause new look on learning
3. The Master becomes the student:
   - High school teacher shadows pupils,
   - To gauge life as learner

Graphic Illustration
Megan Smith, Omaha Marian

Headline Writing
Joseph Covolo, Millard North
In-Depth Newspaper Coverage
Kayla Sullivan, Charlotte Elsasser, Erin Carollo, Emily McMinn, Omaha Marian

YOUNG IMMIGRANTS FIGHT FOR EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IN nebraska

[Text content continues on the page]
The generosity in this society grows increasingly each day. Whether it is a young scout helping a senior cross the street, or an adult volunteering in their free time, the amount of good in this town is at an all time high.

Due to an anonymous donation from a local business, all school buses in the transportation route for Ruskner High School will be equipped with free Wi-Fi to allow students who have long travels home Internet access for homework.

Superintendent Dr. Russ Nelson announced his idea of wireless capabilities in November. Since then the community has worked together to give those students the opportunity to use their time wisely by starting their homework prior to their arrival at home.

"Giving free Wi-Fi to our students will enable them to do research, read the news or even watch educational videos each day," Nelson said. "That time will no longer be wasted."

Although the parents may have some concerns with this new accessibility, Nelson clearly states the bus Wi-Fi will offer the same security features as the school’s Internet access.

"Students cannot access any games unless they are educationally sound, and they can’t access social sites or other sites unsuitable for young adults," Nelson said. For some students, doing their homework online is not an option simply because their families cannot afford or choose not to have Internet service in their homes. "This limits students to do their schoolwork and puts them at a disadvantage in their classes."

"Adding Wi-Fi in our buses should level the playing field for our students," Nelson said. "This change will positively impact academic productivity."

The anonymous donor who contributed to this advancement is greatly appreciated by these students and this community. Not only did this person improve learning capabilities, but also displayed what true affection is to the students of Ruskner High.

"We are fortunate to have a local business person who believes our students deserve every opportunity to learn," Nelson said.
Roughly two years ago, beloved Centerville High School English teacher Sam Smith was diagnosed with leukemia. For him, his family, and the Centerville community, the times following the diagnosis were tough. But things turned around this January when Smith received a clean bill of health.

The good news came to an anxious but hopeful Smith family.

“It was the first time in two years that I had tears of joy. It was the best day of my life,” shared Smith’s son, Seth.

Smith will have to be monitored closely for the next five years, but as the recurrence rate for this type of leukemia is low, doctors are confident that his fight with cancer is finally over.

Overjoyed with the news, Smith and his son wanted to give back to others fighting the same battle. The pair decided to embark on a 400-mile ride from Scottsbluff to Omaha to fundraise for leukemia research.

“My dad and I used to go for long bike rides before the cancer so I suggested we ride across the state, and he loved the idea,” said Seth with obvious pride.

With the help of their blog and others in the community, word spread about what they were doing. Before even beginning their ride, they had already raised over $12,000 for the American Cancer Society.

“Seth and I called our ride the ‘Push for a Cure’ because we knew we would have to push ourselves to our limit to reach the goal. Seth has been an athlete all of his life so I never worried he would finish. I was a little worried about me,” Smith said with a laugh.

But after months of training, the two felt prepared for the 400-mile ride.

Over spring break it was finally time to make the trek across the Nebraska countryside. Their journey took 7 days, with stops about 70 miles. They were fortunate to have the Nebraska weather on their side, with perfect sunny days for the entire trip.

Smith and his son were continually amazed with the support they received. Over 200 cancer survivors joined them for parts of their ride, some of them even welcoming them into their homes to stay the night.

“Dad and I had budgeted for hotels every night, [but instead] we were able to donate our hotel budget,” said Seth.

Seth and his dad kept supporters that couldn’t join them in the loop with their blog, where they shared stories from each day of their ride and where people were able to donate money for the cause.

“At the beginning of the ride we had about 100 hits, but then traffic on the site went through the roof,” said Seth.

By the final day of their ride, the site was averaging 4,000 hits per day and they had raised $50,000 for leukemia research.

“I never imagined we would raise so much money. People have been incredibly giving. I pray this money will help find a cure,” said Smith.

“We must find a cure.”

