

Curtains, Cameras, Cabaret!

By Jocelyn Testa



Junior Kim Schupner and senior Jake Marconi perform as part of Fusion for Cabaret. They performed a cover of "Feeling Good" by Nina Simone.

The red curtains flew open, the microphones were tested, and the bright lights hit the stage once again for another fabulous student performance: Hunterdon Central's Cabaret. The school-wide talent show opened last Friday and Saturday with 20 or so unique, well-rehearsed, and incredibly talented acts to entertain the huge audience. But there is a whole lot more that goes into producing such a successful show than the performance on the night of.

William Magalio has been the director and coordinator of Cabaret for many years. This year, however, the total rehearsal time was cut down significantly and he acquired a team to assist him in producing the show. Hillary Colton was the vocal coordinator and Robert Kenny took on the role of band coordinator. They helped Magalio conduct auditions and prepare for the show. Magalio also had a student director, senior Shannon Kelliher, assist him in organization and preparation for auditions, rehearsals, and the production itself.

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Devils baseball: swinging for the fences, leading the pack

By Chris Testa

Often times, Hunterdon Central teams grab win after win, pouncing on the competition. In this case, varsity baseball was rolling with a 14-2 record as of April 30, placing the team a notch above Old Bridge in the race for the top seed in the Central Jersey, Group 4 field. After many cancellations at the beginning of the season due to weather and other issues, the team began its season with a 9-2 victory over Watchung Hills. The Devils lost to North Hunterdon two days later in a disappointing five-run defeat. They then began a 12-game winning streak. The Devils won by five or more runs in six games and 10 or more runs in four games during that span. Only one of their last 10 games during the streak was won by less than four runs, a comfortable margin for any baseball fan. The streak finally came to an end, once again, against North Hunterdon, in a deflating 14-0 defeat. Central came back on May 1 with a 4-2 win over Immaculata. Hopefully the weather will allow the team to

play the entirety of its final 12 games and it will carry momentum into the playoffs.

Being successful in sports requires a number of different components, according to Central coach Mike Raymond. "I think this year's team has been successful so far because we have had great senior leadership and our players have really gelled together as a true team," he said. "I am excited for our players and this program to see them continue their winning ways as they pursue their goals of winning conference, county and state championships."

There are four key seniors on the roster this season, including outfielder Zac Gustites, first baseman Mike Pfenninger, shortstop Matt Stalter and catcher Zac Vacca, who have all been playing high school ball for over three years and have all been major contributors to the team's success from both a statistical and a leadership standpoint.

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Das Honor Society

A look into the activities and endeavors of world language honor societies at Hunterdon Central

By Amanda Cornetta

Twenty-five members of the German Honor Society (GHS) showed off a dance choreographed by senior co-presidents Austin Ciccarino and Alex Kossak the night of World Language Society inductions. Put to the German song titled "Einmal Um Die Welt" (which translates to "Once Around the World"), the lyrics emphasize the importance of experiencing a new culture—which just so happens to be one main reason for joining a world language honor society. Following the dance, each mem-

ber recited a line or more from the poem "Lob des Lernes," written by Bertolt Brecht, which highlights the importance of learning and points out that it is never too late to learn.

Since the start of the school year, this club has aimed to not only broaden its knowledge of German culture, but to also share it with others in the school. Earlier this year, Global Outreach hosted a food fest in which many GHS members contributed some of Germany's most popular foods: bratwurst (sausages) and schwarzwald kirshetorte (a cake-like dessert) to

name a few.

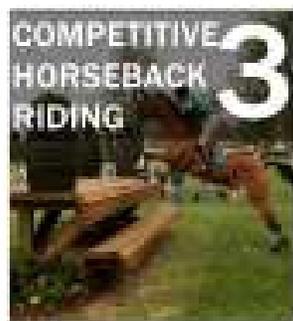
Aside from spreading the German culture, the club also donates a lot of its time to provide service for others. Just this previous winter, the club decorated gingerbread houses with the seniors residing at Independence Manor, an assisted living facility in Flemington. GHS members returned once again to help plant flowers with the residents in the spring.

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Photo by Danielle Wolfson

Members of the German Honor Society work to spread their passion for foreign language and culture.



Staff members awarded for dedication

Dana Kurilew is Counselor of the Year

By Alex Eng

Dana Kurilew was recently recognized as the 2014-2015 Hunterdon County School Counselor of the Year by the Hunterdon County School Counselor Association.

In total, eight counselors were nominated this year for their substantial contributions to meeting the needs of Central students.

However, Kurilew was awarded the final award on February 24, and also had her name forwarded for nomination in the state counselors' award, or NJ School Counselor of the Year.

As an accomplished and now officially awarded student counselor, Kurilew had a few comments about her experience and reaction when she was first nominated. "I was speechless," she said. "I am honored to be the Counselor of the

County!"

Kurilew's favorite part of her job is making a difference in students' lives. It is this goal that she dedicates her efforts to achieving day in and day out, and it is what makes her service exceptional. "High school can be challenging," she stated. "I get joy from advocating for students and parents as well as talking them through the good and bad times."

Through thick and thin, every student here at Central needs help on figuring out what the next piece of the puzzle is.

Moreover, the impact that school counselors have on their students is monumental, and is what initially inspired Kurilew to pursue guidance. "I thought back to the people who helped me in my life, and my counselor in high school was the first one who came to mind!" she

explained.

Because of her counselor's commitment, she decided to dedicate her own life to serving students so that she too could change the lives of others. "I really wanted a job where I helped others and made a difference," she said.

As a counselor at Central for seven years, Kurilew has handled more than one thousand students in her caseloads alone, and has coached and met even more through advising clubs and organizations such as Future Business Leaders of America and National Honor Society. Now, she aims to help students with their own clubs and organizations as the Student Activities Assistant.

Even with a busy schedule, Kurilew finds time to help students and even continues engaging students during her maternity leave. Such



Photo courtesy of Dana Kurilew

Dana Kurilew wins School Counselor of the Year award.

selfless dedication reflects the spirit of student counseling, and Kurilew certainly deserved to be named the 2014-2015 Hunterdon County Counselor of the Year.

