



Singin' in the Rain, reigning supreme



Photo by Victoria Ou

In this climactic scene, Don Lockwood, played by Alex Carr dreams about fame in New York City. He sings, "Broadway Melody," fantasizing about "dancin' down that street in that Broadway rhythm, writhing, beating rhythm."

By Kathleen Barnes and
Jocelyn Testa

Singin' in the Rain, this year's musical, is about a movie within a movie. It takes place in 1927 in Hollywood, with famous silent screen star Don Lockwood and obnoxious Lina Lamont transitioning from the making of silent to talking films. But the silent film era is soon overtaken by sound, as the concept of syncing sound into a movie is introduced, causing Don's movie producers to attempt to create a film using voices.

However, as they begin to produce their first talking film, it is decided, with the help of Lockwood's sidekick, Cosmo Brown, and the head of the studio, R.F. Simpson, that Lina doesn't have the voice to speak or sing for the public in film. Kathy Selden then enters the scene, and works with the director, Roscoe Dexter, to dub in her wonderful voice for the annoyingly high-pitched voice of Lina Lamont. Only, little did Lockwood expect to fall in love with Kathy; and the rest is history—that is, a history worthwhile to witness at this year's musical.

Continue to page four to read more about the musical.

A delicate balance

By Nina Campos

Hunterdon Central has maintained its reputation of excellence in academics and sports throughout the years. Its athletic program consists of 33 interscholastic sports teams that have won 53 NJSIAA Group/Team and National Championships, the Star Ledger Cup in 2000 and 2001, and the ShopRite Cup in 2008, 2011, and 2012 for Excellence in Athletics, Academics, and Sportsmanship. This kind of high performance makes one begin to wonder: what is the cost of this success on high school athletes? Is that varsity jacket the athletes have been eyeing since their freshman year really worth it?

Those who are involved in a varsity sport, while still thriving in an academic environment, are forces to be reckoned with. Their winning mentality is just as apparent in the classroom as on the field. However, the theme of exhaustion is present in almost all of the athletes' feelings towards their homework. Junior Liv Saunders described her attitude about homework during the

Girls Volleyball season as fatigued. "In season, homework can seem overwhelming. Most week nights I don't get home until 7 or 8 o'clock and by that time I'm too exhausted to even think about homework," she said. Junior swimmer Maria Russo who helped the Girls Swim Team to a State Championship just a few weeks ago, agreed with Saunders. "Homework during the school season was pretty crazy. I would sometimes go to a meet, then have to go to club practice, and then get home at 7:30 super tired," she said. "Then I would do homework for a couple of hours until I physically couldn't stay awake anymore. It was physically and mentally exhausting." The amount of dedication the athletes of Hunterdon Central put into their sport is nothing short of miraculous, considering the little amount of time students have to get assignments done. When added to how high of a standard Central teachers hold their students, and you've got a recipe for extreme stress.

Continued on page eight

Note to selfie

A comprehensive guide to selfie etiquette and its evolution in modern society

By Olivia Spildooren and Olivia Kane

Selfie Sunday. Throw-back Thursday. Only a few of many adorable alliterations that are just excuses to post pictures of yourself on the internet.

Okay, so who can really say they are immune to the disease that is chronic selfie-snapping? There is nothing innately wrong with taking "selfies," but with this evolving trend also comes much responsibility. The internet has been around a little over a couple of years, yet we still have to teach cyber-manners in school. But, do kids, mostly teens, heed the warning that everything on the internet or social media can be seen by anyone? Your loyal "likers" and followers are probably not the only

people checking you out.

Recently, a little-known DJ duo, the Chainsmokers, released a single called "#Selfie" that has skyrocketed to #55 on the Billboard Top 100, as of March 7. The song is catchy and the beat drop is a blast when you're driving around town, and the girl's voice speaking the "lyrics" is pretty reminiscent of Moon Unit Zappa's "Valley Girl" that made waves in 1982.

"Can you guys help me pick a filter? I don't know if I should go with XX Pro or Valencia. I wanna look tan. What should my caption be?" she whines. "I only got ten likes in the past five minutes. Do you think I should take it down?"

These words are evidence that selfies promote and produce a culture of "likers." In an interview with the Huffington Post, half of the

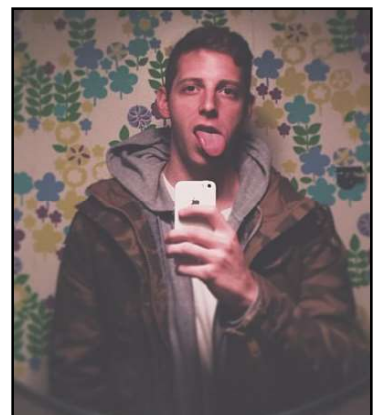
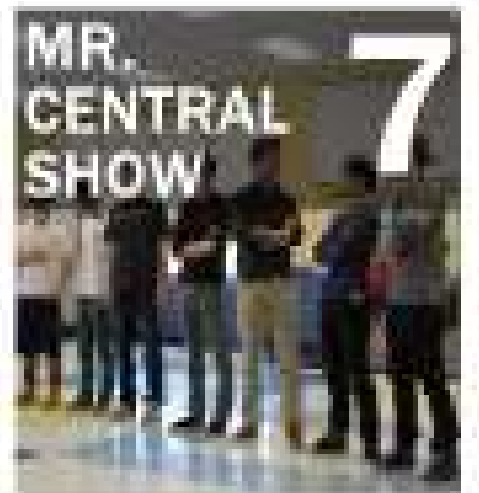


Photo courtesy of Christopher Titzer

A teenager taking a "mirror pic" one of many versions of the selfie.

