

The Vox

Volume LVIV
Issue #2
December, 6 2006

Marion High School



Holidays!

What do students
look forward
to over Winter
break?
See page 8 and
9.



State Wrap- Up

Volleyball, Foot-
ball, and Cross
Country.
See page 4.



Where did B.J. go?

B.J. as a
freshmen,
Jackhammer as a
senior
See page 12.

Conduct code

Here at Marion High School we have what the athletic department calls the "Code of Conduct." This is a document that must be signed by each athlete and their parent or guardian before they participate in the sport they are out for. Along with academic eligibility, attendance, and good appearance, the administration, starting this year, is adding cheating to the Code of Conduct.

The Code also addresses the use of tobacco, alcohol, and controlled substances. "[The main purpose of the Code of Conduct] would be to help make students make good decisions regarding their behavior and to help better represent their school and community," commented Mr. Semler.

There are many penalties and punishments for violating the Code of Conduct. For example, if a student breaks

the rules in Code of Conduct they often have to sit out from part of their season depending on the violation and the

up to twelve calendar months. For other violations such as missing practice or skipping on curfew the penalty is left



head coach's decision. If the athlete is found with alcohol or drugs, and it's their first offense they would be suspended for at least 33% of that season's contest. A second offense would be a minimum of 66% of the season and a third offense could be

up to the head coach.

The Code of Conduct has to be signed by everyone from the football team to the drama club, but what about the people in between? What kind of rules do people outside of sports have to follow? There aren't any rules

but the administration does do something about it. "What we do is speak with the students because we get the police reports, and offer counseling related to decision making and substance abuse."

Even though the Code of Conduct deals with legal issues that all students shouldn't be partaking in, that doesn't prevent the situations. Is it fair that athletes get in more trouble for something than a student who doesn't belong to special teams or clubs?

"That's part of wanting to join the dance team or anything else, your saying you want to represent the school," stated Mr. Semler.

Being on a team, squad, or in a club comes with responsibility; but with more responsibility, why don't we get more privileges? Students not in an extra-curricular should have the same expectations and standards as everyone else.

Did you know...

A student who has violated the Code of Conduct may reduce their penalty. To reduce their penalty they enter what is called Behavior Agreement. A Behavior Agreement includes an apology, restitutions when appropriate, and 10 hours of counseling at that student's family's expenses.

"While representing Marion High School, the athlete is expected to maintain a well groomed appearance, which will be left up to each head coach."

"Special education students shall not be denied eligibility on on the basis of scholarship if the student is making adequate progress."

A student may lose eligibility for engaging in any act that would be grounds for arrest or citation in the criminal or juvenile system, excluding minor traffic offenses, whether the student was cited arrested, or convicted for the acts.

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The Vox is a student run newspaper dedicated to informing and entertaining the students of Marion High School since 1934. It is published six times a year by the journalism class at MHS. The staff will report as accurately, fairly, and objectively as possible. All activities will be covered by the staff to the best of their abilities, without showing favoritism to any group.

Letters to the editor will be printed from anyone in the community. However, The Vox retains the right to edit articles without changing the writer's intent. There is a limit of 200 words per article, and all letters must be signed in order for them to be published. The decision to include them rests solely on the staff and advisor. Turn letters into the office or to any staff member.

Light on logic

By: Sam Rinehart

Do weighted grades really help you or do they actually have to work harder in class to do well?

The math teachers at Marion use weighted grades. Most of your homework in math class is worth five points you miss one point on homework you're already at a low 'B'. Missing only one point on a couple of assignments would be equivalent to getting a 'C' on all of your assignments. (You may do really well on the tests because you understand the material.) Now there's a week of the term left and you have an uneasy grade like a "B+ or C-". The only work you can get in to the computer for your grade is your final test. All of your test grades have been

extremely good, meaning even if you ace your final, you still can't bring your grade up. You'll end the term with a "B+ or A-", just because you missed a couple points on your homework. Mrs. Paulsen explained, "Your final doesn't really affect your grade if you're in the 'A's or 'B's and you do well on it. The only way it affects your grade is if you don't do well and then it can decrease your grade really quickly." Why do we have weighted grades if they only help lower our grades?