2013-2014 Random Drug Testing Results

School Year	Number of Positive Drug Tests
2012-2013	15
2013-2014	9

Graphic by Allie Rubin

By Angelisa Cunniff

For over a decade, Hunterdon Central has made efforts to fight illegal substance abuse through the implementation of the Random Drug Testing program. The latest results of these tests are now in: the number of positive tests has decreased since last year.

Vice Principal Richard Schneebeli oversees in the program and elaborated on this year's results compared to years previous.

"As of April 22 we have conducted 1,033 random drug tests, and from these tests we have identified nine students as being in violation of our Random Drug Testing Policy," he said.

In 2012-2013, there were 15 students who tested positive. In total, there are 2,037 students who have been entered into the drug testing pool.

Jennifer Amato, one of the nurses in the 11/12 Health Office, explained the drug testing procedure. "Each office conducts 20 drug tests per week, and the most common drug among the students is THC [found in marijuana]," she said.

All of the students that test positive are required to go to counseling sessions, as well as attend prevention education classes to better their lives by learning how and why to abstain

from future drug use.

However, the main goal of the Random Drug Testing program is not to catch as many drug users as possible.

Its main objective is to deter drug use in the school as a whole before any infractions are made, according to principal Suzanne Cooley.

"As we increase the number of students in the drug testing program, more students are likely to be tested," Cooley said. "Research shows that by delaying the onset of drug use or diminishing the frequency reduces the risk of addiction for that child," she explained.

Hunterdon Central's Random Drug Testing procedures apply directly to any student involved in activities or sports and students who hold parking spots.

For those who are currently using drugs and would like to seek help, there are many resources available at Central. Student Assistance Counselors will meet with students confidentially if they are experiencing problems in their life, related or unrelated to drug use.

Other teachers and administrators are also available to talk with, as well. If students are feeling pressured into taking drugs, Cooley advises trusting yourself. "If it feels wrong, it probably is," she said.

HCRHS business administrator is recognized for distinguished service

By Nina Campos

The job of School Business Administrator (BA) requires knowledge, organizational skills and the active use of diplomacy. Business Administrator Ray Krov has been recognized with the Distinguished Service Award from the New Jersey Association of School Business Administrators, for his long-term "exemplary service" and "reputation deserving of recognition."

The New Jersey Association of School Business Officials (NJASBO) annually selects two School Business Administrators per region (South, Central, and North) for a distinguished service award recognition for contributions made to the profession and community. The nominations are made by each NJASBO County organization president; Corinne Steinmetz is the Hunterdon County Educational Services Commission BA and serves as the Hunterdon County ASBO president.

Hunterdon Central's assistant business administrator, Gymlyn Corbin, was the one who nominated Krov to Steinmetz for this prestigious award. "During [Krov's] last eight years as School Business Administrator at Hunterdon Central, he has managed a \$60 million budget," said Corbin, "culminating with an unheard of five-year average

general fund tax levy increase of only 0.3% in a period of stable enrollment ... [during Krov's eight-years at Central] Ray's team has received no audit recommendations."

In her nomination, Corbin quoted a 2012 Hunterdon Democrat editorial praising Krov where it stated the Hunterdon County Clerk, Mary Melfi, regarded Krov as "one of the

best business administrators in the state of New Jersey."

Hunterdon Central's Superintendent Christina Steffner agrees with Corbin, expressing her feelings on his well deserved award. "Ray Krov is an extremely dedicated and talented Business Administrator who continues to serve the Hunterdon Central community well, especially during these difficult economic times," said Steffner. "Krov's contributions to Central have been instrumental in creating budgets that allow us to continue to provide an excellent education while managing expenditures. His efforts have resulted in a flat budget for the past five years and minimal or reduced taxes for our sending districts."

Krov humbly accepted his award, but does not forget to thank those who have helped him achieve his award. "It is a real honor to have been chosen by my peers for this award," said Krov. "The recognition would not have been possible without the support of my dedicated and talented Business Office staff."

Because of Krov's persistence, Hunterdon Central has been awarded 26 Regular Operating District (ROD) grants, saving the district over \$5.5 million in construction costs. "Krov is most deserving of this award and the best Business Administrator I have ever worked

with. We are very fortunate to have him on staff," said Steffner.

Krov certainly has earned his title as a "masterful money manager," as named in an editorial published by the Hunterdon Democrat. In past years, Krov has introduced programs that have trimmed energy costs, suggested an emergency storm damage repair to a roadway that made use of the already milled asphalt available on campus, and analyzed debt from a 2004 expansion and renovation showed that reconstructing the debt would save money.

Krov also is an active volunteer outside of Hunterdon Central. His outside of school volunteer work consists of serving on four school boards in Holland and Clark Township for the past 12 years, five years as president. He was also the President of the Somerset County Association of School Business Officials from 2003-2004.

Krov received his Bachelor of Science from Seton Hall University in Business with a Major in Accounting and then later went on to earn his Masters in Vocational-Technical Education from Rutgers University. Since then he has received numerous certificates from Kean University and Montclair State University.

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TRADING BRAINS

with Aaron Lewy
and Chris Ratanski

New world found, out of this world

By Aaron Lewy and Chris Ratanski

When Team Trading Brains looked back in time to our first, and easily most successful article, we decided it was time to go back into the cosmos and discuss space. What's out there in space? What is out there looking for us? Will NASA ever send Trading Brains to space? Chances are the answer is "yes," but after a little deep space surveillance, we've come across some astonishing information on a newly discovered planet that might just be inhabitable. Ladies and gents, let's take a look at Kepler-186f!