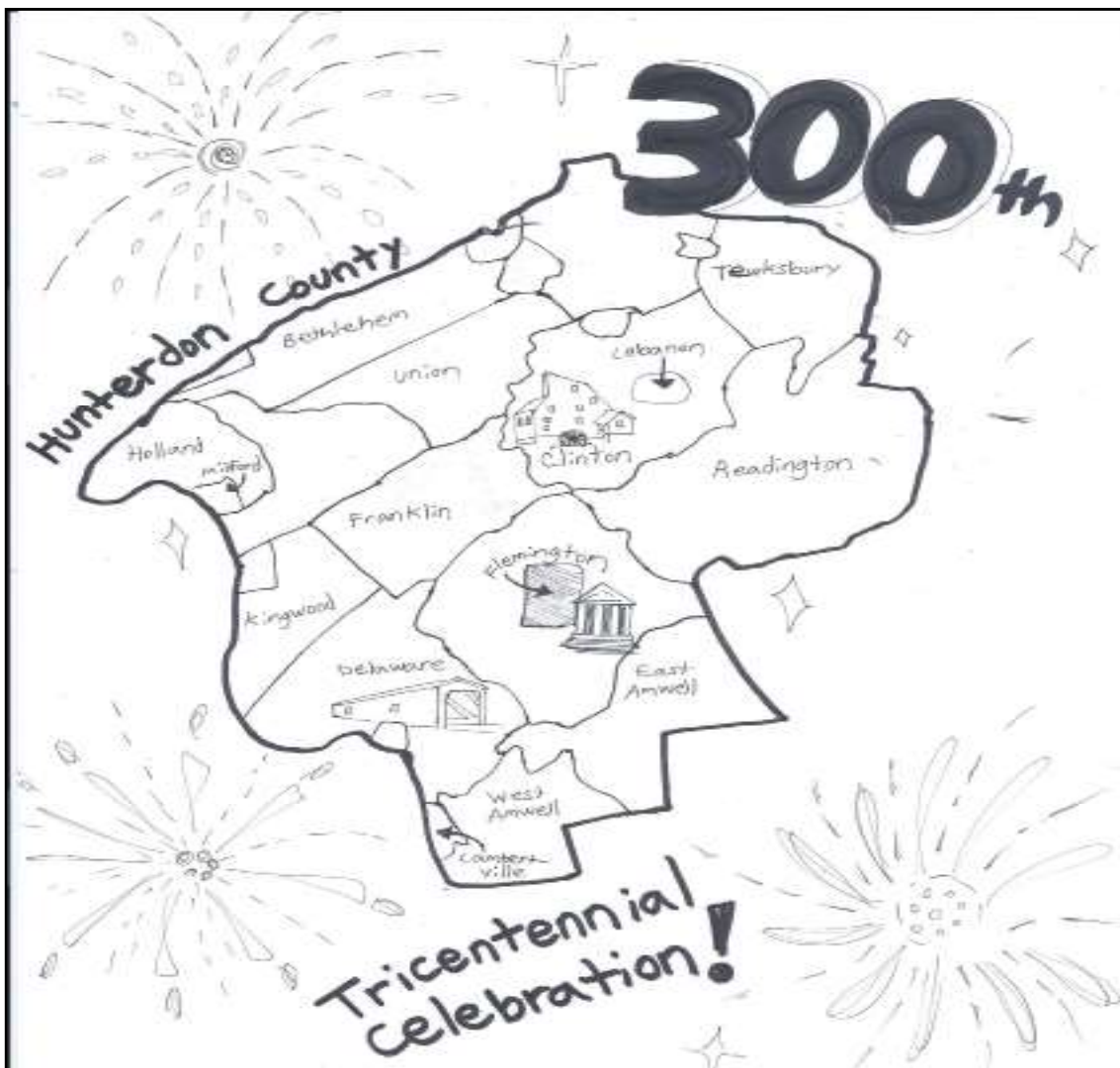
Chainsmokers duo, Alex Pall, said: "[The song] couldn't have come at a better time in terms of the relevance of the trend." And sure, he's right. If the selfie trend had died off, it's likely the song would have exponentially less success. The practice of taking a picture of yourself and posting it on the internet to receive praise by the masses has to be unhealthy. Younger and younger kids are worrying about their weight, appearance, and social status, all of which are judged through Instagram filters.

Continued on page three



Happy Birthday, Hunterdon County

Community to celebrate Hunterdon County's rich 300-year history



Cartoon by Crina Magalio

By Tiffany Jiang

After Washington crossed the Delaware in 1776, it was Hunterdon County where he landed. When the "Crime of the Century" needed

a courthouse for the Lindbergh trial, it was Hunterdon County that housed the trial.

Before Mercer County existed, it was Hunterdon County that was host to the Battle of Trenton, a key

battle in the Revolutionary War. All three events changed the course of American history, and having these events take place in Hunterdon County makes its tricentennial celebration a significant occasion.

To celebrate the exciting milestone, the Hunterdon Tricentennial Committee has prepared a couple of big events. On Hunterdon County's 300th birthday, March 22, the Committee will be hosting a parade.

The parade will be held on Main Street in Flemington at 4 P.M. followed by birthday cake and hot chocolate in Court Street Park for everyone to enjoy. Later that night, a fireworks show will be held at Reading-Flemington Intermediate School to light up the sky in celebration.

The Committee is also making plans to have some of the county's marching bands play at the parade, which will include Hunterdon Central's Marching Red Devils.

According to the website, hunterdon300th.org, the Tricentennial Committee has organized a Tricentennial Gala Celebration on March 29 in addition to the parade.

The Gala will be a formal event, with only 250 tickets available for \$150 each and a semi-formal, black tie optional dress code. This event include fine dining and musical entertainment.

Outside of celebrating the anniversary, the Tricentennial Committee currently offers over 200 smaller events.

Marcia Karrow, Chair of Tricentennial Committee and a former Red Devil herself, has stayed involved with Hunterdon County's history as she helps plan the Tricentennial celebration. "Almost half of the events are lectures. The rest of the events include tours, concerts, performances and craft projects for children," she said.

This large range of events in-

cludes a summer concert series held at Deer Path Park, a one man band playing to portray the life of Charles Lindbergh, and local historians giving speeches on the rich history of Hunterdon County.

Even better, the events should be accessible to everyone regardless of financial standing. "About 98% of all of the official Tricentennial events—about 198 events—are totally free; the others are all very low cost," said Karrow.

In the rare occasion that an event does cost money, the funds are usually spent on transportation fares, hiring the guests in the events, or raising money for future events.

The Committee is also looking to become more in touch with the high schools of its county. "In the fall [the Tricentennial Committee] plans on making history by having all five high schools' marching bands march together in an event the Committee calls 'Massed Bands,'" said Karrow.

The organizations that are helping the Tricentennial Committee include the Hunterdon County Historical Society, Hunterdon County Culture and Heritage Commission, the Hunterdon County Chamber of Commerce, the Red Mill Museum in Clinton, and the Board of Chosen Freeholders. In addition, all of the events are run strictly by the Tricentennial Committee's more than 200 volunteers.

With the upcoming 300th birthday of Hunterdon County, the Tricentennial Committee has really done a lot to bring the community closer together as it prepares to celebrate its anniversary.

Social Studies department welcomes new supervisor

By Allie Rubin

New faculty member Rebecca Lucas has served as the Social Studies department supervisor since mid-February, replacing former supervisor Robert Zywicki. Lucas was a history teacher at Hackettstown High School for 14 years before accepting the position at Central. At Hackettstown, she taught all levels of history from college preparatory level classes to Honors U.S. History to Advanced Placement Government and Politics.