Maybe you're the person that does all their homework correctly never missing any points. But when it comes to test time, you bomb them. You understand what you're doing, but you can't put it on paper and prove it. The

tests in a weighted grade system are worth more than your homework, so it doesn't matter if you do well on your homework, only if you do poorly. Even if you're spending time on your homework, and still can't get a decent grade on your test, it isn't easy to do well. Putting more pressure on you to do well on your final test. I don't think that is fair to put pressure on a kid for one test just so they can bring their grade up.

Maybe you're the person that is a quick learner (but you don't have to be). The things you do in class aren't even put into your grade. The things you do in class help you understand your homework. You get credit for doing it, but not very much. After a test, teachers will go through your notebook and make sure you

have all the investigations, and if you have everything done you get about 15 points. That's 15 points for three or four weeks of work. The teachers do a pretty good job helping you out with what you don't understand, but you have to figure out that you don't understand what your doing before the teacher will help you. If you got your investigations corrected or points for doing it everyday your grade would be helped tremendously. "It is too time consuming to grade your investigations; it's a big time factor," added Mrs. Paulsen. It is good that we have more time for learning, but are our grades suffering?

Instead of having all of these problems with weighted grades, why can't we just not have them? Can't they grade like any other class? Your homework is 5 points, and your tests are 100. It's still weighted, but not as extreme. The teachers would be satisfied because the tests would be worth more still. It would also take stress off of the students not having to worry so much about doing little errors. It would be an all around better idea.

Shawna Van Meighem, '09, takes a homework quiz in Mrs. Paulsen's class. Her grade on this quiz will be weighted.

It takes time to "Take Charge"

By: Sam Kiburz

Should it be required for all athletes to take gym class? Should it be expected on them to excel in every activity that they partake in gym class? So many gym teachers think that gym is essential for every student in the school.

It sounds like this article is trying to say that athletes are superior to everyone else, which isn't the truth. But they should not have to take gym class. "Athletes are already active so they shouldn't have to take a class that is about being active," said junior Derrick VanDerMillen. In the gym classes you're always doing something that is

"The activities in physical education will not affect them. Professional athletes workout four to six hours the day of their performances."