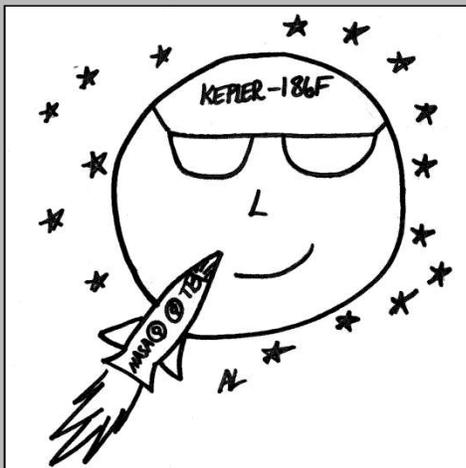
To start, there is one thing we have to get off of our chests. This bad boy is 500 light years away, which in this day and age, is not very likely we will ever reach Kepler. However, who knows what kind of scientific advancements will come in the next century. One may like to call Kepler-186f a "Goldilocks planet." Such as the old time fairy-tale suggests, the planet is not too close and not too far from its star that plays the role of the sun. Because of this, esteemed scientists conclude that the planet can support liquid water resources, much like our blue marble's beautiful oceans.

But let's talk about the possibilities of life. After all, that's why we are here. The surface of this planet is rocky, like two of our

favorite things: the lovely planet we call home, and David Hasselhoff's pecs. Therefore, if you were to plop a few of us fleshy humans out there, allowing for regular amounts of gravity, walking and life would not be a breeze due partly to the rocks. What is one thing that absolutely no organic thing can live without? Water. Where is there water? On Kepler-186f. That's two stars so far (pun fairly intended). In addition, much like the girl in your English class, this planet is not unbearably hot-but also not too cold.

So we here at Trading Brains know exactly what's on all of your minds—what would Aaron and Chris do if we encountered some sort of extraterrestrial? Well, after a studio survey we've come up with two possible outcomes, the first being dropping into the fetal position and trying not to cry. The second of the two is a little more dignified, and includes taking the alien on a nice date—maybe out for Malaysian. Sounds great to us!

In the end, it's discoveries like this that keep us excited (and also keeps our "Jobs" here) so naturally, we like to consider such possibilities, and weigh such outcomes. What if we could travel 500 light years away? What if we could own our own space ship? What if we could talk to girls? To our one reader: thank you for taking this voyage, we hope to see you in the future.



Cartoon by Aaron Lewy

Paul Hertz, NASA's Astrophysics Division director at the agency's headquarters in Washington, is in charge of searching for Earth-like planets at NASA. "The discovery of Kepler-186f is a significant step toward finding worlds like our planet Earth," he said in an interview with NASA.

Students take the reigns: Central equestrians who ride and show horses

By Mikaela Lindemann

You can catch Twitter updates or read articles on NJ.com when Central's football team wins the state championship or when the Red Devils win a lacrosse game, but some of Central's most active and passionate athletes don't get this kind of spotlight for their performances.

Horseback riding is very popular, especially in Hunterdon County, because of all the farmland and horses that are available. Many do not know about horseback riding, or the people who do it, because there are only few who can live up to the hard work and dedication it takes to be an equestrian.

There are many styles of horseback riding such as Western and English, but English is the most popular for students from Central.

English and Western riding basically differ by the riding equipment that is used, the way the reins are held, and how the rider directs the horse.

There are also different classes: hunter class, equitation class, and jumper class are examples. Hunter riding is based on the appearance and performance of the horse while equitation judges focus on the rider's performance separate from the animal. The jumper class is judged solely on speed and time.

Junior Tara Kennedy, who has been riding for eight years, shows in jumpers and equitation but lately she has been predominantly showing in jumpers. "I think jumpers is more fun and I like how in jumpers you can go faster than in the equitation," she said.

Other than riding, Kennedy has been working for her barn for five years by riding other lesson horses and helping to tack up horses for lessons. Work-

ing at her barn helps Kennedy afford riding lessons and equipment.

Riding has also taught Kennedy what hard work is. "Persistence overcomes resistance," she said her trainer always tells her. She applies this philosophy to her riding and general life.

a horse that is for jumpers, she enjoys equitation the most. "I like the equitation the best because it is the most competitive for junior riders," she said. Junior riders are riders who compete and are under 18 years old.

Unlike Kennedy, Wance doesn't work for her barn during the summer. "I would want to work to get more riding and showing experience, and gain more knowledge of the business end of buying and selling horses," said Wance, who hopes to find an opening at a different barn during the summer months.

Even though Wance is only a junior in high school, she is graduating this year to pursue a career in riding.

Just like Kennedy, Wance also wants to ride in college for a Division 1 team. "Practice until you get it right, practice until you can't get it wrong," says Wance to get herself ready for events. She keeps these phrases in mind while riding since practice does make perfect, especially for riding.

These girls have taken riding to a whole new level and enjoy it so much that they want to do it in the future.

Riding is an amazing sport that has caught the attention of only a handful of students at Hunterdon Central, but those handful are proud of what they do.



Junior Tara Kennedy competed at the Garden State Horse Show two weeks ago in the jumpers division.



Junior Courtney Wance competed in Wellington, Florida for the 1.15m jumpers in the Winter Equestrian Festival in 2013 at Palm Beach International Equestrian Center.

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Honor Societies of Central

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Graphic by Alexis Morillo

By Andrew Guistwite

Central became home to a variety of exciting science demonstrations on May 1 at the annual Family Science Night, hosted by the school's chapter of the Science National Honor Society (SNHS). Led by their advisor, science teacher Jessica Doyle, they had prepared for months to make the night as big as possible.

People of all ages roamed the halls of the 11/12 building, viewing, and taking part in different experiments run by the students of SNHS. The purpose of the night wasn't just to fundraise for the club, but to make a positive and meaningful impact on the community.

Treasurer of the society senior Reilly Webb was determined to teach the children about the rel-

evance of science. "The goal was to try and ignite the kids' spark of exploration and curiosity and to get them to understand that science is happening all around them," he said. These kids could take part in all sorts of science related activities such as making ice cream, constructing lava lamps, making sodium "bombs," and extracting strawberry DNA.

The robotics team even got in on the fun and demonstrated their robot's impressive abilities. It sped across the classroom and even threw a ball all the way across the room.

The Future Educators Association ran the "making of ice cream" station. They walked the kids through each of the steps to making this tasty treat with milk, heavy cream, sugar, vanilla, ice and salt.