But after more than a decade of teaching, Lucas decided that it was time to try something new. "I used to tell my students to take a risk and move out of their comfort zone," she said. She took her own advice and chose to pursue a degree in educational leadership.

This risk was clearly worth it, as Lucas applied and was selected to be the new department supervisor. While she is still adjusting to the way Central functions, describing it as "intimidating," she has been extremely impressed by the students and her department of 30 teachers. She also finds the elective program to be "fabulous." Central is three times the size of her former high school. Lucas laughed and said that she has only gotten lost once.

Lucas arrived at Central at a time of much turbulence—the 2014-2015 school year will be the first to have an A/B block schedule as well as a new type of state-mandated standardized test, the PARCC exam. She plans to work out some changes within the Social Studies department to accommodate the new schedule, and is confident that all courses that currently run will continue to run next year. While the A/B-Day schedule is a big adjustment for Central, she feels that it is a good one as it will improve the continuity of learning.

It is unknown what changes will be made within the department under Lucas' leadership. Hot topics such as the "capstone" in Global Studies classes will not be addressed until she has considered the opinions of the entire department.

To prepare students for the PARCC, the new "Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for Colleges and Careers" exam, Lucas plans to incorporate writing, reading, and literacy skills into social studies classes. Even though social studies is not a section of the exam, she thinks that these skills are important for social studies classes, too.

Lucas originally fell in love with history because she was always

involved in citizenship. "I want to make sure that young people are active and engaged in our country," she said. "You really can't be active and engaged unless you know how our country functions." The time period between World War II and the Vietnam War is her favorite period to learn about and teach.

While she enjoys her new position, Lucas admits that she misses teaching and forming bonds with students. She loves when students get excited about the information and truly loved the content. "I love teaching because I love to see that moment when a student 'gets it,'" she said. As the Social Studies supervisor, she hopes to incorporate herself into the classroom and get to know students at Central.



Photo by Allie Rubin

Rebecca Lucas, after teaching history for fourteen years at Hackettstown High School, has become Central's Social Studies supervisor.

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Technology Trends for Teens

Central students get their Netflix fix



Photo by Olivia Kane

According to a survey recently done by Netflix, it has over 44 million subscribers as of January 2014, 33.4 million of them from the U.S., with a total of 1 billion hours being watched every month all over the world.

By Annie Nazzaro

Junior Derek Finn wasn't having any of this.

"I don't know, I just get one or two seasons in and I just stop," he said. His friend, fellow junior Cole Newman, didn't get it. "But why, why do you stop watching?" he demanded.

They continued back and forth, Newman throwing out a few "How dare you's and Finn shaking his head. "I think that's one of the reasons I don't do it, because I'll spend all day watching it," Finn explained.

"And what's wrong with that?" said Newman, affronted.

Finn laughed, and sputtered, "Because I have stuff to do!"

"So do I, but I still find time for it!"

Newman doesn't quite understand why his friend doesn't get as into watching TV shows as he does. But that doesn't mean Newman is alone—according to a survey recently conducted by Netflix, 61% of its users "binge-watch," or watch at least 2-6 episodes of their favorite shows in one sitting.

It's also an addiction that most people don't want to break. 73 percent of people who answered the survey said that they view binge-watching as positive.

Newman certainly agrees. He likes how Netflix puts entire shows at his fingertips. "You don't have to wait months at a time [for an episode], or wait a week... but waiting months at a time is too much," he said.

Of course, it's also easy to go overboard. On a recent sick day, Newman had plenty of time for it. "I just watched an entire season of Dexter in a day," he said. "It pulls you in."

Senior Lexie Bruccoleri had a similar problem with binge-watching in her junior year. "My worst Netflix binge ever was probably when I started watching Lost," she said. "It's just so easy and you keep clicking next episode, next episode."

Besides always wanting to know what happened next, binge-watching also became a stress reliever. "It was the first time I was ever in any AP courses here... Netflix was my escape," Bruccoleri said.

It was also easy to get lost in it. "While you're doing it you love it because it's like reading a great book. It's the same kind of compelling factor," Bruccoleri explained. "Then when it's over, you realize I haven't

left my room in 24 hours, I should go eat something."

Binge-watching also got in the way of sleep. On one morning junior year, an exhausted Bruccoleri stumbled into her AP Lang class, her hair in a messy bun, her characteristic winged eyeliner missing. As she slumped into her seat, she said to the rest of the students at her table, "You would not believe how much Gossip Girl I watched last night."

She had stayed up until five in the morning finishing the season, and had only caught 45 minutes of sleep before needing to leave for school. "I just kept thinking you can still get four hours [of sleep], you can still get three hours," Bruccoleri said.

According to a survey recently done by Netflix, 61% of its users "binge-watch," or watch at least 2-6 episodes of their favorite shows in one sitting.

As for Newman, he has stayed up so late so often for the sake of TV shows that it's natural for him to go to sleep in the early hours of the morning. The dramatic twists in the shows he watches also lend to the problem, especially if there's a major character death. "You're just so shocked and traumatized you can't go to sleep," he said.

Binge-watching definitely interrupts sleep, but not necessarily other responsibilities. When Bruccoleri was binge-watching more often her junior year, she was mostly able to keep up with school. "My grades were still fine and everything like that," she said.

But this year, with responsibilities like college applications taking priority, she stopped her hours-long marathons and now just watches the occasional movie or My Strange Addiction episode.

For Newman, TV shows don't exactly take priority, either. He still goes to tutorial, and then tennis practice when he has it. It's when he gets home and he has hours of homework to do that his TV-watch-

ing habit can become an issue. "I usually find some excuse for procrastinating," he said.

That excuse is sometimes a nap, but is most often Netflix.

But students aren't losing sleep over nothing. For teens, the social benefit of binge-watching outweighs that loss. Bruccoleri, for example, had been watching Lost at the same time as a few other kids in her class. They enjoyed discussing the show with each other, swapping theories or teasing each other with future plot points. "You had the upper hand if you already knew what happened," she said.

There was also a competitive aspect to it. Each day when they walked into class, the group would try to beat each other with tales of how many episodes they'd watched the day before, how late they'd stayed up to do it. "It was almost fun to say, 'Oh, you think you procrastinated? Get on my level, I watched eight [episodes],'" said Bruccoleri.

Newman, however, is having the opposite problem - he's trying to rope his friends into watching his shows. "I'll try to bring it into conversations and then not-so-subtly bring it into conversations," he said with a laugh. He said that shows on their own are fun, but it's even better to have someone to discuss them with.

