

A-Big Schedule Change

In the 2014-2015 school year, Central will switch from its current schedule to an A/B day format

By Kathleen Barnes

1996, the last year of Central's year-round eight-period day with 40-minute classes. And now, seventeen years later, 2013, our last year of the two-semester block schedule. Though a majority of the population knows fairly little about this topic, principal Suzanne Cooley hosted a principal's forum to try and explain the situation to parents. Many have heard about the scheduling change from block scheduling to A/B day, but so far, the generally known details on this vast adjustment have been all but vague to the public.

For those not informed, the A/B day schedule consists of year-round courses, in which students take four classes on "A" day and a different four classes on "B" day. This is significantly different compared to our current block schedule, in which the school year is two semesters and each semester has a set of four classes for every day.

This will change the whole scheduling dynamic at Central—as students will have to plan 4-year schedules according to a year-round set up. Since the "semester" idea is being tossed, there will also be drastic changes to AP and quarter classes. Because block-schedule AP classes take up 135 days of the 180-day school year, they couldn't possibly be fit into a year-round class schedule.

Therefore, instead, these courses are being changed into "hybrids." These are classes that will run every day for half the year. The hybrid idea will also be applied to those who are doubling up on classes (e.g. taking Spanish 3 first semester and Spanish 4 second semester).

Continued on page 2

Salute to Summer is a Shore Success



Photo by Rachel McInerney

By Angelisa Cunniff

As school sets in and fall kicks into gear, the Marching Red Devils' show, "Summer down the Shore", refuses to let the summer months pass. This year's show, along with the music, features life-guard stands, roller coasters, and beach towels—basically, a re-creation of the Jersey Shore.

"Summer down the Shore" was created by a group of the marching band staff, which includes band di-

rector William Magalio, percussion instructor Chris Zwarich, marching instructor Ed Cooney, and color guard instructor DJ Deans. It is based off of an old show from about a decade ago that featured a Great Adventure amusement park theme. This year, however, the prospect of Hurricane Sandy's devastating influence on New Jersey beaches was also factored into the making of the show. Magalio explained, "Our show isn't a tribute to Hurricane Sandy—it's more of a love letter to

the Jersey Shore".

The show begins with the song "School's Out" to exemplify the excitement on the last day of school, when all the students are finally starting their summer vacation. The next song, "Ride" goes on to represent the drive down to the Jersey Shore on the New Jersey Parkway and the craziness of trying to navigate through traffic. Afterwards, the band performs "Summertime", a jazzy celebration of finally arriving at the beach. Then,

the percussions play "Miserlou" and "Wipeout", representing a ride on a rollercoaster at the boardwalk. At the end of the show, "Living on a Prayer" imitates a rock concert on the beach. "We really pulled all the stops this year," Magalio said. "We wanted to play different music and have fun."

Continued on page 7

Common Core: an Un- common Approach

By Amanda Scully

Hunterdon Central Regional High School offers 226 general education courses, 46 honors level courses and 27 advanced placement courses, and this year every single one of them has been set to align with common core standards. When asked, Senior Erick Gonzalez didn't know what common core was. "I hadn't realized that there was a major change to the curriculum, but after learning about it, I think it's a fair way to teach," he said.

Common core is a new national

system that has currently been adopted by 45 states (New Jersey adopted the standards in 2010). The common core official website, corestandards.org, says that the mission of the standards are to create clear understanding for teachers, parents and students on what all grades from Kindergarten to 12th grade across America should learn in order to become fully prepared for the future and be successful in the global economy.

Continued on page 3

Remembering Zachary Allen



On October 8th, Hunterdon Central lost Zachary Allen, an important member of the student body and a cherished friend. The Lamp will have a tribute to him in the next issue, and letters and articles written in remembrance are welcome, along with pictures. They can be sent to sbarazesh1@hcrhs.org. Zach will be dearly missed at Central.



read
more

RETRO
CENTRAL

3

ALL THINGS
FOOTBALL

4

CHRISTIE
AND GAY
MARRIAGE

6

Drug testing continues despite loss of grant money

By Sam Little

Central's Random Drug Testing program is in full effect despite a loss of grant money in 2006 and a change in administrative control.

The Random Drug Testing Program was originally established in 1996. The original grant money has dried up since last school year, leaving the Central administration to assume responsibility of this program.

Central's budget and taxpayer money now fund the drug tests, said Richard Schneebeili, a Vice Principal who oversees the drug testing program. Each individual test costs around five dollars, and then there are additional costs if samples need to be sent out for lab work. "We budget for how many we are looking to do," said Schneebeili. "So let's say there were 1,000 tests, it would cost 5,000 dollars."

The Random Drug Testing Pro-

gram does not apply to all students. Those eligible to be randomly drug tested are only those students who currently play a sport, participate in an extracurricular activity, park on campus or have volunteered for the program. About 20% of all students who participate in school activities are randomly drug tested, confirmed Schneebeili.

Principal Cooley believes that the drug testing program can help students navigate through difficult times. "I believe students can use it as a tool. In a rough spot it gives them the chance to say 'No I can't do [drugs]'. Ms. Cooley is out to get me. I'll definitely get tested on Monday," she said.