In total there were 22 different activities and demonstrations going on at once, so families had quite a variety to choose from in regard to what they wanted to learn about, but all in all the children were intrigued with all of the activities going on.

Junior Kerry Andrews, who worked a station where they turned a penny into "gold," noted the enthusiasm of the audience. "The kids were interested in all of the experiments and even wanted to know why they worked," she said. "There was everything from ice cream to insects, and a lot of the high school students got really into the experiments too."

Along with the variety of experiments, a "Science Magic Show" or "Reaction Demonstration" also took place in the Little Theater. Dr.

David Hunt put on this demonstration. He is a chemistry professor at The College of New Jersey and also the father of Doyle.

Dr. Hunt and his assistant TCNJ students performed all sorts of chemical reactions for the audience. It featured the incorporation of music and the explanation of why everything was happening. The kids in the audience were awestruck from the combustion, the synthesizing, and the overall demonstration that was put on.

With a turnout of around 200 people and the successful fundraising portion of the event, members like Junior Dimitri Henry think the members of the SNHS should view it as an overall success. "It went off without a hitch! All the experiments worked and all the kids loved to see things like their hands on fire

and the exploding gummy bears," Henry said.

With that being said, it is pretty fair to assume that this Central tradition will continue for years to come, "as long as the interest of the club and community is still there," said Doyle.

"The determining factor as to whether or not this event keeps going solely depends on the goals of the students of the Science National Honor Society," she said. "As long as it is of scientific value to the children of our community, I believe this event will become a stable fixture of the club's goals."

Science National Honor Society meets Thursday in room 916. For more information contact Jessica Doyle at jdoyle@chrhs.org.



Professor David Hunt puts on a chemical magic show for the audience in the Little Theatre.



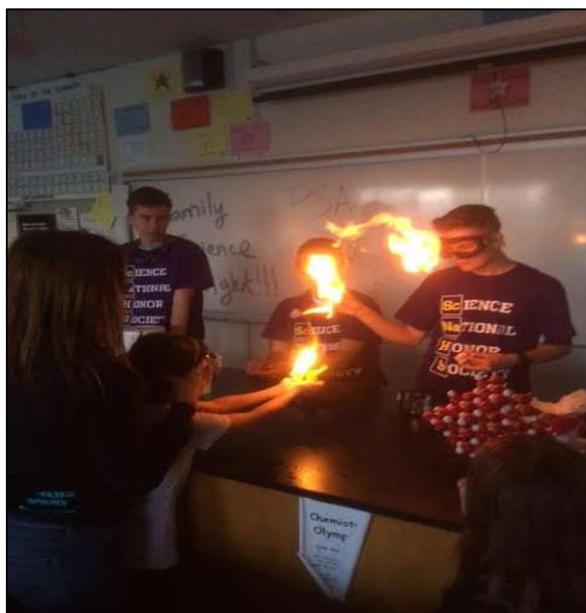
Members mix water and corn starch to experiment with non-Newtonian fluid.



Seniors Emma Kaeser and Rachel Weil work with solutions to create "Elephant Toothpaste."



Junior Kerry Andrews tries to channel her inner Nigel Thornberry while interacting with an arachnid.



Seniors Alex Kossak and Steve Collins create fire for a pyrotechnic show.

Photos courtesy of Jessica Doyle

al get students involved



Spanish: "You had me at *hola...*"

By Paige Cronce

"Prometo promover la amistad y el entendimiento entre ella y los otros países del mundo. Esta es mi promesa..." This is a portion of the oath that the new Spanish Honor Society inductees repeated at their ceremony on April 30, promising to promote friendship and understanding of different cultures in their school and community. Each new inductee was given a lit candle and at the end of the oath they blew them out in unison, a tradition like to all honor societies.

Earlier in the night, all of the world language societies performed in front of each other, and their parents doing everything ranging from reciting poems in their language and dancing or performing skits. This year, Spanish Honor Society opted to show off their dance moves during the induction ceremony,

according to senior club officer Erin Ciarocca. "This year all our members danced to the song 'Limbo' by Daddy Yankee. Our secretary, Leah Kleiman, choreographed the dance," she said.

But senior club president Anthony Amato thinks induction night is more than just a time to dance in front of the audience. "A lot of people think that inductions is a cute little show for our parents and it is, but it is also the moment when the club gets together and sort of centralizes," he said. "Since the club is big it's easy for someone to get lost in the sea of people."

Students with a passion for the language are able to meet and share their enthusiasm with other students. Spanish is becoming a more and more prominent language in the United States and students are realizing the importance of being able to connect with

people of different cultural backgrounds. This club gives students the opportunity to reach out to their community and interact with other students with a firm grasp on the language and native speakers.

Those accomplished students in the language can easily seize this opportunity to help their community, putting their hard work and studies to good use. "Our first priority is tutoring: members of our society are always available for any students struggling with Spanish. It's a great way to get one-on-one help from a student rather than a teacher," Ciarocca said.

Not only do they tutor their peers, but according to the officers, they also reach out to the local community. "We held a 'story hour' event at the Flemington Library where we read some books to children in town and did crafts with them," Ciarocca said. Span-

ish Honor Society members are also leaving their mark on the global community. Three students this year also submitted an essay to be published in the international Spanish Honor Society journal, *Albricias*.

Senior Jane Higley, club vice president, believes that the trip to Robert Hunter Elementary School was a learning opportunity for everyone involved. "We taught them new words in Spanish, taught them dances, read stories in Spanish, made animal puppets, and colored flags of various Spanish-speaking countries," she said.

Members of the Spanish Honor Society also have incredible opportunities to enhance their experience with the language themselves. They participated in the homecoming festivities, and in June, they get to compete in the "World Cup" soccer games against other world language honor societies.

Latin: *Veni, vidi, vici*

By Hannah Barrett

While the Latin program at Hunterdon Central may not be that large, its Latin Honor Society is very active. At this year's World Language induction ceremony, members clad in togas reenacted parts of a poem called "Catullus," parts 5 and 85, by Catullus the poet.