Despite Newman's recruitment attempts, Finn doesn't exactly approve of Newman's binge-watching. "I think he's obsessed and should have more self-control," he said.

Finn thinks that it's a waste of time. "I feel like I should do something besides sit there and watch TV for nine hours," he said. In his free time, he prefers to play video games or talk to friends through FaceTime or ooVoo.

But Newman may win over Finn yet—after all, Netflix has the rest of Dexter available now, and who's going to be able to resist that?



Cartoon by Grace Peters

Pics or it didn't happen: Selfie-esteem

Continued from page one

Freshman Lauren Choi believes that taking selfies can support an extremely self-centered, beauty-obsessed society. "Selfies promote a bad culture because people more times than not go out of their way to dress up and put on makeup when taking a selfie," she said. "They create false identities."

Choi also thinks that people take and post selfies solely for the reward of a "like" or a comment and that this can cause people to feel left out if they don't have a lot of followers on social media.

Senior Phoebe Torsilieri has mixed feelings about the principles of selfies. She recently tweeted: "TAKING SELFIES IS SO SELF INDULGENT AND HORRIBLE BUT IT IS SO FULFILLING" [sic]. Torsilieri later elaborated on her tweet. "Taking selfies isn't that horrible," she said. "It's the taking selfies and posting them for recognition that's kind of questionable. We take and post selfies because we need validation that we are pretty."

Junior Melissa Heintz thinks selfies are good when they're used in the right way. "Like everything else, they're okay in moderation," she said.

As social creatures, teenagers are inevitably influenced and affected by each other's behavior. In a culture where everyone is posting about what they're doing, and

everyone can see what each other is doing, selfies can turn into a vehicle for promoting bad choices and behaviors. If a picture of underage kids holding Solo cups at a party gets a lot of likes, the peer pressure to drink or go to parties, while subtle, becomes much more invasive.

Patrick Hazard, another freshman, points out the lack of individuality in the practice of selfies. "Selfies are a waste of time," he said. "Everyone does them, so it is not unique." He believes that you should strive to be different or yourself, not just jump on the bandwagon of what everyone else is doing.

However, whether people like it or not, selfies have become a big part of society. Senior Erin Ciarrocca personally doesn't partake in taking selfies very often. "I do love catching someone in the act, though," she said.

It's no rare thing for someone to post a nasty comment on someone's picture or to ridicule someone's appearance via Instagram, Twitter, or Facebook, and it's easy to let these comments influence how you act, think, and how you view yourself and those around you. The kid in your history class might post a picture of himself pouring ketchup on someone's car and think he's the coolest kid on the block. But don't fret; in this digital age, "cool" can change before you can finish double-tapping the picture.

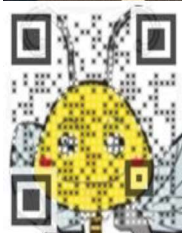
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Hunterdon AB Central's and Do Singin' in the Rain

1. Pick a good cast

By Jocelyn Testa

Show business is a tough business, whether if it's career-based or for simple fun and entertainment. Gene Kelly, who played Don Lockwood in the 1952 film version of *Singin' in the Rain*, could give some good advice to this year's cast. "I took it as it came," Kelly said. "And it happened to be very nice."

Don Lockwood.....Alex Carr
Kathy Selden.....Dana Mastrull
Cosmo Brown.....Austin Palis
Lina Lamont.....Brianna Graf
R.F. Simpson.....Mike Piazza
Roscoe Dexter.....Sam Dennis
Dora Bailey.....Sarah Kilbride
Miss Dinsmore.....Ashley O'Connor
Production Soloist.....Zach Doimi
Diction Coach.....Mason Forringer
Rod.....Jon Spilletti
Sid Phillips.....Craig Tiber
Zelda Zanders.....Amanda Gallagher
Assistant Directors.....
Sammie Slama, Jocelyn Testa,
Andrea Wright
Villain.....Frankie Peake
Sound EngineerAiden Lewy
Policeman.....Anthony Tito

To cast this show, director Gail Enterline, music coordinator Megan Petrushun, and choreographer Elissa Loubet, who works outside the school and was hired for the musical, worked together to create the best cast possible. Every aspiring student actor and actress auditioned by giving a brief monologue, singing eight bars of assigned music with piano accompaniment, and performing a short group dance routine that they had to learn on the spot. Enterline said that every person selected to be in the show

received a star in all three categories—acting, singing, and dancing—in order to be cast.

After the auditions, Enterline works with what she had been given to try and balance the talent and match the actors and actresses to the roles. "Then it's sort of intuition," she said. "I always say I can cast the show three different ways and it'd be just as good." Her final selection consisted of forty-nine incredibly talented individuals out of over 100 auditions to perform in *Singin' in the Rain*.

Student director Kat D'Amico, a senior, was heavily involved in the casting. "The talent that comes through is inspiring, but it's sad because you know not everyone is going to make it," she said. "But that's show biz!"

Another important aspect of a good cast in a production is the chemistry among cast members, both on and off the stage. Senior Amanda Gallagher eloquently captured the essence of the cast bond. "When juxtaposed to previous casts, I believe that this cast is more of a family than simply a group of actors. We all share the same common goal in striving for perfection," she said.

However, no matter how well the cast works together, a show is nothing without a mutual love for the stage, the theater, and acting itself. Dana Mastrull, the junior who plays the leading female role of Kathy Selden, has a strong passion for acting. "When you act," said Mastrull, "you get to be whatever you want to be."

Sure, show business is tough, but nothing in life worth having comes easy.



For the final scene of the musical, the cast wore raincoats and carried umbrellas as they sang "Singin' in the Rain."

2. Follow the leader

By Angelisa Cuniff

During the production of *Singin' in the Rain*, the teachers weren't the only ones running the show—there were students involved in directing the musical during its progression. The student directors for this year's production were senior Kat D'Amico and junior Abel Castro.

These two became student directors with the permission of Gail Enterline, the drama teacher in charge of the musical. Castro was intent on following the path of directing since freshman year, and believed that he was qualified

for the position after years of participating in various school plays and musicals. "I have a lot of theatrical experience on and off stage, and I told Ms. Enterline that I would love to work with Kat, and that we would make a great team," said Castro.

D'Amico had a slightly different approach. "I fell in love with theater during 'Don't Drink the Water' when I was doing costumes my sophomore year, and I wanted to stay involved with theater," she said.