She also said that the point of the Random Drug Testing Program is not to catch kids red-handed. If a student does test positive, the school will not take legal or disciplinary action.

Nevertheless, if the student

does test positive, the student's parents will be notified, and they will have to complete a two week counseling program during which they will not be able to participate in their extracurricular activities such as a club or sport. The goal is to help kids make good choices and keep their lives on the right track instead of punishing them.

In light of inevitable peer pressures and other negative influences, Schneebeili is satisfied with the results of the drug tests, as he feels that the program is acting as a proper deterrent. "That's how I know it's working. People are being deterred from using because they want to play their sport or drive their car," he said.

Hunterdon Central's drug and alcohol problem rests right around the national average according to a survey conducted last year. The percentage of senior students who said that they have consumed alco-

hol in the last 30 days was 52.8% for the boys and 50% for the girls. The national average was 51.2% for the boys and 45.4% for the girls.

Regarding alcohol, Central is a little bit over the national average but there is no red flag. Principal Cooley said that these results were, "Not off the charts, but still worth spending resources on reducing."

One problem that Cooley reiterated was the usage of heroin by teenagers in Hunterdon County. 4.9% of junior boys said they have used heroin before and 3.3% of senior boys report heroin use. It is a highly accessible drug in Hunterdon County and there is a growing trend of teenagers abusing it, according to Cooley.

It is also interesting to note that a much lower percentage of students test positive in a Random Drug Test. A little more than 1% of tests come back positive. Of the 1,000 drug tests performed last

year, only 13 were positive.

In student surveys however, 50% of students report using some banned substance.

This inherently applies to almost every member of the active Hunterdon Central school body, but for those who it doesn't apply to, there are still programs in place to help educate and guide them away from drugs and alcohol.

The school educates students in the health class core curriculum to teach students the negative effects that drugs can have on their lives. Peer leadership and mentoring programs also exist and are designed to help lead students down a healthier path. Lastly, extracurriculars that the school hosts such as Homecoming Fest help keep students entertained and less experimental.

Alternating schedule probable for 2014-2015 school year

Continued from page one

But the same deal can't be given to quarter classes. Instead, Central's administration is planning to combine quarter classes together (e.g. trigonometry and analysis will be meshed into one year-long course).

As for midterms and finals, Central is looking into something called "quarterly assessments," where the administration will work with teachers to stagger different subjects' midterm and final exams so that two course finals will not be packed into one week.

Nevertheless, the primary focus of the change is to allow more time for more classes. Because most AP classes will be reduced to half-year hybrids, and therefore not take up three quarters, students will not be forced to take a quarter class at the end of the year. Instead, they will be able to take another half-year course.

Superintendent Christina Steffner gives her reasoning for the schedule change. "One of the main purposes [of A/B day scheduling] is to provide students with schedules that allow them to take the courses they want to take," said Steffner.

While the majority of Central's population may be reluctant to switch to a different system, The school is exploring the benefits of such a system by creating two committees made up of both students and teachers.

On Wednesday, September 25 and Friday, October 4, these two committees ventured to Middletown High School South and Montgomery High School respectively in order to examine the pros and cons of both schools' A/B scheduling systems.

In each of these committees were several randomly chosen students. One of these students is Ben Danner, a junior at Central. "I think A day/B day is good," said Danner. "While talking to some students from Montgomery, they said that it is a lot less stressful especially for homework...having another day to work on homework instead of having to get everything done by the next night is convenient."

Regardless of the benefits of A/B day, there are still a myriad of flaws to the system change. For example, it may be difficult for the block scheduling alumni to adapt to year-round classes.

More importantly, the time sys-

tem of A/B day scheduling may create some issues in that some classes will be cut shorter, particularly AP classes.

In the block system, AP classes take up three quarters of the four-quarter school year. However, in the A/B system, APs will be transformed into hybrids, which will occupy 90 days.

APs next year will be roughly 67% as long as they are now, with 45 fewer days of instruction according to senior Katie Hyland's math. "For a school that is so afraid of losing class time that they won't let kids go to the bathroom during block 3, I can't help but feel that something is a little off here," said Hyland.

Also, the block schedule, if one day a student does not understand a concept, he or she can simply come back to the class the next day to relearn and understand it. However, with A/B day, students will be required to wait two days until they can go back to the class and go over the idea.

In the end, the transition into A/B scheduling next year may or may not be a rough one. Whether or not the change will be beneficial is another question.



Cartoon by Crina Magalio



A new conference room will bring together the IT department.

Photo by Jon Spillietti



The new renovation replaced the space used for bookshelves.

Photo by Trent Levitt

New Renovation in the IMC

By Colton Fleming and Allie Rubin

Over the summer in the IMC, bookshelves were removed to make room for new offices. These new offices have provided a repurposed workspace for Central's dedicated I.T. staff.

The idea for the renovation was originally discussed last January to solve a systematic problem among the Information-Technology staff. The IT staff is made up of two departments: the technical support group and the database services group.