Newspaper Feature Writing
Anna Holmquist, Lincoln East
SPORTSMANSHIP
BEHIND THE TRADITION

Sportsmanship is a great tradition in sports and competition that means playing clean and handling both victory and defeat with grace, style, and dignity. This is the reason why you guys line up after each game to shake the hands of your opponents at the end of each game... win or lose. Sportsmanship includes playing fair, following the rules of the game, respecting the judgment of referees, and treating your opponents with respect. As a general rule of thumb, it makes sense to look at sportsmanship in a similar way that we view friendship... treat the people you play with and against as you would like to be treated yourself.

You demonstrate good sportsmanship when you show respect for yourself, your teammates, and your opponents, for the coaches on both sides, and for the referees, judges, and other officials.

But sportsmanship isn’t just reserved for the people on the field. Cheerleaders, fans, and parents also need to be aware of how they behave during competition. Sportsmanship is a style and an attitude, and it can have a positive influence on everyone around you.
The repetition houses of the basketball halls. The roaring cheers from the
celbrated crowd fill the air. The anxious hands of players right before their game
comes to a stop. This is what girl’s basketball will come to.

As people live their everyday lives, they do not see the sad death of this
traditional sport. It could arguably the soul of the United States itself. Entertaining the
hated country child and the neglected city child alike. This sport has connected
generations of individuals, families, and communities. Girls basketball has
intertwined a nation of people in harmony, but this sport will be no more.

According to a Post-Gazette survey out of 112 high schools, 20 percent said they
do not acquire enough players to form a freshman or even a junior varsity team.
Schools in small muscle towns are not only suffering from this epidemic, but also
the main stream large schools.

The cause for the decline in girls’ basketball participation vary. Junior Olivia
Darling had to quit the sport due to economic pressure.

“I loved playing basketball when I was younger, but now I have to think about
money for college, so I work after school.” Darling said. “It has nothing to do with
[not liking] the sport; I just need to have a job.”

Money is scarce for many students and Darling’s not alone. Students all over the
country have to make the tough decision of giving up activities they love, not
because they want to, but because they have to.

This was the case for junior Laura Long whose parents couldn’t afford the cost of
elite summer basketball programs.

The trials of life have interrupted the classic sport that is meant to bring people
together while having them enjoy it. Another cause for this decline could be the
pressure to be great or go home. The motto of “why play if you’re not going to win?”
has become more prominent rather than just having fun.

Opinions vary on this topic, but facts are facts and girls basketball is being
underestimated and the people and stereotypes are the culprits.

A study done by the National Federation of State High School Associations showed
that in 2013-2014 the amount of females playing basketball declined by almost
25,000 thousand from ten years prior.

Coach Peter Serio thinks that parents push their children when they’re in
amateur level sports in hope that they will become a basketball success by the time
they graduate.

“If children feel like they could play a sport for the pure enjoyment, not because
they are insanely talented and more girls would be interested.

“I think this is more about the kids who aren’t great players, the peripheral kids
were losing,” said Serio.

The decline in girls’ basketball shows that many students who are under immense
pressure to be great will walk away from this pressure and quit. Girls basketball isn’t
allowed winning or even state championships. This is about a group of individuals
who lead totally separate lives coming together and working. To prevent the slow
death of basketball people need to lead by action. Form intercampus teams. Make girls
basketball alive again. Overcome the obstacles. Use the pressure and play for the
satisfaction of the crowds of the orange rubber ball as it meets your hand and the
ground rhythmically. Love for the game: this is what girls’ basketball is all about.
Eagles get revenge on Spartans. Centerville brings home a State title
Maggie Mainelli

The boys soccer team’s record against the Ipswich Spartans ends as 1-2. A losing record, but the one win came when it mattered most, the State Championship.

The Eagles knew they were in for a tough game, as their only two losses of the season came from close games with the Spartans. Head coach Jack Majors says that despite having already lost to the Spartans, they were confident leading up to the game. "These guys just played with a lot of confidence and a lot of heart the entire season," Majors said.

The Eagles took their confidence and heart to the Ipswich field, won a nail-biting game, and ultimately spoiled the Spartans’ undefeated record.

The game remained scoreless until Centerville freshman, Tamba Kamara, scored with 21:16 left on the clock. Kamara, a 19-year-old Liberian native who came to the U.S. three years ago, was the team’s top scorer this year with 22 total goals. He was a vital component of the victory, as he proved later in the game.