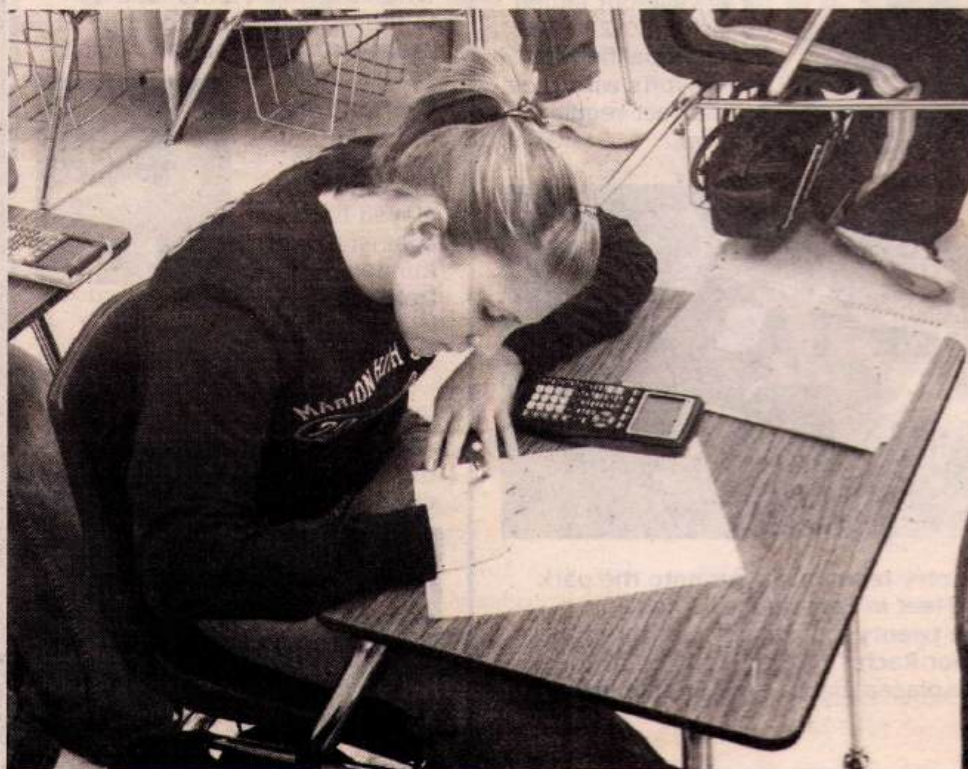
-Mr. Fish

But disagree argument. a gym and coach, The activities in physical education will not affect them. Professional athletes workout four to six hours the day of their performances."

Athletes aren't professional and don't have the stamina and aren't in as perfect shape as professional athletes. The activities in gym class that are strenuous can lead to more serious circumstances, injury.

"Injury for an athlete is the worst," said Sammy Vest. There have been a hand- full of athletes that have been injured from gym class related incidents. It could ruin a whole season, a career, and a heart for the sport for an athletes because of a class that isn't necessary for any athlete. All of those possibilities seem extreme but they all have one thing in common, an unnecessary that does affect athletes.

For athletes gym class is unnecessary class that is not essential for the future of a student athlete. Gym class is about staying active and keeping our youth in a healthy lifestyle, which athletes already have, their active and healthy. It is not necessary for them to have to take a required gym class.



Fabulous Fall

By: Matt Barnd and Patrick Tiernan

It has been another victory-filled fall season for Marion athletics.

The girl's cross country team tallied yet another amazing year, as the girls qualified for state, finishing third as a team.

Chelsea Burhite, '09, who finished eighth in the state, was happy with the results. "As a team, we did the best that we could and really proved what we could do," Burhite said. "Our team did well and our individual places were really good." All three of the individual state runners return next season, setting high expectations for the upcoming year.

Colin Langfitt qualified for state for the boys' squad, which narrowly missed out on a state birth, finishing fourth at Districts, in which a third place finish would have been good enough to get the team to state.

In a seemingly unfitting end to the high school careers of this year's seniors, the football team fell short in the first round of the playoffs to an excellent Waukon team by a score of 36-22. However, this tough loss took nothing away from an outstanding season, in which the Indians collected their second District title in three years, and recorded an undefeated regular season at 9-0, an accomplishment achieved by only five other teams in school history.

The sentiments of the seniors were well illustrated when the Journalism staff caught up with captains Derek Strait and Allen Reisner,

"I'm going to miss the excitement of being out there with friends and being able to take my emotions out on the other team," Strait said. Reisner had similar thoughts about the end of his football career at Marion, "The thing I'm going to miss the most about Marion football is playing on Friday nights." The two seniors also left some wise advice for the upcoming varsity members. "Don't take anything for granted, and finish what you start," added Strait. As for Reisner's advice, "Don't waste any time, because it goes by fast."

Reaching state for the second consecutive season, the volleyball team firmly planted themselves as one of the elite teams in class 3A.

Placing third at state was an honor and a great experience for the team. "It was really exciting beating Winterset," said sophomore Sam Rinehart. "Being at State is a memory I won't ever forget."

Many key players return next season, making the expectations very high. "Next season we plan on getting back to the state tournament and competing for a state title," Rinehart commented.

Overall Marion Athletics has had one of the best fall sports seasons in school history and all athletes should be very proud. With key players returning next year, all teams should expect successful seasons if the hard work and dedication of this year's senior class is matched.



The volleyball team waits to receive their State Tournament Participation Trophy. The team won their first-round game against Winterset before losing to West Delaware in the semi-finals.



Quarterback Josh Busenbark and the Marion offensive line gets set in the playoff game against Waukon. The Indians played hard and controlled the game for a while but ended up losing 36-22. The Indians qualified for the playoffs with their 9-0 perfect regular season.