The technical support group is better known as "The Hub," and these staff members function out of the IMC. Alternatively, the database services group handles information systems such as Aspen, and they were previously housed in the 11/12 building.

Michael Marron, the manager of

Instruction Technology, explained that there wasn't enough room in the library for both groups to share a space. Another big problem was communication; the staff was often frustrated that they couldn't connect face-to-face with those they worked with. "We wanted to spend less time on the phone," said Mr. Marron.

The renovation will house the ten members of the IT support staff. Accordingly, office space and cubicles were built as work space. A small conference room will allow the two portions of the IT staff to interact and work together. "The hope is that the new office space will create a more collaborative environment between the technology support group and the database services group," said Marron.

Many are curious about what happened to all of those books that previously made their home in the back corner of the library. Last

school year, many of the books were offered to students for free. Those that were not picked up by students were donated.

The library change embodies the current push for technological development. In the past, libraries were known to be sanctuaries for tangible books, the 21st century has redefined exactly what a library is and what it means for a school community. The IMC is not only a place where students can read, but also where they can immerse themselves in technology, research, and integrate computers into their education.

Hopefully, the new enclosed office space will be everything that the I.T. staff imagined when they first discussed the renovation almost a year ago: an improved work environment so that the staff can more efficiently integrate technology into our school.

October brings a season of reflection, change

By MeHow Podstawski

October is a month full of unique reasons to show school pride, such as the annual Pink-Out football game, Spirit Week, and Homecoming. While many Central kids participate in these events every year to support their friends, their peers, and their school, not many are fully aware of the history that has shaped this school into the Central we know today.

Though the faculty from Central's earliest days are not around anymore, there are a number of staff members who have been here since the nineties.



Photo Courtesy of Hunterdon Central Yearbook Archives

Two students having a conversation in the hallway in 1958.

Jacqueline Drennon, a physical education teacher, has been teaching at Central since 1994. "I constantly brag about the opportunities that are here," she said. "Coming from South Hunterdon and back when I was in school and knowing what is available to kids today and it's just amazing. I have so

many students that have to be doing big things. I have students that are so involved, it's like, never look back. I am so proud of my graduated students and they are going to be doing big things thanks to the opportunities offered here."

In the 1997-1998 school year, Hunterdon Central received The Blue Ribbon Award from the United States Department of Education. In 2006, Central was ranked 56th out of 328 schools statewide. Central has also been recognized nationally. When the random drug tests were implemented, President George W. Bush praised Central for their involvement in significant cuts in drug use. Christine Steffner and Lisa Brady, principal and superintendent at the time, respectively, attended a meeting at the White House in 2007 where President Bush thanked Hunterdon Central for its hard work and dedication towards eliminating the use of illegal drugs and alcohol.

Central is also the type of school where former students want to come back and settle in their careers. Marjorie Schmidt, class of 2004, enjoyed her time at Central and quickly returned to work as a school counselor. "Central was a great place to go to high school and I had a very positive experience,"

she said.

Central's campus is known to be highly elaborate and modern and hosts one of the most advanced libraries in the state. Emily Ford, a librarian at Central for four years,



Photo Courtesy of Hunterdon Central Archives

has become really attached to the IMC. "To me the history of this facility is amazing. It has continually evolved with each decade keeping ahead of trends, education, technology, and curriculum; it is the forefront of the school," she said. "The fact of the matter is the high school has a very rich history. We are one of the very few schools that have an archive dedicated just to the school's history," she said.

With extracurriculars like Future Farmers of America Club or Homemakers Club, the impact of the culture from the '30s and '50s is clearly visible. Central's Archives even house students' reflections on Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech.

Ford appreciates how the Ar-

chives captures the essence of Central through the generations. "The Archives enable us to explore how the school has changed over the years and how societal trends throughout history have shaped our own culture here at Central," she said.

Even renovations like the covered breezeways have pleased present and past students. "The covered walkways are a lot nicer now than they were when I was a student. They look great!" said Schmidt, class of 2004.

Some Central alumni have even made their way to the big screen. Vera Farmiga, class of 1991, co-starred with George Clooney in the Oscar nominated film Up in the Air. She is also known for her roles in The Departed, The Conjuring, and The Boy in the Striped Pajamas.

Central alumni have extended beyond the silver screen and are involved in television as well. Kent Osborne, a writer on Nickelodeon's "Spongebob Squarepants" from 2002 to 2006, is also a Hunterdon Central graduate. After writing The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie in 2004, and he wrote episodes for Disney Channel's "Phineas and Ferb" in 2008, and Cartoon Network's "The Marvelous Misadventures of Flapjack" and "Adventure Time."

His brother Mark Osborne, also

a Central graduate, is known for his direction of Kung Fu Panda, starring Jack Black, in 2008. He also collaborated with writers on The SpongeBob SquarePants Movie and "SpongeBob SquarePants" episodes from 2002 through 2009.

More notable alumni include Marcia A. Karrow, a state senator, Tom Malloy, class of 1993, known from The Alphabet Killer and Love N' Dancing. Richard Rubin, substitute teacher Sue Rubin's son, was a contestant on the first season of "Beauty and the Geek," and Alex Shaffer starred in the 2011 film Win Win.