The role of student director carried many responsibilities, some of which include paperwork, clarifying lines, refining scenes, and keeping the cast on task. These responsibilities often pose challenges for the directors. "You have to learn how to be very patient, and remember that these kids are your peers," said D'Amico.

Castro agreed. "You have to learn to not just go your own way, but, instead, to meet the cast members halfway," he said. "There needs to be a good medium."

However, there are also bonuses to being in charge. "I like the sense of authority, as well as being there to help the cast members make the best show they can, because they

have a lot of potential," Castro said.

D'Amico believes that the progression of the show, from beginning to opening night, is the best part. "What I love about being student director is seeing the growth of everyone in the cast, and seeing them grow and mature and eventually put on a great show," she said.

While the teachers organize the details and the cast makes up the show, the student directors are what hold the whole picture together. With so many different factions of the school, including stage crew, pit, and Thespian Society, convening to create the musical, it takes a brave person to lead them all, and not every student can fill these rainboots.



"I really like working with Abel. He was organized and very funny. Many people think that he was sassy, but it was in a loving way."
-Kat D'Amico

Photos by Helena Gan

3. Meet the



Gail Enterline, the drama teacher, planned and organized the musical. Not only did she cast the actors, but also blocked each scene and came up with innovative ideas to improve the show. She contributes greatly to the set design, according to student director Abel Castro. "When it comes to making the show look good, she really knows what she's doing," he said.

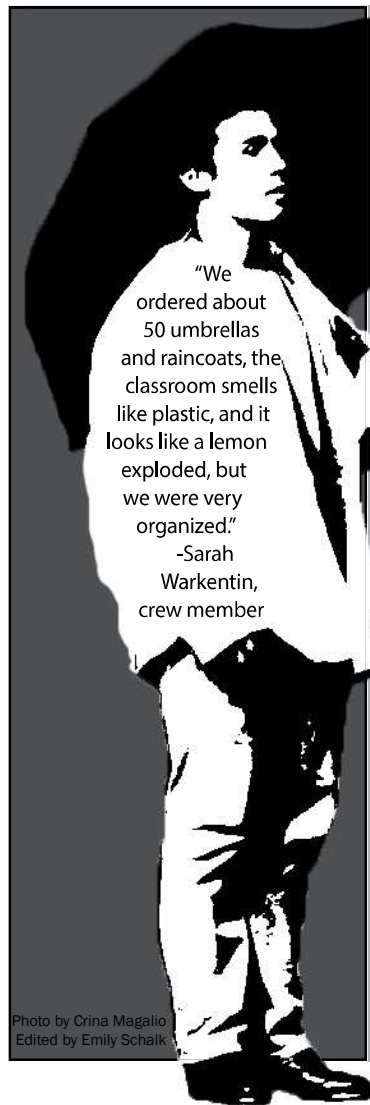


Photo by Crina Magalio
Edited by Emily Schalk

BC's of show -Re-Mi's business in 6 steps or less



Photo by Libby Harrington

e teachers

William Magalio, the orchestra and marching band director, is in charge of all the musical performances for both the pit and the cast. He conducts the pit orchestra while they play the score to the musical, and helps arrange many of the numbers the cast has to learn. Like Enterline, Magalio has been collaborating on the musical for many years.



Photos By Libby Harrington

4. Know your dance by heart 6. Make it rain

By Ben Kirtland

The choreography in Singin' in the Rain seems to leap off the stage every time you watch it. This musical is a tap show, with stomping feet, wild stunts, and leaps and bounds bursting with energy. The dancing could even be called iconic, with well-known numbers such as "Good Morning," and the show's namesake, "Singin' in the Rain."

Senior Danielle Wolfson, a member of the ensemble, believed that this year's musical was filled with some of the most exciting and well-known dancing that this school has ever seen. "All of the choreography is almost exactly the same as the dancing Gene Kelly made famous," she said. Those who love the original Singin' in the Rain fell in love with the moves they know all over again.

Even though the choreography in the show is not as complicated, junior Dana Mastrull, who played Kathy Selden, believes that it was similar enough to the professional musical. "It keeps the spirit of the show and allows the audience to recognize some of the more iconic numbers," she said. "The dances are really joyful and fun, providing an amazing energy that fills up the entire auditorium."

According to Mastrull, this energy is what has made the routines so iconic. "The choreography reflects the tone and emotion behind



Photo by Victoria Ou

In this comical scene, after singing "All I Do Is Dream of You," Kathy Selden (portrayed by junior Dana Mastrull) jumps out of a cake, to the surprise of actor Don Lockwood, played by junior Alex Carr.

each song, making each dance number incredibly memorable," she said.

No number from the musical is more memorable than the iconic "Singin' in the Rain" number, when junior Alex Carr, who played Don Lockwood, had to perform his entire routine solo. "The choreography is very fun but very difficult. It's honestly some of the best that I've ever performed!" he said.

About the scene, Carr particularly remembered all the accidents he went through during practice. "Tap dancing is just so draining and

difficult," he said. "Especially now that I have to do it while getting rained on!" But for the most part, his dance routine went smoothly. Aside from the fact that I've slipped or fallen multiple times!"

Despite these incidents (or perhaps because of them), the dance routines show an organic, exuberant energy that takes a great amount of effort to pull off but looks effortless. While Singin' in the Rain is famous for its musical numbers, it's the dance moves that make it really iconic, even if they're not always the most conventional

5. Fit as a Fiddle, and ready to play



Pit, composed of a selected few members of the orchestra, provides musical accompaniment to each number and participates in audience comments.

By Emily Glauber

Providing background music and ornamental flourishes to the extravagant song and dance numbers in Singin' in the Rain, the Hunterdon Central Pit Orchestra is a major component of the effort to put together a successful musical. For this year's production, the music is arranged by Maurice Rosenfield, Lois F. Rosenfield, and Cindy Pritzker, and offers a distinctive array of songs that reflect the vibrant culture of the Roaring 20's. The tunes offer various types of catchy melodies, ranging from expressive love ballads to upbeat jives that are sure to captivate audiences. Among these are well-known songs from the 1952 movie of the same title, including "Fit as a Fiddle," "Make 'Em Laugh," "Good Morning," and of course, "Singin' in the Rain."