After 10 more minutes of play, Ipswich’s Jason Beardsley scored, tying the game 1-1. But with only 2:30 remaining, Kamara connected back to net again, again putting his team in the lead. Though this time, there was no retaliation, and the Eagles fought to a 2-1 victory, the team’s first State Soccer title in six years.

Kamara, arguably the game’s hero, is excited about the win, but he understands that it came from a team effort. "I’m so grateful for this victory," he said. "The whole team came together to win." Majors agrees, adding that "everyone contributed this year."

Through the Spartans lost to the Eagles, they can still be commended for a great season. "It’s a tough loss for our guys, but they played great all year," Spartans head coach Mike Flaherty said. "They have every reason to be proud of this season."

Both teams concluded an amazing year with the State Championship, but Centerville High came out on top and ended its season 14-2.

Dreams of a Smarter Tomorrow

Many adults encourage high school students to think about their future. But five students chose to take these words of wisdom to a whole new level this year.

Tom Haines, Jacob Hovesty, Brady Rolfe, Andrew Glenda, and Nick DeFries from Lincoln Penn X High School, won the Windstream competition, "Smart Tomorrow" this year, winning $20,000 to split among themselves and another $20,000 for their school’s foundation.

Created by Windstream, this competition challenged students to express their visions of a more connected world in the year 2021. Windstream’s senior vice president for consumer and small business marketing Sara Day said that "The company focused on high school students because they will be innovators of the future."

Fielding a team of "Big 8" or "Straight Club Residents" by fellow classmates, these five students decided to create a short video for the competition. Senior Jacob Hovesty said that he and his team sat down and brainstormed some practical ways to use technology to make life easier for the competitors. These practical ideas were what helped the students to win the first place title.

Lincoln Penn X Principal Tom Korns said that he asked teachers to encourage students to participate because of the local nature of the competition. He wants us to express that since it was more local, it seemed like a good but looking back at it now, he says that it was definitely worth their time and energy.

Not only did the students win a large sum of money, they will also be provided with a virtual learning session with a venture capitalist who will provide feedback on the video and offer some career advice.

Although these students are still in high school, it will soon be back to the future for them in order to implement the many practical and innovative ideas they have for a more connected world.

Yearbook Feature Writing
Erynn Dahlke, Kearney
FIELD DAY

EMERSON UNITED ELEMENTARY STUDENTS GET ELECTRIFIED AT FIELD DAY

By Nathan Langan, Omaha Central

All 210 students from Emerson United Elementary School had a blast at their school’s Field Day this year. The event was held on the school’s playground and was sponsored by the PTA. The day was filled with fun activities and games that had students running, jumping, and playing until they were exhausted.

The morning started with a community breakfast where teachers and parents were able to enjoy a meal together. The students then proceeded to their classes for more fun-filled activities. They played games like relay races, obstacle courses, and even a friendly kickball game.

After lunch, the students gathered for the final activity of the day: the field day. The event was divided into several stations, each featuring a different activity. Students could choose to participate in as many or as few activities as they wished.

The highlight of the day was the “ electromagnet station.” Students were amazed by the power of magnets and how they could attract and repel other objects. They also learned about the history of electromagnets and how they are used in everyday life.

At the end of the day, students were exhausted but happy. They had had a great time and were looking forward to next year’s Field Day. The PTA plans to make it an even bigger event, with more activities and games to keep everyone entertained.

In conclusion, Field Day was a huge success. The students had a blast and the community came together to celebrate the spirit of teamwork and fun.

"It was a great day," said one teacher. "I couldn't be happier with how it turned out. The students had a blast and we hope to make next year's Field Day even better!"
Haven’t you ever wondered your future and purpose at Midstate High? Being a part of Midstate High means not only looking back on the memories, It means looking forward to those to come.

Being a part of Midstate High means taking your abilities, and challenging them academically and socially.

Being a part of Midstate High means falling down, then learning from your mistakes and thriving from them.

Being a part of Midstate High means understanding all the knowledge you gain today.

To make a bright future for tomorrow.

Being a part of Midstate High means being a part of a small community, That is prepared to grow into a plethora of leaders.

Being a part of Midstate High means being a part of something that is not just a student body, But being a part of a family.

Being a part of Midstate High means you are in the right place to make a difference, And become something that will be the NEXT big thing.

For four years all the insightful people you meet are right next to you.