Sometimes the beauty and good fortune that is bestowed upon Central students can get lost and buried under textbooks, tests, and Twitter fights. It's important to appreciate the previous generations who have built the base of Central culture and inspired graduates to achieve greatness on and off campus.



Photo Courtesy of Hunterdon Central Yearbook Archives

A sign stands outside of Hunterdon Central's Route 31 entrance, 1976.

New standards change classroom approaches in Hunterdon County

Continued from front page

In reality that is what common core is all about: helping the students to learn new skills in a classroom environment and take these skills and use them in the real world.

Senior Angela Aceti thinks it will help her in future education. "I think the core curriculum should be the same in all schools," she said. "It's unfair for college when students are on different levels."

Some students disagree with the principle of kids from different backgrounds being held to the same standards. Sophomore Melissa Viana believes that education should be more personalized. "I think it's fair to say that a majority of students don't always share the same interests, goals, and rankings as others," she said. "Students should be allowed to have their own unique curriculum that actually suits them."

No matter what, students are always going to be on different levels. Senior Gina Hadam sees the positive aspect in the standards, but also how they could be more effective. "I think the class curriculums should be the same, but they should offer different levels of classes because the demographics are different," she said.

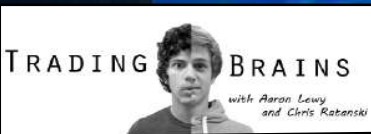
It isn't unusual for students to

question why they need to know certain things they are learning in class, or when are they ever going to use that information again. But with common core, there can be new curricula aimed towards real-life applications and experiences.

The standards are able to give labels for the skills of the real world that teachers can easily focus on in a classroom context. While common core gives standards for what each student should learn in the classroom, they also give each district and each teacher enough freedom to look at these standards and create their own plans for how they want their students to learn them.

English teacher Penny Wintermute appreciates that the standards are not restricting. "It focuses on skills so we still have a lot of flexibility to be creative in teaching while still meeting the demands of the standards," she said.

Since this year is the first year in which the standards are being fully implemented in Hunterdon Central, the new curriculum and grading system can at first be a bit frustrating to teachers and students. It might be too soon to say whether the standards are truly effective or not, but with such varying opinions amongst staff and students, it's almost guaranteed things won't stay the same for long.



By Aaron Lewy and Chris Ratanski

As professional shark enthusiasts, we get asked questions every day. Some may ask: "Is that even a real profession?" It is. Without further ado, an FAQ on basic shark information.

Q: What is a shark?

A: Dictionary.com defines a shark as, "any of a group of elongate elasmobranch, mostly marine fishes, certain species of which are large, voracious, and sometimes dangerous to humans." After lots of tough back and forth and long conversations, we define sharks as "cool." We also don't appreciate the part about being dangerous to humans.

Q: What do sharks eat?

A: Don't flatter yourself, you aren't on the menu. To put it into human perspective, you are dining at Domino's, eating your favorite Lava Cakes, when all of the sudden you spot a great looking piece. You take a bite and it tastes okay, but it wasn't what you wanted or expected. They'd rather have a seal, turtle, squid, or one of their other marine peers.

Q: It's the shark Olympics, who's on your team?

A: Aaron- Personally, the Mako shark is my equivalent to Usain Bolt, swimming at speeds of 50

Shark Smarts

km/h and, more impressively, jumping as high as 30 feet out of the water.

Chris- Once again, Aaron's opinion is inferior. The coolest shark, that would win any cage fight it enters, is the bull shark. The bull shark is the ATV of marine animals. It not only swims in the salty ocean, but can also live in smaller freshwater rivers.

Q: I'm deathly afraid of sharks, but I like water for fishing, what can I do?

A: Nothing. Sorry, but sharks are everywhere. River sharks, lake sharks, ocean sharks, aquarium sharks, space sharks. Might as well embrace it buddy. Sharks are love; sharks are life.

Q: How big can a shark get?

A: As hard as it is to imagine, some species, such as the whale shark and basking shark, can grow to be bigger than David Hasselhoff's pecs. Wow.

Q: Just tell me something cool about sharks, that's why I'm here.

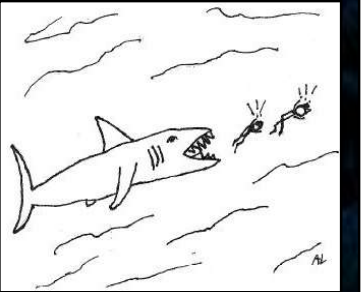
A: Sharks are better than you at a lot of things. They have an arsenal of impeccable smelling, quick speeds, grand agility, a golden set of jaws, enough teeth to fill the jaws of most of the South, and an insane sixth electromagnetic sense. With it they use electric waves conducted through water using echolocation to find food.

Q: How can I be a friend to the

sharks?

A: Along the lines of interacting with anything that may have the ability to kill you (a lion, bear, other humans) don't try to eat it, don't go out of your way to look like food, and most of all, don't feel like you have to touch it. Sharks are to you and I as Alec Baldwin is to paparazzi: Stay out of their faces.