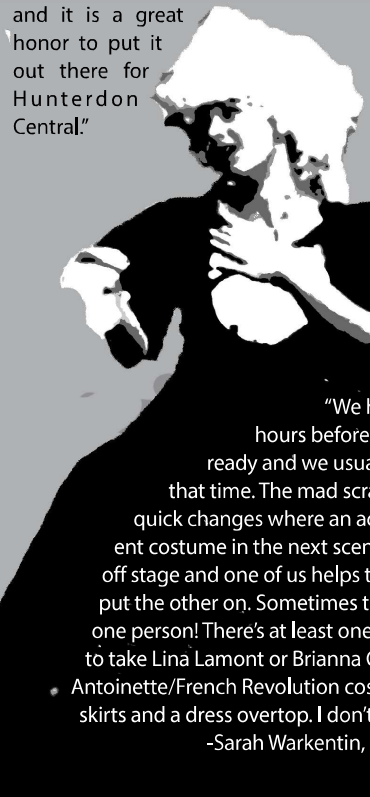
But the orchestra had to put forth a great deal of effort to get every note, rhythm, and dynamic under their fingers. Under the di-

rection of William Magalio, the pit began rehearsing twice a week in November, culminating in much longer practice sessions every day as opening night drew nearer. Magalio said that in order to conduct a successful pit orchestra, great diligence is required. "We need to first learn basic notes and rhythms, and every member needs to commit to the tight rehearsal schedule," he said. "Once that's down, it comes down to communicating—with each other and with the cast—in order to hear and understand how the music fits together with what's going on onstage."

According to sophomore bassist Meredith Okamoto, performing in pit orchestra is taxing, but worthwhile. "The music is hand-written and sometimes we don't have measure numbers and there are often cuts that we have to work around. In addition to that, the music itself is also really challenging because of the level of difficulty," she explained. "But in the end, it's all

worth it to participate in such a fun and exciting activity."

With the mixture of comprehensive music and exciting collaboration, Hunterdon Central's production of Singin' in the Rain was a hit. Magalio, who has conducted the pit for countless musical productions, said that this musical is one of his favorite movies. "I've watched it dozens of times. I grew up watching the film and Gene Kelly, and it is a great honor to put it out there for Hunterdon Central."



"We have two hours before shows to get ready and we usually take up a lot of that time. The mad scramble comes in during quick changes where an actor needs to be in a different costume in the next scene or couple lines, so they run off stage and one of us helps take their first costume off and put the other on. Sometimes there needs to be two of us per one person! There's at least one like that in this show. We have to take Lina Lamont or Brianna Graf and get her into a full Marie Antoinette/French Revolution costume and wig. She has two hoop skirts and a dress overtop. I don't know how she doesn't fall over!"

-Sarah Warkentin, costume and makeup

Photo by Helena Gan

By Christy Duprey

A plush red curtain flies open to reveal a stage full of actors. They sing, they dance, they charm your socks off. And after two acts with a brief intermission, in between the curtain flies shut again, ending yet another Central musical. But what you don't see, with any luck at all, is another cast of characters entirely.

Stage crew, the people behind the scenes, spend two weeks frantically learning the show inside and out, only to never need it again once they've torn down the set. But they love their jobs. Each new show provides a new challenge—whether it was Pippin's attempts to not fog the entire audience, How to Succeed's stubborn elevators, or the earlier challenges of such crowd favorites as Beauty and the Beast and The King and I—and this year's show was no different given the demands of a complicated rain effect and a waterproof set.

Senior Natalie Segers was in charge of cueing the rainmaker, which imitates the famous rain scene during the song, "Singin' in the Rain." The rainmaker, which was acquired by John Anastasio and assembled by James Duffy, is essentially a hose with holes punched along the length of it, mounted atop a PVC pipe. She said, "The water sprays up onto the pipe and drips down the bottom of it, making two layers of rain. It falls onto the big platforms we made that are slightly pitched backwards, which lets the rain roll down and under the buildings, which are raised off the platform an inch or so. So the rain rolls backward and into a set of gutters hiding behind the buildings."

According to senior Brandon Graham, another member of stage crew, it was more than worth it. "It was the most technically intensive show I have ever helped produced, but I'm so proud to be a part of it," said Graham. And it was that sentiment that rang throughout the entire production, cast and crew.

Junior Mike Cannizzaro works on lighting and sound, and is glad to be part of the crew. "Even with all the stress and hard work involved, when you see the audience members' faces on opening night, it all pays off," he said. This mad-dash they put themselves through is so much more than two weeks of concentrated stress. It's a triumph for those on both sides of the curtain.

Is the SAT ruining your Saturday?

Student questions relevancy of SAT in gauging student ability

By Brennan Cook

Perhaps at one point the SAT was useful for determining how ready a student was to go to college and how well they could do at a top-level university, but not anymore. When the SAT was released in the year 1926, students were compared by the scores they received on very important subjects such as Ancient Greek, Latin, German, French, English, and history. Strike that — the SAT has never been a good way of comparing high school students. How many high school students do you know that are capable of speaking five languages and reciting every word of the Declaration of Independence? Personally, I only know two. This may have been why there were only 973 students who took the first version of this standardized test.

The test has undergone a lot of changes in the 88 years that it has been around. Every language except for English has been taken out of the test, and subjects such as physics, chemistry and history have all had brief stints where they were considered important enough to be tested. By the year 2014, all we have left is reading, writing and mathematics, with writing set to be phased out by the year 2016.

But honestly, none of the changes College Board makes to the test will ever be helpful to, well,

anyone. At one point SAT stood for Scholastic Aptitude Test, actually makes sense, right? But now the very name SAT doesn't make sense. Currently, its official name is the SAT Reasoning Test, meaning that it's supposed to test how standardly your aptitude for reasoning is. Yes, I know that doesn't make sense. At this point the SAT is just to see how good you are at taking the SAT.

My favorite section of the SAT is the reading section. While taking the reading section you get to read a story and then answer purposeful questions on what you read. Story topics include but are not limited to: why the Native Americans believed beavers could be considered trustworthy, if Pluto actually exists or not, and perhaps most importantly, if the color yellow is superior to the color green.

I don't remember learning any of this in high school and I'm pretty sure that the last topic is actually an opinion. Much of what is on the SAT today is not covered in classrooms and is therefore not a useful way to compare students coming from different high schools.

Another great part about the reading section is finding out that you barely understand English. For example, instead of saying "the kids were noisy," a sentence on the test could read: "The horde of urchins was being quite obstreperous." Now I don't know about you, but



Photo courtesy of Wikimedia Commons

Students spend Saturday morning taking the recently questioned SAT test.

by just reading this SAT sentence, I wouldn't know what was going on and I doubt even the presidents of the colleges I'm applying to would either. The good news is that the SAT is promising to update the vocabulary section in 2016. This means that the vocabulary will be current and hopefully taught in schools.

Collectively, the SAT is not a reliable way to assess students who are applying to colleges because the tests are out of date, and as any student can attest, have very little

to do with any actual high school curriculum.