Every bus driver on the street are bringing the smiling faces of Midstate students, Right next to you.

Every homeroom teacher who continues to guide you through your daily routine, Right next to you.

Every lunch prepared by the cafeteria staff and spent surrounded by friends talking and laughing and being filled with not only delicious lunches but heartfelt memories, Right next to you.

Every single small classroom with teachers ready to educate you and give you the resources to be successful community members, Right next to you.

Every single student bringing joy into the most memorable and developmental years of your life, Right next to you.

As all good things come to an end, no one can help to wonder what’s next? For a Midstate student all doors of opportunity have been opened.

A Midstate athlete, will take the pride from these years and use it to become a confident and powerful person.

A Midstate
Advertising
Tiffany Schweer, Sandy Creek

Editorial Cartooning
Max Korensky, Omaha Skutt Catholic
I am surrounded by loads of people who are not like me. They range from steak eating hicks who help my dad farm to papusa making Hispanics who teach me Spanish curse words to give me street credit and shout at soccer games. My best friend Tram Tran’s Vietnamese family feeds me pho and plays billiards with me on Fridays.

I’m lucky to live in a diverse area where I’m exposed to these different cultures and have gained unprecedented insights from them, but the one thing that connects us on a deeper level is food. Eating is my thing, and I’ve seen the relationships that can be formed from sharing food. Unfortunately, teenagers are usually close minded towards new tastes and miss out on these opportunities to grow. Instagram is saturated with photos of Starbucks Lattes, and I have never been in an empty McDonald’s. Even in the era where hipsters are the rage, we are conforming to mainstream eating habits. This is a problem.

For nearly three years, I taught an afterschool program to middle-schoolers on healthy eating. I’m an advocate for not making terrible decisions on how to expend your daily caloric intake, but there was a more insidious problem that I faced. The problem of trying new things. I’m happy to be graduating soon so I never have to feed another tween hummus, but I still see these reactions every day from my own peers. We are stunning ourselves by resisting new opportunities. Most teenagers would jump on the opportunity to travel the world, but what happens when there isn’t a McDonald’s in a 10 mile radius?

I’m not saying I’m the worldliest person on earth, but I spend a good part of every day in a house where the language spoken is not my language. I understand maybe two words of Vietnamese and am still welcome in a house where there is an extreme language barrier. Tram Tran’s mother moved from Vietnam just six years ago and speaks a few words of English, but I am still completely welcome in her household. This can all be traced back to eating squid. After trying it and eating a whole plate, her mother started clapping and rubbed me on the stomach. I am not a dog, but I am now a fan of squid and am fed rice, tofu, duck, fish and lo mein on the daily.

Not everyone may see the same opportunities to gain relationships like this, but it is completely possible. Even trying vegetables could build a better relationship with our moms. Teens drinking too many energy drinks and eating hot Cheetos at two in the morning may be an issue, but it isn’t the largest one we face. We have to open ourselves to new opportunities. By missing out on food, we are missing out on conversations, relationships or even funny stories. My grandpa threw up and had explosive diarrhea after eating some Mexican food, but now we have a better Christmas story than anyone I know. I lost a tooth after not realizing cherries have pits, but now I know, and now I love cherries.

By eating some questionable items, I have opened several doors. Tram’s door is always open, and I get a lot of free food. These doors can lead to conversations in the future and countless networking opportunities. Just last week, I was paid five dollars for eating a hot dog off the floor – I didn’t even get sick. The opportunities are literally endless.

The future can hold many things. From hover cars to robots, we all have ideas about future technology. Five Lincoln Pius X seniors turned their vision of future technology into a video that won them $20,000.

Seniors Tom Hanzl, Jacob Hotovy, Brody Rolfs, Andrew Shonka and Nick Corta, or the “Straight Cash Homies” as they call themselves, created a video for Windstream’s “Smart Tomorrow” competition.

The competition was created to challenge students to illustrate their visions of the connected world of 2025 through a short video.

“The company focused on high school students because they will be innovators of the future,” Windstream’s senior president for consumer and small business marketing Sara Day said.

The senior’s video focused on practical ways to use technology to make life easier. They won $20,000 to split amongst themselves and another $20,000 for their school’s foundation.

Principal Tom Korta said that he asked teachers to encourage students to participate because the local nature of the competition made it seem like a good bet. “It was definitely worth their time and energy,” Korta said.