Sharks are cool, and the best thing that you can do to keep them cool is to leave them alone. Shark finning is a PRIME way to cause endangerment as well as a solid way to earn no respect from team Trading Brains. Easily, you can simply not support companies that make, sell, or serve shark fin soup. Got anything cool that we don't know? (hardly likely, we are professionals) Email us!



Cartoon by Aaron Lewy

Keep an eye out for Aaron and Chris in future editions of The Lamp!

A Tale of Tailgating

By Stef Anderson

Recent changes at Central have prohibited seniors from using the Yale or Polytech parking lots to tailgate before football games, a tradition that has been carried on for many years.

Due to prior inappropriate behavior, the restriction on tailgating stemmed from the improper actions of last year's senior class.

Students in the senior class spend this time bonding, taking pictures, painting their faces, and getting pumped up for the game. Just as the game is starting the seniors make their way from the parking lot to Stewart field, as a class.

Seniors this year who were unable to tailgate for the first game were outraged at the loss of such a privilege.

"Some students want to tailgate at other people's houses but that defeats the purpose of it. It doesn't allow us to get rallied up or energized and all walk to the field as a whole and united grade," said senior Cara Auricchio.

The outrage of the students did not stop there. At the beginning of the football season, Hunterdon Central's administration decided on how they would deal with the su-

perfan dilemma. "There was some trouble with tailgating last year so we temporarily revoked their privileges this year," said senior class Vice Principal Mike Carr.

Because of this, during the first game superfans were relocated to the end bleachers of the stadium to cheer on their beloved football team and were only allowed to enter the stadium immediately upon arrival. Students had to show IDs when buying their tickets, and were prohibited from bringing bags onto the bleachers.

He, like many of his fellow seniors, was hoping that they would be able to spend this experience with their classmates, and also believing that the senior class has never given the administration a reason to not trust them.

At the October 4th game, the seniors earned this privilege back again. Carr stated that he and the rest of the administration were impressed with the behaviors of this year's senior class during the first game, and they reinstated tailgating for the seniors, although supervised by teachers.

Principal Cooley had even made an announcement in the morning over the public address system the following Monday after the

first home game to commend the students on their obedient and respectful behavior.

After a meeting with a group of seniors Central administration has opened their minds to tailgating.

Now, seniors are allowed to tailgate in the A1 lot under staff supervision. Along with that, they are allowed to arrive at 5pm and must walk to the field together from their designated area.

Though the seniors had temporarily lost their tailgating privileges, it seems they've suddenly regained the trust of the administration, lending seniors the full "Central football" experience.

Before tailgating was reinstated, many students wish that they had an opportunity to prove themselves as a whole before getting such an event taken away. "I think it's immature that they blamed us for other grades' problems and that they never gave us the chance to prove ourselves," said senior Phil Paul.

With the opportunity to tailgate resting in the hands in each and every student's individual behavior, there is still hope for this year's senior class to continue tailgating.



IC Red Seeing Red

By Yota Sfondouris

At the first home football game of this season on Friday, September 20, a popular parent photographer, John Painter, commonly known as IC Red, was denied access to take pictures on the field like he has done for the past four years.

Painter has taken thousands of pictures for the students of the school, which he would upload to his Facebook page. It came as a shock to many when they found out that he would not be allowed to take any pictures from the field this year.

According to Mr. Painter he was escorted off of the field by school Principal Suzanne Cooley and athletic director Bob Rossi while taking pictures on the 20 yard-line on the visitor's side. It came as a shock to many when they found out that he would not be allowed to take any pictures from the field this year.

For the past few weeks, it had been unclear exactly why Mr. Painter was banned from taking pictures from on the sidelines of the field. Concerned seniors like Hailey Rounsaville and Teddy Valinski sat down to discuss this with Principal Cooley and Vice Principal Michael Carr to try to understand the reasoning.

"She wouldn't disclose her actual reasoning," Valinski said in an article posted in the Hunterdon County Democrat. "All she would do was deny that it was in regard to a Facebook post. But she didn't give a reason."

Painter asked Superintendent Christina Steffner to explain to him in an email exactly why he was barred from the field, and he received a response on Thursday, September 26th. "I am in receipt of your email and you will be receiving

a written document regarding this matter shortly," she wrote in an email, according to Painter.

On Saturday, October 5, Painter posted the letter he received from Steffner to his IC Red Facebook page. She said that the administration's decision was not in "retaliation" to any negative comments concerning the administration.

"Rather, in February of 2013, we received a copy of your Feb 13, 2013 posting on your 'I.C. Red' Facebook page," she said.

Once we felt that the post was genuine, we took steps we deemed to be appropriate, consistent with our administrative authority concerning the well-being of our students."

In his post on February 13, Painter wrote, "Is it not a little creepy that there are adults roaming the hallways of HC and assessing you for your sexual attractiveness? And, what is their criteria? Do they compare the young women they see in the hallways with what they see in the mirror in the morning? Or, do they just pick out the girls that get them aroused? Disturbing, yes? What does their theory of 'distraction' say about boys? Are male students such slaves to their sexual desires that a cute girl in yoga pants will cause enough distraction to lower grade point average?"