Rob Falk, a junior, is treasurer of the society. "The Language Honor Society inductions is always one of the most competitive nights of the year for the societies. The fun is really seeing what everyone has to put together for their skit each year," said Falk.

Junior Laurel Hartman, a new inductee, particularly enjoyed the ceremony because it brought students together. "The induction ceremony was fun and it was a good way to meet other people in the Latin Honor Society who I've never had a class with before," said Hartman. "I like the idea of being in a group of people who like Latin as much as I do and it's nice to be recognized as a member of something I'm passionate about."

When not reenacting ancient poems, the society is involved in other Latin-related activities. Junior Sam Tannenbaum has been a

member of the Latin Honor Society for two years and has been involved in many events because of LHS. "What we normally do at meetings is plan for whatever event happens to be coming up, whether that is the induction ceremony, Princeton University's Certamen (a Latin competition) annual soccer game, or anything else," he said.

The Certamen is a four-hour series of competitive events that test students' knowledge of the Latin language and history. "I was honestly surprised to have a good time at the Princeton Certamen," said Falk. "From the small size of our Latin program compared to those of the schools competing, our teams did really well. In fact my team lost only one of our three competitions."



German: *Guten morgen*

Continued from page 1

A goal of all world language honor societies is to get acquainted with another culture. Co-president Alex Kossak believes GHS is a great way to do just that. "German classes weren't enough for me," he said. "Sure, the language is cool, but it wasn't until I joined GHS that I really got an understanding of just how awesome the culture is."

Last year, GHS participated in a German American Partnership Program (GAPP). German students were sent to America for about two weeks. Hosted in the homes of GHS members, the German students were able to get a first-hand experience of America's culture. During the summer, the roles were reversed. Those who traveled, like junior Amy Napoli, learned more than they ever could in a classroom. "I was able to become totally immersed in the German culture by actually experiencing it and I made friendships that will probably last a lifetime," Napoli said.

Although the school year's almost over, GHS works diligently to continue to spread German culture. Keep an eye out for their

most recent project—a mural of a German landscape painted by senior Kate Bormann and the club's other members. It will be located in the entrance to the 9/10 building. The motivation behind the mural was for this year's seniors to leave a mark on the school by sharing their love for the German culture. "We feel all share a genuine love and interest in the German language and culture and feel that our sincere devotion to German should be remembered," said Bormann. "We decided a mural would be a great way to leave our mark and encourage future students to get involved!"



Chinese: the HC Dynasty

By Hannah Barrett

The Chinese Honor Society (CHS) has eleven new members after this year's induction ceremony. In order to gain entrance into the society students must have taken Chinese 1, 2, and 3 and received an A- minus or better in all classes. At the ceremony, inductees performed an umbrella dance and a Kung Fu number. During the umbrella dance, the female members dressed in traditional Chinese attire and performed the dance using umbrellas as props. The boys later performed a synchronized Kung Fu number, with the addition of light sabers.

The advisor of the club, Chinese teacher Cecilia Oak, recognized this year's presidents of the CHS, seniors Emily Li and Hannah Corn, for their commitment to the society. Senior Seth Meade was also given an award for his commitment to studying Chinese over the course of his four years at Hunterdon Central.

Meade, who has had a love of Chinese, was honored by Oak's special award. "I was truly touched. Mrs. Oak is a phenomenal teacher who really cares about her students a ton and I consider myself lucky to have had the chance to do what I've done

with the CHS family," said Meade. "CHS is really made of a lot of terrific people."

Junior Dennis Yang has been an active member of CHS for the past year and is happy to have even more students inducted into the society. "It is frankly exciting to see my fellow peers be inducted into such a close-knit society," he said. "It's going to be great working with them and showing the school the unique culture of China."

Students also have the opportunity to participate in the "Chinese for Non-Heritage Speakers" competition annually held at Rutgers University, where in 2012 Central came in second place. Among other activities, students of the Chinese Honor Society are known for their annual Chinese food sale.



French: *Pardon my français*

By Lauren Besecker

Memorizing Jacques Prevert's "Pour faire le portrait d'un oiseau" (To make a painting of a bird) was a rite of passage for the 20 new inductees. Students recited and reenacted the poem line by line as one of two parts to a member's induction into the French Honor Society.

Angelisa Cunniff, a new inductee to the society, thought that reciting the poem served as a real life testament to what is learned in the classroom. "For FHS we chose a poem in order to showcase our skills, because at the end of the day being able to speak the language is really all that matters," said Cunniff.

French teachers Kathryn Losavio and Brigitte Fisher serve as the advisers and this year's presidents of the club were seniors Allie Rubin and Samantha Hoffman.

Hoffman thinks the members enjoyed reciting the French poem. "The FHS loved it because we were able to proudly speak French ourselves," said Hoffman.

Cunniff agrees with Hoffman. "The ceremony for the language honor societies was

awesome because everyone worked so hard to put together a fun performance for their individual culture," said Cunniff.

The French Honor Society has run activities throughout this year; most recently "Crepe Day" was held in celebration of French culture. In the near, future FHS will also be teaming up with Bridges Club to make crepes for the "Senior Prom" at Independence Manor.



Photos by of Trent Levitt

Response to affirmative action losing traction

By Dimtiri Henry

Susan B. Anthony, Dr. Adam Fortunate Eagle, César Chavez, Martin Luther King Jr. What do all these people have in common? They fought so that minorities could be heard in oppressive times in our nation's dark past. They fought so that America could gain its reputation as a place where people of all colors and backgrounds could be prosperous. They fought for affirmative action.

The institution of affirmative action has come under fire, most recently by the Michigan Supreme Court regarding *Schuette v. BAMN*. The final ruling has set a dangerous precedent for the future of America and its minorities. It has decreed that affirmative action should be in accordance to state policy and according to the views of any given state's voters. Affirmative action is one of the most important pieces of legislation for minorities in the history of America. It is a constant compensation for the families of minorities that have been discriminated against by the nation's past Jim Crow laws, deprivation of voting rights, and

immigration restrictions. Simply put, affirmative action admission policies are necessary to realign social equality and opportunity by doing what is, at heart, quite simple: affirmatively including the formerly excluded.