Along with the money, the students will be provided a virtual learning session with a venture capitalist, who will give feedback on the video and offer them future career advice.

Yearbook Feature Writing
Megan Wade, Yutan
What is an award? A piece of paper or small metallic disk? No, of course not. When students study late at night, hustle through the final sprint or work to make Husker High School a better place, they don’t do it for the certificates or medals. What those students do truly appreciate however, is recognition for their hard work. Recognition that can only be attained through an evening awards ceremony.

No matter what award they receive, no student at this school could achieve anything without others helping and guiding them along the way. The most important of those benefactors and mentors are parents. And so, although that certificate may bare a single student’s name, it also truly honors the hard work and contributions of parents and others who, in many cases, can’t see the fruits of their labor due to the downright archaic scheduling of the awards ceremony. Parents, friends and coaches simply can’t afford to put holes in their working lives in order to attend this event that could quite easily be scheduled at another time. Moving the awards ceremony to the evening would make it a far more accessible event for hundreds of working parents. Hosting it during the day, in fact, condemns the labor of those parents two-fold. Not only are they asked to put their own work on hold so that teachers don’t have to, but many are also unable to witness and give recognition to their children who have worked to cultivate for so many years.

It is true that teachers have lives as well. And although it is unfortunate that awards night takes 90 entire minutes out of their undoubtedly busy lives, it is simply a matter of numbers. In order to watch 700 students, 20 or so teachers are probably needed. In exchange for their time however, hundreds of parents would be able to attend; certainly a fair trade as far as numbers are concerned.

In addition, teachers should need no extra incentive to recognize the accomplishments of their students. After all, teachers do spend their entire working lives trying to better those whom they teach. They should feel obligated both to appreciate the hard work of their students, and to feel rewarded themselves for helping them reach their goals. At the very best, they could attend this simple 1 1/2 hour long ceremony.

As a student, it would be incredibly demoralizing to spend hours typing papers, practicing in the gym, or volunteering for others only to receive limited recognition from those who they care about most. They should feel obligated both to appreciate the hard work of their students, and to feel rewarded themselves for helping them reach their goals. At the very best, they could attend this simple 1 1/2 hour long ceremony.

As a little girl, my mother always told me that I could be anything my little heart desired. I told her that I wanted to be a doctor, or maybe even a lawyer. But, after listening to Paul Cline’s Entertainment speech, I finally know what I want to be: an Italian.

I mean, why not right? Everyone loves spaghetti. Everyone looks ten times hotter with a moustache similar to Mario’s. After watching this speech, there’s no way in Italian hell that you won’t want to embrace the Italian heritage, too.

Thanks to this hilarious and animated speech, Paul will so generously give us the 411 on becoming the most amusing and appealing heritage known to man.

He starts off by sharing his life story, specifically about how he realized that he should embrace his Italian background while visiting the country at a young age.

He then goes on to say that Italians have hidden secrets and demeanors that average, lame people like us don’t know about. Did you know that most stereotypes about Italians are, in fact, true? I surely didn’t. Cline lets us in on the fact that all Italians can cook and are all crazy.

All of this already sounds intriguing enough to take part of, but wait- there’s more! I bet you didn’t know that Italians HAVE to talk with their hands and believe in the Spaghetti Monster.

Yes, THAT Spaghetti Monster.

Now, for the moment we’ve all been waiting for. How in the world can one possibly become an entirely different heritage? Aren’t we just born the way we are and kind of just have to accept
Improv Group Proves New Creative Outlet

Acting the Part
Students thrive in school improv group

No Script, No Problem
Improv group teaches students to think on their feet

Teacher Learns Lesson While Taking on the Role of Student

Not as Easy as It Looks
Teacher tested while shadowing students

An Educational Experience
Teacher sees first-hand the struggles that students face

Make-a-Wish Foundation Funds Chances of a Lifetime

Turning Dreams into Realities
Make-a-Wish Foundation cures kids’ tears

Change Wars for a Cure
USA Stu-Co raises money for Make-a-Wish Foundation
Nebraska is currently the only state which does not allow children of illegal immigrants to obtain a driver’s license. There are currently 2700 young immigrants in Nebraska who call themselves Dreamers.