The type of knowledge required to do well on the SAT is different from the type of knowledge required to do well in life. More colleges need to become test optional. For example, Drew University: since adopting test-optional admissions, Drew has noticed a 20% rise in applications, showing that students really do not like the SAT, do not feel it accurately portrays their knowledge, and are able to go to college without it.

Ultimately the SAT has never been a great way to test and compare students. No matter how much touching up College Board does, the SAT will not test how successful applicants are as students or what they have learned in high school.

Rather, the SAT is a pitifully inadequate test that wallows in a sea of irrelevance as it covers subjects that they have not learned and will not need to learn.

Shooting for gun rights: court overturns gun restrictions



By Justin Bean

Photo courtesy of nationalpostnews.com

The Second Amendment to the United States Constitution explicitly assures citizens of the United States the right to bear arms not just own them, and a recent California appeals court decision has upheld the very intent of the amendment.

For many years Californians have required a "justifiable need" in order to be issued a concealed weapons permit. While this may seem reasonable on face value, if you dig deeper into what is actually defined as justifiable need it becomes apparent just how ludi-

cious the policy is. Under the law, only people who are retired law enforcement, active military personnel, security guards, and armored car drivers are considered to have the required justifiable need. Even if someone has never broken the law, passes a background check and legally purchases a firearm, their application for a permit could be outright rejected for no reason other than that the local sheriff doesn't think that the applicant needs it. The justifiable need policy, which is also in place in New Jersey, New York, and five other states, has long been criticized

by gun-rights advocates for being overly restrictive of citizens' Second Amendment rights.

The recent 2-1 decision by the 9th Circuit Appeals Court ruled that the requirement for justifiable need takes away the ability of law-abiding citizens to protect themselves in public and that it unjustly restricts their Second Amendment right to bear arms, and ruled that the state must change its policy to issue to those not involved in security work. Justice Thomas O'Scannlain wrote in his opinion in the case that "the only way that the typical, responsible, law-abiding citizen can carry a weapon in public for the lawful purpose of self-defense is with a concealed carry permit. And, in San Diego County, that option has been taken off the table."

This ruling has been long awaited and is much needed. The states that allow for licensed concealed carry regularly and consistently

have lower crime rates than those that don't.

If you dig deeper into what is actually defined as justifiable need, it becomes apparent just how ludicrous the policy is.

For instance, Camden New Jersey has the single highest murder rate in the country, with 61 murders per 100,000 people in 2011, and has had a long instituted justifiable need requirement. By contrast, El

Paso Texas, which has never had justifiable need, has one of the lowest crime rates in the country. Both cities are equally plagued by poverty and racial conflict, but El Paso has always allowed for licensed concealed carry, which has been directly linked to its lower violent crime levels. Crime statistics like these have influenced prominent leaders in law enforcement to support licensed concealed carry.

This ruling could serve as precedent to change gun laws everywhere. The policy exists in eight states which may be forced to change their regulations to issue concealed weapons permits to average law abiding citizens, signaling a major victory for gun-rights activists and people who generally believe that people have the right to defend themselves.

the lamp

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Q: How to impress a girl?

A: Stare...shh I think it's working

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: Too many to choose just one


Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Mrs. Steffner

Q: American Idol audition song?

A: Let it Go - Frozen

Mr. Peer Mediator
Reilly Webb



Q: How to impress a girl?

A: The cute butt

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: Her patience


Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Jane from Tarzan

Q: American Idol audition song?

A: "Fight for your Right" by Beastie Boys

Mr. Class Council
Kevin Csolak



Q: How to impress a girl?

A: Take a shower

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: Her work ethic

Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Ariel because I'm a hoarder

Q: American Idol audition song?

A: "Baby Got Back" by Sir Mixelot

Photos courtesy of Rachel Weil

Mr. Debate
Joel Sirusas



Q: How do you impress a girl?

A: Argyle

Q: Your mom's best quality?


A: Unending love

Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Nala from The Lion King

Q: American Idol audition song?

A: "Build Me Up Buttercup" by The Foundations



Cartoon by Tiffany Jiang

The lights will dim and hundreds will gather in the 9/10 building auditorium on March 21. The curtain will rise to reveal 11 young men of Hunterdon Central's senior class. The event that comes along every spring and is one of the most anticipated of the school year — Mr. Central. Candidates are selected based on nominations by teachers because of their character and involvement in school. The competition is run similar to a pageant; the young men compete for the title of "Mr. Central." They'll show off their talents and walk the stage sporting evening and casual wear to win over the votes of the judges. Although their schedules are packed with Mr. Central rehearsals and extracurriculars, The Lamp was able to secure exclusive interviews with each of them.

Mr. NHS
Aiden Lewy



Q: How do you impress a girl?

A: Two words: indoor jacuzzi

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: She has my eyes


Q: What Disney Princess are you most like?

A: Ariel... I believe in the power of body language

Q: American idol audition song?

A: "Fruit Salad" by The Wiggles #classic

Mr. Football
Jake Trechock



Q: How do you impress a girl?

A: Show off the bod

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: Just like what Ralph Waldo Emerson once said, "Men are what their mothers made them."


Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Mulan

Q: American idol audition song?

A: "I Will Always Love You" by Whitney Houston

Mr. Teen PEP
Nick Della Fave



Q: How do you impress a girl?

A: Show her the cheeks

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: She makes the best sandwiches for me every day


Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Jasmine

Q: American idol audition song?

A: "My Humps" by The Black Eyed Peas

Mr. Ice Hockey
Chris Dolan



Q: How do you impress a girl?

A: Give her flowers

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: She values the little things in life


Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Pocahontas

Q: American Idol audition song?

A: "Don't Stop Believing" by Journey

Mr. National Art Honor Society
Sam Dennis



Q: How do you impress a girl?

A: Flip my hair and sing

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: Her caring and loving heart


Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Rapunzel- it's a hair thing

Q: American Idol audition song?

A: All of them

Mr. Thespian
Craig Tiber



Q: How do you impress a girl?

A: I just let them touch my abs, after that there is no turning back.

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: She is understanding


Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Ariel. I like water and the ocean.

Q: American Idol audition song?

A: "Between the Bars" by Elliot Smith

Mr. Soccer
John Goodwin



Q: How do you impress a girl?

A: Wink with both eyes

Q: Your mom's best quality?

A: How she loves me no matter what

Q: What Disney princess are you most like?

A: Ariel

Q: American Idol audition song?

A: "Vienna" by Billy Joel

Snowy Stewart Field slows the start of spring sports

By Juliette Carnevale

Although the ground was still buried beneath a foot of snow during preseason, the new season for spring sports have quickly approached.