Affirmative action helps millions of people every year rise from the ashes of bigotry and discrimination.

The Supreme Court of Michigan's decision regarding affirmative action is nothing short of an unjust, immoral action done to send America back to the dark ages of slavery and discrimination. Repealing this legislation extends beyond college enrollment: It's an antecedent for the elimination of other invaluable civil rights. If this becomes a judicial trend, then what will happen to the reservations that Native Americans live on?

Will there be legislation that evicts them from the insufficient land they received after enduring a 2,200-mile walk of death? I mean, aren't they getting the advantage of "free" land while millions of people on the streets of America are homeless? Or what about women in the work force? Should paid maternity leave, or maternity leave in general, be removed because it gives women an "unfair" leave over men who work equally hard.

The thought of these ideas are so ridiculous that they have (probably) never been taken seriously. Why then is affirmative action any different? Affirmative action helps millions of people every year rise from the ashes of bigotry and discrimination. It is deplorable that anyone would even think of getting rid of it.

It is necessary to ensure that America benefit from people of all colors and genders in society. Removing the national mandate has essentially doomed affirmative action, which has provided America greater access to the skills and talents of its people. This issue was once debated and shot down by the actual Supreme Court in



Image by Wikimedia

In the case *Schuette vs. Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action*, the Michigan Supreme Court ruled against Affirmative action.

which there a major majority for affirmative action.

As Sandra Day O'Connor, one of the most vocal justice proponents, said, "In order to cultivate a set of leaders with legitimacy in the eyes of the citizenry, it is necessary that the path to leadership be visibly open to talented and qualified individuals of every race and

ethnicity." Affirmative action is necessary for the future of our nation, without it we will be forever lost.

The main case opposing affirmative action is that it is not "fair" to provide greater opportunity to any group. Do you know what is not fair? Enslaving a race for 200 years and creating immigration restrictions based on race. Depriving people of education because of their gender. Affirmative action serves to compensate for years of deprivation of every minority group. Too misunderstood is the institution of affirmative action. Women and people of all colors have been deprived of their rights as Americans sometime in history. Why is it not fair to include those once excluded? This is America. People are supposed to believe that this is the place where anyone, of any color or gender, can get opportunities to succeed. Repealing affirmative action is in no way fair. It is actually setting us back 300 years where the only people that could get an education were rich white landowners. This is the 21st century and it needs to stay that way.

Writer cries about NSA spies: Too much government involvement?

By Nick Pelitta

In just a few decades, the Internet has already become the largest exchange of information in human history. This technological marvel has allowed us to explore new avenues, learn more than was ever previously possible, and connect with others almost immediately. For years after its inception, the Internet had been an environment almost free of outside interference. But now, it has become increasingly used by both companies and the government to monitor users, track their habits, and in the case of the government-investigate them if suspicious activity is apparent. In the wake of the recent NSA scandals, debate has sprung up across the country about the pros and cons of mass surveillance systems by the government. The question is no longer whether these activities occur; rather, it is if they are justifiable.

To start: are these programs effective? Over the past few years, there are multiple examples of

criminals being caught through internet surveillance. In 2013, a group of Chinese military hackers who were implicated in attacks against the United States were caught when they logged into their Facebook accounts under the same IP address they'd been conducting the attacks with. There are many more cases like this, and government surveillance programs have certainly helped apprehend numerous cyber criminals.

But does the fact that these programs can catch criminals justify the fact that they may be infringing on our right to privacy? The Privacy Act of 1974, for example, guarantees all citizens access to any and all records that the government might have on them. However, government agencies have begun to deny individuals these protections to privacy. The FBI Data Warehouse System keeps sensitive information on citizens such as their name, Social Security number, bank account information, and known associates. While the FBI does share this information with law enforcement agen-

cies and even various companies and politicians, they have declined to release it to the general public. Not only that, but the Attorney General has recently ruled that the FBI is exempt from the provision in the Privacy Act that states all information kept on citizens must be current and accurate. Practically, this means that the government could be sharing false and outdated information about the average citizen to various private and public entities, without the citizen ever knowing about it themselves. To top it all off, the FBI cannot be held responsible for any problems arising from these erroneous records due to the exemptions they have. The phrase "with great power comes great responsibility" seems to not apply here.

Invading the privacy of the American people is not the only concern here: it was discovered that the NSA has been keeping records on many high-ranking foreign officials, most notably German Chancellor Angela Merkel. This scandal has strained the relations between our two nations at a time when it is imperative that the U.S. and Europe cooperate as much as possible in wake of the developments in Ukraine. Indeed, the Times recently quoted German officials

as saying that the effort to make re-make the intelligence relationship between the two nations has collapsed. The mass surveillance systems used by the government have begun to agitate some of our closest allies at a time of international crisis, which is a situation that no country should be putting itself in even one as powerful as the United States.

The use of mass surveillance is certainly a contentious issue. On one hand, it opens up an entirely new avenue to apprehend criminals and protect citizens. On the other, it might just be violating the rights

of those same citizens. Either way, the Internet is beginning to change. The U.S. government is not only violating law that it put in place itself; it's also violating the basic moral principles that we live by. The right to privacy is one of the most important, and yet seems to be one of the least respected by our leaders. But perhaps, by recognizing this issue and working to solve it, we can keep the internet from becoming the proverbial big brother and retain some semblance of what life was like before the NSA.



Cartoon by Crina Magalio

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PLAYBILL

HUNTERDON CENTRAL CABARET



Continued from page one

Although the rehearsal time was compressed, Magallo said that it didn't affect the acts too much. "The acts generally come in prepared and ready to perform like always," he said. This made the entire rehearsal process flow much smoother and quicker.

Despite this, auditions were much harder than in previous years. The staff had to accept fewer individuals than they have in the past. "There are so many talented students at HCRHS that all of the staff had to make difficult choices on who to take and who to cut," Magallo said.