These Dreamers desperately seek the approval for a chance to have a driver’s license. Many have commented on the situation and said that if they were granted the legal status of holding a license if would help to be able to succeed by giving them a way to get to school and work.

Comments from the Dreamers also include wanting to contribute, not wanting to leave where they have established a home and a family and wanting equal rights regardless of their parent’s immigrant status.

Speaking for the children of parents of illegal immigrants and speaking on behalf of the 2014-2015 journalism staff’s opinion, the children whose parents illegally traveled to the United States but who have personally made the decision and taken the time and dedication to become a citizen of the US should be allowed to obtain a driver’s license.

The staff agrees that if they were not able to obtain a license, they would have a hard time finding a ride to school in the morning because of their working parents schedule. Also, while there is a bus system for school, those who are in sports or who would like extra help before and after school commented that they would not be able to stay as long as they would like because they would have to depend on means of transportation.

Many students are required to work for personal spending money and some are required to work in order to support their family or to save up for their future education. Work hours can sometimes be awkward, starting shifts in the middle of the day, or early in the morning and ending late at night.

If these working students do not have a ride to their place of employment, they will receive a bad reputation and will have a smaller chance of being hired again by the same employer or those of similar trade within the same town or area.

The Dreamers want to succeed in order to have a better life than their parents led and to make sure that their posterior have a greater chance of succession in the future. If they are not granted the opportunity to have a driver’s license, we, as Nebraskans, are denying them of their wish to succeed by taking, possibly, one of the few means of transportation that is available to them.

In agreement of denying their will to succeed by taking away their means of transportation, the staff also agreed that many students of the school personally use their means of transportation to run errands for their family.

More than half of the staff has a younger sibling and three-fourths of the staff has a younger sibling or a family member that needs to be taken care of or transported on a regular detail, working parents sometimes do not have time to run to the store and pick up necessities for the family because of their own personal schedule.

The journalism staff and school has been discussing the outcome of the current bill that is against the ban of young immigrants obtaining a driver’s license and is looking to follow the rest of the policy. A majority of those discussing the issue believe that children of illegal immigrants should be granted the right to have a driver’s license.

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In early March there was a hearing held in the state capitol hearing room where dozens of Dreamers told the Transportation and Telecommunications Committee that they want to stay here and they want to be able to succeed. The Dreamers believe that having a license would help them to do that.

The America Civil Liberties Union of Nebraska has sued the state over the policy. The Lancaster County District Court civil trial will be held on April 29 to discuss the policy that will determine a large portion of Ray Aguilera and many similar immigrants who are looking to obtain a driver’s license from the state of Nebraska.
After a successful line of work, Centerville English teacher and leukemia survivor Sam Smith partnered with his son, Seth, to complete a 400-mile bike trip to raise money for cancer research.

Eventually, the two decided to raise money by riding their bikes across the state of Neb. Several times, according to Seth, bike riding was something they loved to do together before Smith became ill.

The idea of free Wi-Fi on the buses for students to be more productive with their time on commute to school was offered in late autumn. Superintendent Dr. Red Nation officially proposed the idea in November.

"Offering Wi-Fi will positively impact academic productivity. I know some students will goof off, but our district computer security severely limits where students will go, " Nation said.

Adding Wi-Fi to our buses should level that playing field, " Nation said.

Over 200 cancer survivors rode alongside the duo for parts of their journey. Others even invited the Smiths into their homes.

Seth and his father posted stories about the people that they had met on their blog. The longer their bike ride went, the more their blog grew.

"Dad and I had budgeted for hotels every night, but in every town, a cancer survivor offered us a place to stay, " Seth said. "We were able to donate our hotel budget."

Overall, the duo managed to raise $50,000 by the time they arrived home. A representative from the American Cancer Society will come to Centerville High School on Friday to accept their donation during a school assembly.

"People have been incredibly giving, " Smith said. "I pray this amount of money will help find a cure."

Hannah Thomazin, Columbus Scots
Astronomy Club

Program planned

Astronomy club has a presentation every week at 4:30 PM in the Science Building. The presentation will focus on spring constellations and will begin at 8:00 PM. There will be a handout available for those attending. Everyone is welcome to attend and can bring binoculars if they wish to view with the club’s telescopes. Participation is free and designed for all ages. For more information, please call the park.

The program is free, with no registration required, and features an educational and fun presentation on spring constellations.