The Girl's Varsity Cross Country team looks out onto the park at the State Cross Country Meet in Fort Dodge. The Girls team placed third out of the twenty four teams with three top ten individual finishes. Junior Rachel N. Smith placed sixth, Sophomore Chelsea Burhite placed eighth, and Sophomore Monica Kelly placed tenth.

Stupendous Seasons

Boy's Cross Country

-Senior Colin Langfitt placed ninth at districts and qualified for the State Meet.



Girl's Cross Country

-The girl's team got second at districts and qualified for the State Cross Country Meet. Individuals that placed were Rachel N. Smith (sixth), Chelsea Burhite (eighth), and Monica Kelly (tenth).



Volleyball

-The volleyball team made it to the state playoffs for the second straight year and upset Winterset in the first round. In the second round game the Indians played hard against State Runner Up West Delaware but lost 3-1.



Football

-With a perfect regular season the varsity team won the district championship and got a playoff berth. However, the Indians were eliminated with a tough first round battle with Waukon.



Making weight

By: Jenna Koppedryer

When a person sees or hears the word wrestling, often the first word that comes to mind is weight-cutting. Many wrestlers have taken weight-cutting to a whole new level.

Why do wrestlers cut weight anyway? There are several different weight classes in wrestling in order to keep matches fair. So in many cases, wrestlers try to cut weight to wrestle at a lower weight class where they think they will be more successful.

But when kids are dying from heat exhaustion and dehydration, you know that

it is time for a change.

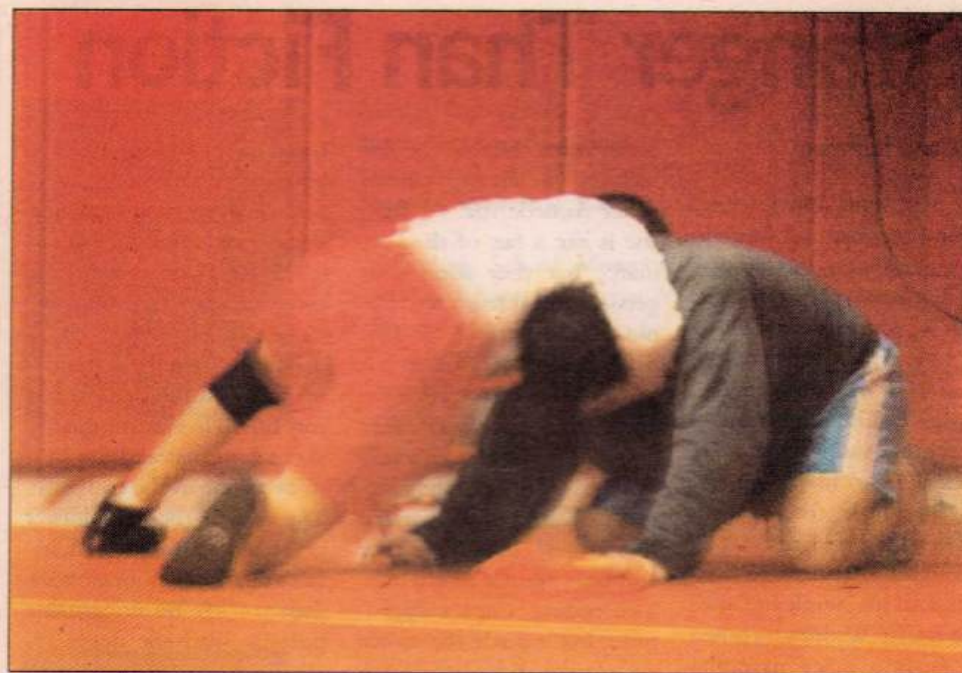
This year there are many new rules in order to make sure wrestlers are staying healthy and fit. Before the wrestling season starts every wrestler must get their body fat, hydration level, and weight taken and report it to the state. Every week during the wrestling season each coach must report each athlete's body fat and weight. Why? Because every wrestler is only allowed to lose 1.5 percent of their weight per week.

This is benefiting the wrestler in many ways, but is also disfavoring them too. Since each wrestler is only

allowed to lose 1.5 percent of their body weight per week (and that person may only have seven percent body fat), it means that a person may not be able to wrestle at the weight they want to.