For two whole weeks, the performers, stage crew, and directors were hard at work to produce the show that everyone loves so much. This show, the acts consisted of some returning favorites like Aftershock, the HC Fiddlers, and dancers from Starmaker, but there were also many new and unique acts such as a light and music show called "Down to the Wire," a belly dancer, freshman Maria Etcharren, and a live sketch artist, senior Crina Magallo. The Cabaret Chorus also returned after an absence of several years.

Seniors Abbe Knight (pictured on left) and Mike Piazza (pictured on right), were selected for the coveted role of emcees. Their job was to develop a storyline for the audience to follow in between acts. "We give the audience a mental break from all the talent," said Knight.

Emcee auditions take just as much, if not more, preparation than auditions for individual acts, so Knight and Piazza agreed to just have fun with it. "We trusted each other and ourselves," said Piazza.

The theme of the emcee's plot is always different, but for this show, Knight and Piazza chose a story never before seen on Central's stage. Their idea was a Freaky Friday theme, where Knight and Piazza switched personalities for a portion of the show.

As senior Aftershock member Austin Palis said, Cabaret is an event unique to everything else that happens at Central. "Cabaret is a different showcase for talent than any other show," he said. "It displays people with unique talents that don't always get to show them."

Junior solo singer Dana Mastrull said that she liked the diversity of all the acts. "I wouldn't even know people could do these things if it wasn't for Cabaret," she said. "People have passions,

Act 1
Aftershock
HC Dance Team
Fiddle Club
Live-wire
Madrigals
Deadwax
Dana Mastrull
Counting Stars
Crapa Pelada
900 Janitors

Act 2
Jazz Band
Fusion
Maria Etcharren
Let Her Go
Anonymous FX
Noteworthy
Cell Block Tango
Lia Chen
James Keelen
Starmaker
Cabaret Chorus



The cast of *Devil's Cabaret* join hands for the applause at the end of the show. More than 21 acts performed last Friday and Saturday, May 9 and 10, nearly filling the stage as they took their bows. Acts included instrumental, dance, and choral groups, as well as a live artist.

The Hotelier - Home, Like Noplace Is There

By Zac Djamoos

Even though it has only been four months into 2014, Home, Like Noplace Is There is the biggest musical shock of the year—not to mention one of the year's best albums. The Hotelier's 2011's debut record, *It Never Goes Out* (then credited to The Hotel Year), was more than just a simple pop-punk album—Christian Holden's lyrics were a cut above his peers; his vocals were more captivating and they offered a fair bit of diversity throughout the thirty minute runtime. But not many people expected the band to be capable of releasing an album like Home. Every aspect the band got right on INGO has improved exponentially and the result could probably be one of the most rewarding albums to be heard all year.

It makes sense to start with the most improved section: the lyrics. While Holden's previous offerings

were youthful, nostalgic tales of disillusionment and suburban life (and admittedly not bad), Home is on an entirely different level. There's no winning here, no hope, no solace. Mostly, the record focuses on two themes: depression and gender dysphoria, both of which are discussed with more tact than would be expected from a 22-year-old.

"Life in Drag" is as blunt as its title would suggest, describing a character who "felt weak in women's wear...stuck holding a stare," uncomfortable even in his or her own skin, particularly while everyone else seems to "wear binary like a badge of honor." "Housebroken," on the other hand, is a bit more layered, using a dog as a metaphor for a person who feels lost and defeated in their own life. The dog is offered freedom, but declines, as its "master's all that [its] got, keeps [it] having a purpose, gives [it] bed, keeps [it] fed," even though that

master "fed [it] rocks" and "left [it] out all alone in that cage."

But the most heart-breaking of all is "Your Deep Rest." You don't need to relate to the song to sympathize when Holden declares he "called in sick from your funeral. The sight of your family made me feel responsible." The song builds until the bridge, when it all collapses into a blur of impassioned shouting and cymbal crashes. Every line delivered by Holden, whether in his deep croon or his energetic wail or his fragile scream, is believable, due to both the emotion he throws into every word and the honest, poignant lyrics.

However, good characters are nothing without a good setting in which to flourish, and the musical setting of Home never falters. The album's opener, aptly titled "An Introduction to the Album," is a slow track that works to draw listeners in quietly rather than grab them by the neck. After utilizing only guitars, a soft organ, and Holden's voice for the first three minutes comes a surprise—Holden shouts, "The pill that you gave didn't do anything. I

just slept for years on end," and the track explodes into frenzied yells, gang shouts, and drum fills.

It's a perfect setup for the next eight tracks, none of which sound at all like the others. "The Scope of All This Rebuilding," the album's single, is a pop-punk anthem to be shouted from car windows and basements all across America, boasting the record's most anthemic chorus. "Among the Wildflowers" is a rougher track, placed exactly halfway to mark the transition from the more accessible, catchier side to the more hardcore-influenced side. It starts unassuming, but crescendos into a flurry. "Life in Drag" is the biggest curveball on the record—it is entirely devoid of any singing whatsoever, as Holden instead opts for frantic screaming. It shouldn't work in the context of the album, but it is executed perfectly. It feels cathartic, particularly while reading the lyrics.

Home winds down with "Discomfort, Revisited" and "Dendron" in just as powerful a way as it opened. "Discomfort" features a chorus that shouldn't be as infectious as

it is, given the way it's barked out, and "Dendron" is an encapsulation of the whole record in five and a half minutes. The song impressively and unexpectedly switches time signatures about halfway through to waltz time and includes three different guest vocalists lending themselves to the same verse. While that might make some songs sound disjointed, it sounds natural here, with each vocalist playing the part of a friend watching the narrator's misery.

The track's final three verses may well be the best on the album from a lyrical standpoint. As the drums fade away, all that's left is an acoustic guitar subtly playing the introductory melody to "An Introduction," bringing the album full circle in a beautiful fashion.

It seems futile to review an album like this one; there would be no way to do it even justice. It's the type of album rarely heard, let alone in its genre. Not a song feels out of place, not a moment unnecessary, not a word forced. It's the type of record that reminds you why music means so much to you.

Baseball season in full swing

Continued from front page

Junior Pat Clare, who threw a no-hitter in a 5-0 win against High Point on April 26, had similar things to say about the gelling of the team. "The reason behind our success is our team chemistry," said Clare.