**Think Twice Before Texting and Driving**

The BHS chapter of SADD held a safe driving assembly April 17th in the BHS gym to show the true dangers of texting and driving. The assembly was an effective lesson on the consequences of texting and driving just to make the situation more enjoyable. The goal was to help show students the dangers of texting and driving instead of thinking about the consequences.

By: Brittney Williams

**Think Twice Before Texting and Driving**

By: Brittney Williams

**The Inspirational Ms. Lima**

This week, the BHS Dispatch recognizes Ms. Courtney Lima as its Teacher of the Week.

Ms. Lima volunteers her time outside of class to be a part of the BHS’s Drama Club performance, Peter Pan. Over the past couple months, Peter Pan has given Ms. Lima the opportunity to know her so well. We wish her and her students who are thankful to have the opportunity to have her in our school and we continue to stand behind her.

Aside from teaching, being a part of the Seagull Six on top of that. It seems that Ms. Lima has been training for the Boston Marathon since freshman year, she continues to say, “Although I never had her as a teacher, she was always a teacher I’ve admired since freshman year geometry, together was freshman year geometry.”

Additionally, Ms. Lima is a friendly face to all. She is an outstanding teacher and role model for the students of BHS. Ms. Lima has always been there when I needed her to be. She is an outstanding teacher and role model for the students of BHS.

“Ms. Lima is a friendly face to all. She is an outstanding teacher and role model for the students of BHS.”

Mr. Scott Ashworth has been a teacher for over twenty years. He has been involved in wrestling matches dressed up as either “Doink the Clown” or “Sweet Little Lila” for twenty-two years now. On Wednesday, April 16th, Mr. Ashworth performed in the BHS gym to help raise money for the BHS Class of 2016. Many teachers, staff, co-workers and other students involved in helping to make this happen.

The BHS SADD board, who decided to have the wrestling event, is small but does big things within BHS and the community. This club is run by Ms. Williams and is small but does big things within BHS.

SADD stands for Students Against Destructive Decisions and exists for teens. Every year SADD holds elections. This club is run by Ms. Williams and the community.

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MORE THAN A GAME

“Sportsmanship is a style and an attitude, and it can have a positive influence on everyone around you.”

Photo Illustration
John Morrissey, Mount Michael Benedictine
For the first time in six years, Centerville High School won the state soccer title defeating Ipswich 2-1. In a thrilling back and forth contest that saw the Eagles score a last goal on Ipswich’s home field, in Wadsworth, the victory caps off a memorable season that saw the Eagles go 14-2.

Although their season ended with a state tournament, Centerville did experience adversity on their way to the state championship. During the regular season, the Eagles were defeated twice in their home city of Ipswich. Those defeats were during a conference meet. The Eagles have now defeated Ipswich twice at home. The victory and the loss makes it a memorial challenge for both teams.

By the time the state championship game rolled around, Centerville found out that they would once again have to face Ipswich. But this time, with 21.13 remaining and Ipswich inside of the 18 yard line, the Eagles’ coach called for a time out. The coach’s decision paid off as the Eagles went on to win.

The Eagles failed to hold their lead for long however, with just over eleven minutes left on the clock, Ipswich’s Jason Beardsley leveled things for the home Spartans. The goal meant that a single moment of brilliance for either team could turn the tide.

The victory was due in no small part to Kamara, who scored the Eagles’ first goal. The goal gave the Eagles a 1-0 lead, which they preserved until the final whistle. Despite Ipswich’s best effort, the Eagles went on to win.

The problem does not lie within schools funding for basketball. Furthermore, the problem affects the number of girls who play basketball.

Despite their two victories over Centerville earlier in the year, the result meant that the Spartans finished their season with a single loss and without a title.

"It got to the point where all the girls were playing club ball in the summer," Junior Laura Long said. "I didn't want to spend all summer planning my life around basketball."

This wasn't the only problem for Laura. She said that her parents couldn't afford all of the costs that went along with playing basketball all year long. From paying to be on the select team to getting those favorite basketball shoes, it can get expensive.

Aft er the game, Kamara gushed "I'm so grateful for this victory. " The 19 year old freshman immigrated to the country from Liberia only 3 years ago. He has come a long way, however, and now has a state title to his name. None the less, he too praised his team's championship winning effort, saying "This was a team effort."