Anyway, I'd love to see more before/after pictures from those who have been stopped. Feel free to post them here and discuss."

Steffner continued to write, "Further, we do not feel that it is appropriate for an adult male parent to ask minors, some as young as 14, to take pictures of themselves in clothing deemed by school officials

to be in violation of our dress code, without parent permission, and to post those pictures on a Facebook page for public review and 'discussion.'"

Painter is upset by the school's reasoning.

"The letter, in legalistic tones, implies that I am a disruption at sporting events and performances, and then gets into Facebook posts. Essentially accusing me of being a pedophile for a sarcastic February 13, 2013 Facebook post made about the district dress code, the superintendent reiterates that I don't belong on the field due to this post and reminds me that I was asked to leave the field earlier in the year due to this same post."

He explained that Rossi approached him with the "Facebook problem" on December 20, 2012, before his posts about the dress code. He adds, "The AD didn't actually ask me to leave in December, he just stated he was getting pressure from above!"

Rounsaville is not satisfied with the school's reasoning for banning Mr. Painter. She thinks that the decision was made "hastily and without merit" but understands that the administration can't retract their decision now.

"No student at Central has to stand for being controlled and overseen by people they don't approve of. If you try hard enough and get enough people behind you, you CAN make a change. That is the takeaway."





Road to the Perfect Season

By Alex Carr

Through the first half of its schedule, the Hunterdon Central football team has been dominant offensively and stubborn defensively.

At press time, the squad was 4-0 and looking to remain undefeated in a home game against Hillsborough with a big contest ahead, at undefeated Phillipsburg, on Friday.

The Red Devils' defensive unit had held its first four opponents to a total of 21 points while senior quarterback Mike Knight steered the offense to an average of 35 points per-game.

This group of determined athletes has the drive, capability and skill to continue their winning streak but will have to do so minus the services of Knight, who suffered a broken left leg in the team's Week 4 victory over Westfield.

Our "Superfans" chanted, "We love Mike Knight," as the quarterback was helped off the field in the first quarter.

Knight's injury has opened the door for junior Bobby Cole, who went 5-for-7 and threw a 65-yard touchdown pass to Ryan Dunleavy after relieving Knight against Westfield. Central was ahead 10-0 when Knight was helped off the field and

went on to stifle Westfield, 34-7.

Jason Cabinda, who gave his verbal commitment to Syracuse in July, has been a ferocious defender at linebacker and was asked to carry a larger load at running back after Knight's injury. He carried the ball 30 times for 206 yards against Westfield.

While Cabinda's role is expected to expand, Cole will be called upon to move a Hunterdon Central offense that has thrived with a dangerous passing attack. Wideouts Dunleavy, Max Miller and James Mania have excelled in the passing game.

"We've been playing very well," says Cabinda. "We still have a lot of challenges ahead of us, and a long way to grow as a team."

Hunterdon Central was ranked No. 14 in the state by The Star-Ledger and was No. 5 in Group 4 heading into the Homecoming clash with Hillsborough.

The phrase, "the best offense is a good defense" has never been truer than with this Red Devils defensive unit. The Central defense has been almost impenetrable. The defense has limited its opponents to seven or fewer points in each game. Cabinda has had plenty of help around him as Kevin Ioanni-

dis, Albert Polito, Ryan Lynn, Kevin Watcher and Jordan Wideman have stepped up on a consistent basis.

Cabinda's additional role as a team captain comes with a responsibility to lead. He says his role as a captain is, "just keeping our heads on straight and making sure the team doesn't get satisfied and relaxed with the fact that we're 4-0. It's hard to stay hungry sometimes, but that's what we have to do."

The squad looks forward to seeing its winning streak continue and to eventually secure a berth in the NJSIAA playoffs. The team believes this season will be one to remember.

It's a playoff field full of land mines, with the likes of Manalapan, who the Red Devils fell to in the sectional semifinals last November, Sayreville, Old Bridge, Edison and South Brunswick.

But before that, the Red Devils will work to build up their playoff power points with regular season victories. The Red Devils, after traveling to undefeated Phillipsburg on Friday, face an Immaculata team they have never beaten, an undefeated Ridge team and a Union squad with one of the state's top running backs.



The New "Superfans"

By Gabriel Harrison

If you flip several pages in the Hunterdon Central yearbook, you will find a page dedicated to the "Superfans." Those rowdy, unorganized, face-painted seniors who would stand at the center of the bleachers year after year, braving the elements, and cheering on our football team.

They were the reckless ones. The ones who you couldn't help but stare at during your first Central football game and wonder why or perhaps...how?

They were the ones who would form a line at the entrance to the stadium in order to give their exciting friends a pat on the back or some encouraging words.

The ones who would stand in blizzard snow, shirts off, screaming the team on when the players were struggling. They were Superfans through and through.