However, there are many benefits to this new rule, too. Testing this on a weekly basis makes sure that wrestlers are keeping healthy.

"Overall I think it is a great idea and helps keeps our athletes safe," said assistant coach Aaron Conway. The most important part of all this is the wrestlers' health, even if it does mean wrestling at a higher weight.



Alex Conway '09 and Ryan Immerfall '08 practice in long sleeve shirts and sweatshirts to help them lose more weight by sweating.



Alec Kiburz '07 goes for the dunk at the Winter Bowl during warm-ups.

High expectations and high aspirations

By: Matt Barnd

Excitement for this year's boys' basketball season is at an all-time high, and rightfully so, as the team returns five starters from a year ago, all of whom are 6'3" or taller.

In addition to the tremendous height, the lineup is very versatile, with multiple players being able to play in the post as well as being able to step out and knock down a jump shot.

"The experience from last season, our depth, and how much the players have been working since last season, has me very excited about this year," Coach Laube remarked about his team.

The team also boasts a talented group of juniors who will be a key factor in the se-

niors' improvement over the course of the year, and also look to improve their own skills and, while not possessing the superior height of the senior class, there are many players with great athleticism who look to contribute to this year's squad.

With great excitement also comes high expectations, as the Indians are favored to repeat as WaMaC Champions.

"Mental toughness, team chemistry, and continual improvement will be key in the success of our team," Laube mentioned. In addition to this goal, the Indians also have higher aspirations such as reaching the state tournament. However, only time will tell if these aspirations are reached.



Jordan Garretson '08 dribbles around Levi Dixon '07 while going to the hoop.

Stranger Than Fiction

By Carly Huffman

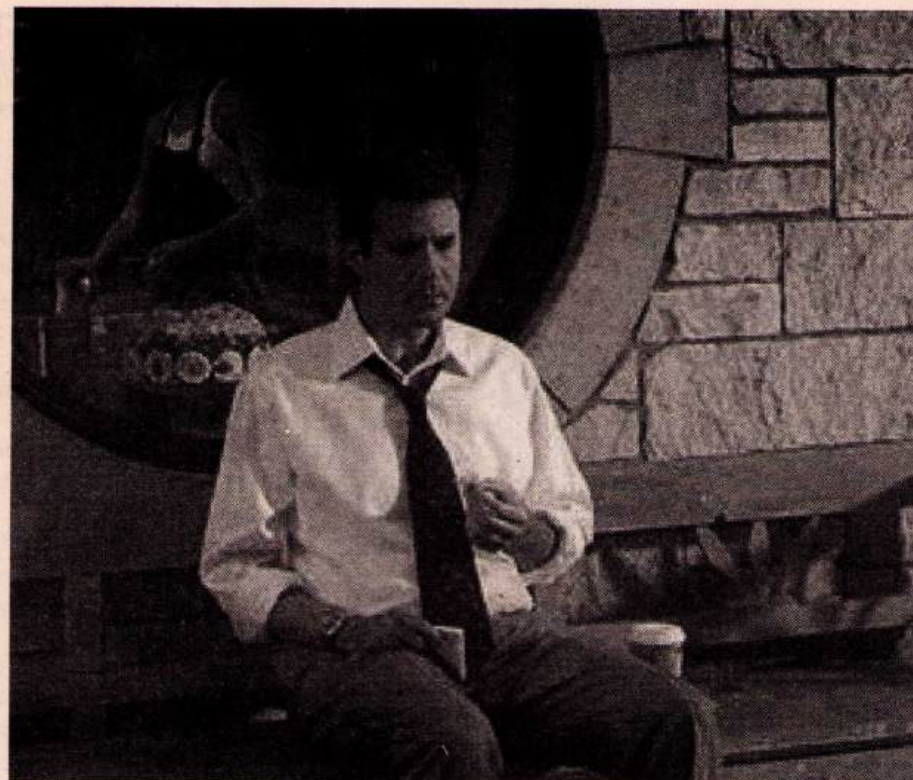
Some movies take a good premise and waste it. *Stranger Than Fiction* has an awesome premise, runs with it, and takes us along for the ride. Will Ferrell plays Harold Crick, an IRS worker whose life is ruled by routine and numbers. He lives alone in his apartment and has little contact with the outside world, other than through his work. He's content with his simple life until one fateful Wednesday when he hears a voice narrating while he brushes his teeth. This voice isn't God, and Harold isn't crazy. We soon come to find out that it is author Karen Eiffel (played by the amazing Emma Thompson) writing her latest book.