While basketball, wrestling, track and swimming seasons have ended, athletes are preparing for the long road of spring sports ahead.

Track, lacrosse, baseball, golf, and more have been working hard during preseason to make sure that despite they are ready for this season.

But how did they do it? Central's athletes have had a very tough time finding a way to practice this winter due to the harsh, cold weather.

Kira Greer, a senior lacrosse player, shared how she prepared herself. "Even though it's been really cold, I dress in super warm layers and run outside," she said. "Towards the middle of my run it's not that bad, you warm up fast!"

Even though it was well prepared, the golf team had maybe the biggest struggle to find a way to prepare this winter. According



Photo by Libby Harrington

Stewart Field clears up just in time for the spring sports seasons.

to junior golfer Luke Wolklin, it was particularly hard this winter, "Unfortunately there is no facility like Diamond Nation for golfers so all we have to work with are outdoor

ranges."

In past years, the team has been able to persevere and play in below-freezing conditions but that wasn't possible this year due to the snow-

covered courses.

Those trying out for spring track can empathize, as they know first-hand just how debilitating this winter has been, as tryouts have

been relegated to the Fieldhouse at times. Similarly, to preserve the condition of the Hunterdon Central fields, the baseball team started their preseason in the Healthquest Sports Dome.

But what are these players ultimately working towards? Wolklin for one, anticipates a successful season.

"I know we have done everything we can to better our games this winter because it does take a lot of work to win a state championship," he said.

"Our goal is to be the best high school golf team in the state." All of the other spring sports are following the golf team's lead, excited to start the season despite the less-than-perfect conditions.

The winter athletes are looking forward to continuing their athletic careers just as the spring athletes are gearing up for their season.

As prepared as all these competitive players may be, though, it was definitely a struggle to get there. But the dedicated, determined Hunterdon Central athletes will always find a way to make sure their team is the strongest it can be.

New coaches signal a big transition for girls' lacrosse

By Libby Harrington

As spring seasons are starting, the girls lacrosse program is going through a period of transition. Marybeth Driscoll, who started the girls lacrosse program 25 years ago, retired. Her assistant varsity and JV coaches also left.

The three new coaches, Jill Nealon, Devan DePhillips, and Jen Hosler, played together on the field just five years ago, all graduating in 2009 and starting on the freshman level together.

Head coach Nealon leads the program with assistant varsity coach DePhillips and Hosler as junior varsity coach. Laura Sproul is returning as coach on the freshman level. Head coach Nealon talks of her expectations for the upcoming season as well as her thoughts on this period of transition:

Q: How did you come about being head coach?

A: Driscoll retired last year and so they put the job out there. I saw the posting online, and I applied. I loved playing in high school and college and I wanted to give back.

Q: How does it feel to be coming back to where you first started?

A: It's a great feeling. I feel honored to be selected as the head coach. I

gained so much going through this program and playing here. I want to give back to the players so they can get as much out of it that I have.

Q: How do you think going through the Central Lacrosse Program will help you this season?

A: I'm familiar with the little things. I know the other coaches and have relationships with other programs. I know the values and what this program is built on. This will help to make the transition smoother.

Q: What is it like to coach alongside your former teammates and classmates?

A: It's a great feeling. We all started on that freshmen field together and worked our way up and graduated the same year. I told the freshman, these are the friendships that will go throughout life and last well past high school. The three of us work hard and have fun. Since we know each other so well we are able to make up for each other's strengths and weaknesses.

Q: What is your outlook for this upcoming season?

A: I have high expectations. I know there's potential and a lot to build off of. We play a tough conference and have a tough schedule but we should do well this year.



Photo by Libby Harrington

Coaches Devan DePhillips, Jill Nealon, and Jen Hosler (left to right) return to Central to coach the team they played for.

The Plight of a Student Athlete

Continued from page one

When considering how much time sports take up in a student-athlete's life, you can't help but wonder if they ever ponder the idea of quitting their sport. After all, in a society where your high school performance affects so much of your life after high school, some students think that it's not worth it to spend the time if they don't plan on going pro. Junior track and field thrower Patrick Quinn, an athlete who helped his team to a Skyland Conference Championship this past winter season, disagreed. "I continue track because I love the sport. I do not care if it takes up my time, it is worth it; whether it's a short two hour practice after school or a four hour club practice that I have to drive an hour to get to. If you love your sport, you'll make time for it," he said.

Not only are Central's student-athletes leaders on the field, but they are also leaders in the more than 50 clubs and activities offered at Central. Junior Samie Lovisa plays field hockey for both Central and her club team, and is the co-

vice president for Bridges, a club that works to bridge the gap between the older and younger generations with frequent trips to Independence Manor, an elderly nursing home in the area. To Lovisa, the stress in her life is worth it. "Field hockey is something that I love doing, it makes me happy," she said.

Junior track and field thrower Kade Larkin, also on the boys' championship team, is also an active member of Key Club, a youth service-leadership orga-

nization sponsored by Kiwanis International, which focuses on volunteering at local events and fundraisers. Larkin discloses that he enjoys the community service. "I like the opportunities Key Club gives you to give back to the community," he said.

To the student-athletes of Hunterdon Central, the chaos seems to be worth it. These students contribute to the academic integrity at Hunterdon Central. They have helped to cement the mentality that the sports teams of Hunterdon Central are competitive and should not be taken lightly. After all, their hard work and dedication always gives the surrounding community something to be proud of.

	DAILY SCHEDULE
5:00 AM	Wake up
6:00 AM	get ready / finish HW
7:00 AM	Catch ride to school
8:00 AM	AP Chemistry
9:00 AM	Honors Calculus
10:00 AM	lunch - tutor in IMC
11:00 AM	AP Psychology
12:00 PM	AP European History
1:00 PM	↓ "Europe's Friday!!"
2:00 PM	Tutorial - Model UN meeting
3:00 PM	Start home work!
4:00 PM	club team practice
5:00 PM	practice in
6:00 PM	Edison today!
7:00 PM	home work - practice
8:00 PM	varsity playoff game
9:00 PM	GO TEAM!
10:00 PM	↓ HCOLAX!
11:00 PM	Home work - Boy's test - Europe test
12:00 AM	Chloro Lab - Calc HW
1:00 AM	go to bed 22.1.11

Graphic by Libby Harrington

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Corrections for the Feb. 26, 2014 issue of The Lamp:

On the Features page, physics teacher Sean Chappe was reported to have 100 tattoos. While that would be awesome, he actually has a no-less-awesome total of 10 tattoos.