The death of the "Superfan" is one we knew would come eventu-

ally. Policy after policy this number slowly diminished, his face-paint slowly faded, and the cheers grew less and less. But today, when you look into the bleachers you will notice a new "Superfan" has risen to take his place.

Something is different about the new "Superfan." He's the same but very different. He sits down when a player is hurt. He watches encouragingly as the marching band plays. He shares the bench with juniors and sophomores and even some freshman. It is a change for him. A remarkable one.

To many generations of Hunterdon Central students, the "Superfan" isn't just a person but an idol. He is their one voice, their eloquence in defeat, their passion in victory.

To the faculty, the "Superfan" is a nuisance albeit a necessary one. They put up with his ridiculous chants and silly antics in order to preserve the school spirit that once pervaded Hunterdon Central and

seeks to do so again.

In recent years the mistakes of the "Superfan" reached a point where school officials deemed it necessary to end his long autonomy. Tailgating was prohibited and then reinstated on a probationary basis. I.D.s were required, students were breathalized. Some changes were necessary, others were arguably not.

Despite every policy and ban, seniors continued to wear the face-paint and yell the cheers. They stayed even when they were moved far from center, a decision that has since been overturned thanks to cooperation with an understanding administration.

And now, the seniors know that they are there for good. They are willing to work with the administration and embody spirit and respect. They are committed to carrying on the "Superfan" legacy.

They are the new "Superfan."



Photos by Dan Levitt

Where To Be The Next Five Weeks: Future Varsity Football Games

10/18	Phillipsburg	Away	7:00pm
10/25	Immaculata	Away	7:00pm
11/1	Ridge	Home	7:00pm
11/8	Union	Away	7:00pm
11/15	NJSIAA Playoffs	TBD	TBD



Photo Courtesy of Wikimedia

Christie Tells it Straight: Deferring the Gay Marriage Decision to Referendum

By Krishna Varre

With the Supreme Court striking down DOMA earlier this June, the first domino has fallen in the beginning of the end of LGBT inequality. For years, gay rights have been continuously debated, becoming a touchy issue for many politicians. Either you're for it, or you're against it – little room for the inbetween.

In the landmark case *United States v. Windsor*, wherein DOMA was overturned, the Supreme Court ruled that same-sex couples married in a state that recognizes same-sex marriage must receive the same benefits as any other married couple. But now it's up to the state governments to handle this: they need to decide whether or not they should allow same-sex marriage and give all married couples equal rights across the nation.

Some state governments have already taken the initiative to act upon this ruling and, of late, it has been New Jersey that has been the talk of gay rights activists.

Superior Court Judge Mary Jacobson ruled in favor of same-sex marriage in a recent case, claiming that "same-sex couples must be allowed to marry in order to obtain equal protection of the law under the New Jersey constitution." Our very own New Jersey legislators have in fact created a proposal that will legalize same-sex marriage.

When faced with an opportunity to do exactly this, however, Governor Christie promptly vetoed the bill, becoming the roadblock to same-sex marriage in New Jersey. Christie is notably a staunch opponent of the gay rights movement, but despite his personal views of same-sex marriage, Christie has de-

cided that this issue is best left for the ballots, thus initiating a state-wide referendum.

Putting his opinions on same-sex marriage aside, Christie made an unbiased decision to fulfill his first and foremost duty: serving the people. Yes, it's a setback for gay rights, but Christie used his greater judgement to say that this is not his decision to make: it's the people's.

I find this interesting and even heartening, for very rarely is the general public allowed, much less invited, to become involved with major decisions like this other than in general elections.

The common man is always itching for an opportunity to get his voice heard in the mix of things, and now, any voter in the state of New Jersey can directly influence the legalization of same sex marriage (and considering the fact that New Jersey is predominately liberal, it's not hard to imagine which way it'll sway).

This is perhaps the easiest way to hear not what the politicians want, but what the people of New Jersey want. And, really, shouldn't that be what it all comes down to?

But remember, we're dealing with a politician here: There's always more to it than what meets the eye. By doing this, Christie attempted to deal himself the strongest hand possible and indeed, he played his cards quite well.

Yes, maybe Christie's pretext was to give the people what they want, but he has some underlying political motives. By vetoing the same-sex marriage bill, however, Christie made many of his far right-wing friends in the Republican party very happy, all while placating and the growing movement for gay

rights.

Had he passed the bill, however, Christie would have been under fire from those very same Republican friends, losing a strong base of political supporters.

But regardless of whatever guises, ulterior motives, and equivocation are at play, we the people have gained something from it. Yes, instead of same-sex marriage bill dying completely, it has been given a chance of survival through the referendum, and we, the people of New Jersey, have finally gotten the opportunity to have our voices heard.

Whether you consider this a cop out or a tactic, either way it's a win-win situation. Christie's given the general public, the opportunity to become an unlikely yet vital part of the political process in legalizing gay marriage.

Even though he's firmly sticking to his own beliefs and his party's beliefs, this referendum satisfies almost all parties involved. In essence, he's maintaining his old supporters while sowing the seeds for new ones. One could argue with Christie's ideas, but it's impossible to deny that he's in quite a good position.