Meanwhile, Harold begins auditing a pretty, tattooed baker named Ana. At first, she is not a fan of the "tax man", but they soon start getting acquainted, and Harold falls in love for the first time in his life. Life is just getting interesting, when the voice announces Harold's impending death. Obviously shaken by this announcement, Harold seeks out the mysterious British author and begs her not to kill him. The ending was a compromise, but it made the movie easier to swallow.

The thing that makes this movie different is that it brings up questions rarely seen in films. Does society have a responsibility to art? Should Harold give up his life to save what

could be the most important book of this century? With such a deep and troubling underlying question, director Marc Forster somehow creates a light and funny atmosphere.

Will Ferrell's performance is an integral part of this film. He has this quality about him that endears him to everyone in the audience. The rest of the cast does a great job, but Queen Latifah's character as an author's assistant has no discernable purpose, and she never really finds her personality. To quote the movie: "It's not the best piece of English literature of the last ten years, but it's not bad." This movie may not change the world, but it will make you think.



Happy Feet

By: Carly Huffman

You walk into *Happy Feet* expecting a cute, animated, talking animals movie, and you leave the theater thinking "What did I just watch?". It's a grown up movie with random songs and sexual references, thrown into a story for kids to enjoy. It's just weird. Not necessarily bad, but definitely weird. It takes adult themes about ecology and saving the environment, dumbs them down, and mixes them with life lessons about being "dif-

ferent" for little kids. The two lessons never quite fit together. *Happy Feet's* direc-



tor also wrote and directed *Babe*, another story about a

talking animal whose differences ultimately make him special, but the formula didn't work as well this time.


The story is centered around Mumble, a penguin who can't sing, but loves to tap-dance to express his love for Gloria, a penguin with a beautiful voice. They meet lots of other crazy penguins, and travel all over the earth trying to save their depleting fish population. It's not hard to follow, but it's not really worth watching.

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A rainbow ballot

By: Sam Rinehart

Can anyone honestly imagine a time when there wouldn't be discrimination? Does anyone think there will be a time when this happens? It's pretty hard, right?

Let's take a look at the upcoming presidential election. This could be the election that a Caucasian, wealthy, strong, family-man doesn't run. There are many possible candidates, but this election has many different races, and women running. The potential top two candidates for Republican candidacy are Rudy Giuliani and Condoleezza Rice, and the two top candidates for Democrat candidacy are Barack Obama and Hilary Clinton. With them running, there's possible discrimination everywhere, racial and sexual.

Which candidate would be better off? What issue of discrimination is the bigger deal? "Depends on where in

the country you are," stated Mrs. Braun. "In Connecticut, it wouldn't matter about gender or race, but in states like Tennessee, yeah it would matter what race you were."

So, in the north, it would be a fair game. Depending mainly on who spoke their views most clearly. In the southern part of our country, some people still have discrimination. People won't look at the person's view, they'll focus on what the person can't help about themselves.

Hopefully, most people will focus on what the person has to say. There are many people who have strong opinions on things and they want their leader to have the same views as them. Everyone should be treated equally. Our country isn't agreeing on discrimination, to do it, or not.

With discrimination in mind, would the names even get on the ballot? Would people understand that sometime our country is going to have a leader that isn't the "perfect man?"

Who knows how our country would react? Would people accept them as their president?

Probably not. People seem to always find a problem with everything. It would give politicians a lot to talk about; whom they think would win.

"Our country isn't ready for that yet, but I think it will happen soon, like in six years," Mrs. Braun added. It will be pretty interesting to see if our country is willing to accept anything other than the Caucasian, wealthy, family man as their president.