Over the past year, 12 schools took the Post-Gazette survey. 28 percent of the schools said they had a roster of fewer than 13 players. Additionally, 72 percent of the schools said they could not afford the cost of playing basketball.
swimming fast and hard in a swallowing pool
heavy breaths keeping them afloat, they are reaching towards inclusion

on the court with a pounding heart
hearing chanting crowd surrounding, the team is reaching towards inclusion

running circles after the sound of a shot
trying to keep his legs alive, he is reaching towards inclusion

cheering above the fans on a Friday night
waving pom-poms and uplifting signs, leaders of cheers are reaching towards inclusion

on a court, field, track, or in a pool pushing the limits and never giving in to negativity, we are all reaching towards inclusion

Yearbook Theme Development
Grace Lueders, Allyson Rohde, Blair
Work Together With Staff

At Pittsburgh Phillips, Igims is in charge of field day and PTO members help him out wherever they can. He puts together all the activities and decides on the games and schedule, when lunch will be served, and which venue they will use. The PTO contributes money for the event. Parents also assist Igims by preparing and setting up for the activities and then monitoring them. “You need to have a strong person within the staff who coordinates field day,” Margittai says. “If just the PTO organizes the event, you still need input from the staff because they know what’s important and what the kids can and will do.”

The teachers also participate in field day at Pittsburgh Phillips. They walk their classes to the facility and rotate through the activities with their students. Some of them participate and some take photos. “It’s fun to see the adults hear parents interacting and building friendships,” Igims says.

Some activities are individual, some require teams, and some involve the entire classroom. “Make sure the activities or games chosen are age-appropriate,” Igims recommends, “and that you have the space and equipment, and that they are safe for the children to do.”

Left: No Field Day is complete without a spirited tug of war. Here group Mrs. McGillcuddy’s 4B class puts all their gumption into the pull that won them the ice cream prizes in this contest.

Below: Freezer pops capped off the warm day of activity. Third graders Jake Lockett, Shannon Marchesino and Lollie May (back to camera) enjoy the cool treat before heading home with their parents. Nearly three hundred students competed in the end of school play day.
When hydrogen and oxygen are mixed with heat, they ignite in a flamboyant explosion to form water. In a similar reaction that consists of combining rowdy high school students, popular entertainment and Nebraska football, the Ninja Turtles cheering section was born.

Every student that attended Midstate High School knew that to stand out, you had to be able to face it head on. "I'm ready for whatever the future will try to throw at me," said senior Brandon Pond. With the brand new school under construction, the students and staff of Midstate High School knew that with a new school, came new ways to keep the fun and excitement going throughout the rest of the year.

At the beginning of the year, they publicized themselves via Facebook, and they kept the fans on their toes with a list of new cheers that wasn't going to end here. "The fun doesn't end with school," said freshmen Bobby Robinson, "I'm still planning to enjoy myself."

With incoming freshmen excited to start off their high school lives, seniors already suffering from "senioritis," with new faces and new names, students could become whatever or whomever they wanted. "I like to stand out," said junior Nikhil May, "after all it's the fun that makes a game worth watching."

"We get a lot of the Shell 'Em cheer, we just want to cheer the other team back off," Gladd said. "We're not Off and On."

At the beginning of the year, the Ninjas of 2011 failed to show up to every game. They did a bad job of communicating with the younger grades, like not involving them and making them feel welcome," Torme said. "We have a lot of friends on the football team and we want to show up and Bomber taking off and a roller coaster. In this cheer, the section erupted with roars as they followed Torme's directions when the team filed out for the second half.

"We get so fired up with the Shell 'Em cheer, we just want to rip the other team's head off," Torme said. "We have a lot of friends on the football team and we want to show up and support them.

"I think the Ninjas of 2011 failed to show up to every game. They did a bad job of communicating with the younger grades, like not involving them and making them feel welcome," Torme said. "We have a lot of friends on the football team and we want to show up and support them."

Even with the changes, the original pride and purpose of the Ninjas remains clear, and they work hand-in-hand with the school even though they aren't officially sanctioned. "We're just trying to encourage the fans and not disrupt anybody," seniors and staff of Midstate High School say. "We don't really do anything for the school but it's a fun way to support the athletes."

As part of the team and the fans, the Ninjas will continue contributing to football atmosphere as much as they can to support their athletes.

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