Kratom in America

The new Thai opioid sensation faces challenges from lawmakers

By Katherine Steifel and Ben Lazarus

When in Thailand, do as the Tai Siam do...which may soon legally include kratom, a stimulant leaf with a relaxing after-effect.

Despite the government of Thailand's persistent attempts to eradicate the native kratom plant from both the local culture and ecosystem, the seemingly harmless plant has spread its roots to America.

A push to ban kratom in America headed by the Indiana House of Representatives has made little headway. Politicians' attempts to equate kratom to marijuana were quite unsuccessful, largely due to the lack of scientific data pertaining to the effects of kratom.

The lack of data, in fact, stands in favor of kratom supporters, despite rapidly increasing consumption; America has yet to witness a single fatality.

Politicians in other states such as Louisiana have also made moves to ban kratom before it can get a foothold on America's youth. Citizens under the age of 18 run the risk of being fined and even facing jail time.

In Thailand, kratom has been deeply embedded in the culture for thousands of years. Despite the government's recent efforts, kratom remains a staple in Thai culture, consumed in quantities equivalent to that of coffee in America.

Kratom also shows some promise as a medicinal drug; it acts a painkiller similar to morphine but does not cause many of the adverse effects common in opioids. Kratom has also been reported as an effective substitute for opium addiction.

No formal studies have been conducted on the topic of kratom, though, so the medical community bears an ambivalent attitude towards the potential painkiller. As with any other drug, negative effects have been reported for Kratom. Short-term side-effects include but are not limited to nausea, constipation, insomnia, darkening of skin, increased urination, and, in some cases, hallucinations.

Consumption of kratom in America has recently increased as organizations such as kratom.com have advertised and sold kratom freely in the United States. Another group called The Kratom Association "has launched a campaign to counter what it describes as harmful and irresponsible representation of the herb... and [it] head[s] shops that market it as a 'legal high,' target teenagers".

Several countries have banned the drug, including nations that it is native to such as Myanmar, Malaysia, Burma, Vietnam and Australia. For 70 years the plant has been illegal in Thailand, but Justice Minister Chaikasem Nitsiri is pushing for legalization as a cure to methamphetamine addictions.

In the end, despite compelling arguments from either side, there is currently not enough research available on this yet unfamiliar substance to reasonably legalize. To do so without any degree of certainty about the safety of those who will be using it would be irresponsible.

I can't support anything that may potentially put its user at risk, but I do hope that we continue to research and collect data on Kratom so that it may, in the future, be more definitively known.

Hey Teens. Looking for that First Used Car?
Before Making this Important Purchase,
Bring the Vehicle to Us!

We Will Do the Following:

- * Perform a Complete Evaluation of the vehicle for any safety concerns & maintenance issues that may be present.
- * We will perform an Estimated Appraisal for the current Fair Market Value of your potential purchase.
- * Assist in educating you of the Systems & Features of the vehicle as well as basic emergency service procedures.

ALL DONE FREE of CHARGE!

I had a truck looked at that I am considering buying for my son. All 3 mechanics were helpful taking their time looking & explaining all regarding the condition of the truck and provided me insight & awareness to an important decision - the 1st vehicle for my 17 year old.

This is not the first time I experienced this type of service at your shop. JM, Flemington (8/13)

American Auto Care Centers
 206 Reaville Road, Flemington

Call to Schedule
 908-237-0015
 Mon-Fri: 8am - 5pm Sat: 8am-2pm



Sneha Choudhary &
Annie Nazzaro
Editors-in-Chief

SONAY BARAZESH
& JOEL SIRUSAS
Managing
Editors

The Lamp is written, designed, and produced bi-weekly by the students of Hunterdon Central Regional High School.

Allie Rubin, Jenny Zhang
Ben Lazarus, Stuart McGibbon
Jess Cavallaro, Olivia Kane
Helena Gan, Emily Schalk
Emma Frenchu, Alexis Morillo
Phil DiMartino, Libby Harrington
Jon Spilletti
Emily Li
Crina Magalio
Lizzie Ryan, Julia Sirota, Daniel Wasserman
Trent Levitt
Bob Behre

News Editors
Opinions Editors
Features Editors
Arts and Living Editors
Student Life Editors
Sports Editors
Rotating Editor
Internet Editor-in-Chief
Cartoonists
Business Managers
Photo Editor
Adviser

Letters to the Editor and Editorial Policy

All letters are welcome, provided they arrive with a signature and phone number. Letters may be sent to The Lamp, c/o Mr. Bob Behre, 84 Route 31 North, Flemington, NJ 08822, placed in Mr. Behre's mailbox J-3, or e-mailed to lamp@hcrhs.org. The Lamp reserves the right to edit and/or print only letters deemed suitable for publication. All stories, ideas, and opinions are generated by the staff and do not represent the views of the adviser, teachers, administration, Board of Education, or the student body of Hunterdon Central High School. *The Lamp serves as an open student forum; therefore, the opinions expressed (other than the unsigned bolded editorial) do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff. View full policy and other online content at: <http://www.gsspa.org/thelamp>