"We enjoy our company and can't wait to get on the field each day. We also have the right mentality when going up against opponents. We always think we can win the game," said Clare. That mentality has proven to be successful for most of the season.

While the Devils do show a very impressive .875 winning percentage, they still feel there is room for improvement the rest of the season, which will make a strong transition into the NJSIAA tournament. "I believe we will continue to grow as a team if we stay focused on improving everyday and winning one game at a time," said Raymond about the rest of the season.

So how, exactly, will the team improve its game for the post-season? "We need to stay healthy, especially in the pitching spot. It is imperative to get Mike Novello back in order to have more depth in our starting pitching," Clare said.

Novello, a junior, has one win this season in two starts, but pitched well in each game, throwing five innings in each game and allowing a combined

total of three earned runs and striking out 11 batters before his injury in his April 14 start against Westfield. As Clare said, starting pitching is key for any team to succeed in the playoffs. Pitchers keep their teams in games if their hitters aren't performing well at the plate. Without strong starting pitching, the performance of any team is very unstable.

Looking at the rest of their season, the Devils have a very distinct and definite goal they want to achieve. "We need to finish the rest of the season strong," Clare stated. "The goal is to win the state championship. Nothing less." That goal may be a very difficult feat due to a very strong and deep 14-1 Old Bridge team that sits right behind Central in the section.

Old Bridge has been dominating opponents with its incredibly strong pitching, giving up an average of just two runs per game, including six shutouts. Old Bridge's only loss was by one run to South Brunswick, who it later went on to beat by 16 runs a little over a week later. By comparison, Central defeated South Brunswick 15-1 on April 19.

With the end of the regular season coming in a game against Bridgewater-Raritan on May 15, the Devils are looking to heat back up, improve their starting pitching and bring a state championship back to Hunterdon Central for the first time since 2009.



The Central baseball team celebrates a successful season thus far. Photo courtesy of Pat Clare

Pretty in pink: HC fights back



The Central softball team plays in the Coaches vs. Cancer tournament. Photo courtesy of Olivia Zengel

By Carter Cleaver

Cancer remains the second most common cause of death in the United States, and for years, scientists and doctors alike have been searching for ways to stop it in its tracks.

Though to this day, full cures for many types of cancers are not available, it's not like people are sitting around, twiddling their thumbs, waiting for something to happen. People are taking a stand, as are many Central students.

In fact, whole teams have taken it upon themselves to fight back. The Hunterdon Central softball team happens to be one of those. Athletes from all three teams, including freshman and junior varsity, have participated in the Coaches vs. Cancer softball games, raising money in the universal fight against breast cancer.

Cancer stands as an incredibly brutal illness, affecting millions of people of all ages, and the Hunterdon Central softball team has taken a stand in a variety of ways, the most prominent being the Coaches vs. Cancer games.

Recently, the softball team played in a charity tournament at

Hillcrest Park in Whitehouse Station with other softball teams, raising money for the American Cancer Society. Apart from this tournament, the team played a charity game against Montgomery on May

"Every one of us enjoys being a part of Coaches vs. Cancer because we all know that it can help change someone's life."

— Liv Zengel, junior

6. But the team's work hasn't been exclusive to just this tournament. Junior Olivia Zengel, center fielder for the team, has played in the charity tournament and Coaches vs. Cancer games. "We have been a part of the Coaches vs. Cancer program all season long; it goes even further than the charity games," she said.

The team has been fundraising all season long, branching from the

games themselves. The team has created and sold t-shirts and participated in bake sales throughout the season in order to spread breast cancer awareness and raise money.

The program has proved not only beneficial pertaining to the cause and the American Cancer Society but also rewarding for the players as well.

Participating in such a heartwarming program is sure to make the players happy with their contribution. "Every one of us enjoys being a part of Coaches vs. Cancer because we all know that it can help change someone's life," said Zengel.

With the work this team and plenty of others are doing, there's no doubt they're making a profound impact. The fight against cancer doesn't stop with Coaches vs. Cancer. Hundreds of Central students will also be participating in Relay for Life on June 13.

In one way or another, students at Hunterdon Central are adamant about making a difference in the lives of others, whether through Coaches vs. Cancer, Relay for Life or anything else. One thing is for certain: whatever that difference is, it's life-changing.

Junior athletes commit to college

By Libby Harrington

From the days of Little League and pee wee soccer practices, many athletes start their futures early. Parents sign their kids up for sports as early as kindergarten and they pack into the car with neighbors, Gatorade and orange slices.

They don't realize these short practices on Saturday and Sunday mornings are building fundamentals for their future. From there, many of them move on to rec teams and where the serious kids move on to travel and then eventually onto even higher levels of competitiveness. These competitive teams often entail tournaments where recruiters from colleges see them play.

Seven junior girls have already committed to where they will be spending the next four years of their lives. Four soccer players, and one each from of lacrosse softball and field hockey are committed to teams across the nation. Soccer

players Alli DeLuca committed to Monmouth University, Christine Tack to James Madison University, Sophie Calvelly to Montclair State University and Riley Cooper-Smith to Bucknell University. The four girls all play on an elite team, Flames, which is part of the Greater Flemington Soccer Club (GFSC). Cooper-Smith played across the east coast in tournaments that would determine their futures. "It allowed us to play tough teams at a competitive level. The better you do at tournaments, the better tournaments you get into and, in turn, better coaches see you," said Cooper-Smith. "It also helped to prepare us for being college athletes and doing work on the road."

Junior Holly Anderson committed to Marquette University for lacrosse. Anderson started playing on Devils lacrosse in elementary school then began playing for Steps, which is an elite travel team. Steps helped her to get into college as she went to various recruitment tour-

naments for college.

Junior Kendall Nickel recently committed to Quinnipiac for field hockey and junior Ally Hernandez committed to University of Connecticut for softball. Starting in middle school, Nickel went from playing school field hockey to a travel team known as G-Force. Playing year-round, Nickel reinforced her skills at recruitment tournaments.

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