Meet the 2008 prospective hopefuls



http://www.bbc.co.uk/1/extra/tx/documents/media/barack_obama_hand203.jpg

Barack Obama was elected to be a part of the U.S. Senate in 2004 from Illinois. His fame started to bloom at the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Obama has a very multicultural background, with his father born in Kenya and his mother from the U.S. If he would be elected president he would be the first non-caucasian man to win.

Dr. Condoleezza Rice was the National Security Advisor from 2001-2005, under George W. Bush. She became the U.S. Secretary of State in 2005, and she is the first African-American woman to hold that position. She'd be the first African-American woman to be in charge of our country if she were to become president in 2008.



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http://www.yale.edu/opa/imagegallery/commencement/image/hr_clinton.jpg

Hilary Clinton was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2000 which was a milestone because she was the first, First Lady to be elected to the Senate. During her husband's presidency, there was a lot of controversy while she stayed at the White House. In the upcoming election, many people may be dissuaded by her gender and her history.

Rudolph "Rudy" Giuliani III is a politician and attorney. He is known most for his service as the Mayor of New York City. He played an important role in leading New York City during the September 11 terrorist attacks. After the attacks, his national popularity rose greatly and could be a leading candidate for the 2008 presidential elections.



<http://www.gwu.edu/~action/2004/11004/flspinguliani.jpg>

Holidays



Eating my Grandma's fudge.
-Tabitha Scott, '08

Food

The good food
because you only get
it three times a year.
-Ben Holub

Over break I look forward to
the food the most. I love my
Grandma's baking. Yum!
-Aubrey McElmeel, '09

I love seeing the mountains of cookies piled on
the kitchen counter waiting for me to devour.
-Sam Rinehart, '09

I look forward to peanut
butter balls because they
are delicious and I get a
whole tin to myself.
-Alyssa White, '07

Christmakah

By: Chelsey Banes

With winter break approaching faster than we expected students are busy preparing for the upcoming holidays. Buying presents, handing out candy canes, and putting up decorations keep many students busy outside of school. What is all the preparation and excitement about? In most cases students are getting ready for Christmas. Christmas started as a Christian holiday but has spread to be a worldwide celebration. Christmas however, isn't the only holiday being celebrated. Sophomore, Mariah Norton has been spending her time getting ready for Hanukkah. "I don't know a lot of people that are Jewish outside of my family. It's fun to meet people that are," com-

mented Mariah. Hanukkah is a Jewish holiday that started when a menorah was light and the oil that was supposed to last one day instead lasted eight. Hanukkah is now an eight-day long celebration that consists of receiving presents, playing games, and lighting a single candle on the menorah. "My favorite part is lighting the candles because you do it as a family." Said Mariah. However, Mariah is one of the lucky students here at Marion because she not only has Hanukkah for eight days, but she also gets to celebrate Christmas with her family. "My Dad isn't Jewish so we have both," replied Mariah. Whether, your celebrating Hanukkah or Christmakah over break you have many things to look forward too. Students look forward to a variety of things from food to family time like Mariah.

No School

Enjoying not having to wake up early for school.
-Leigha Steger, '09



Not having school and
being able to do what I
want when I want.
-Dalton Combs, '10

Seeing friends and not being here [in school].
-Kristen Daniel, '08

Knowing you can
sleep in and not
have to get up
the next day.
-Nick
Jones, '08

Going over to Austin's for BYOS with
everybody on the basketball team.
-Amry Shelby, '09

'Tis the

Marion High School students



Holidays

9

Season

give their holiday wish list!

Presents

I like holidays because my birthday is close so I get alot of presents.

-Eric Wagner, '07

I like presents becaues you get stuff you want.

-Lindsey Heims, '09

I love presents!! I love ripping the paper off the boxes.

-Alex Sturtz, '08

Presents because you get good stuff.

-Katelynn Edwards, '08

Seeing the look on Jen's face when i give her, her presents.

-Nick Schurmer, '08

Traditions

My favorite time of the holidays is spending time with my family and baking cookies with my Mom and Grandma.

-Jordan Spear, '09

I like going to my Grandma's house and I like all the snow and lights.

-Kathleen Neff, '10

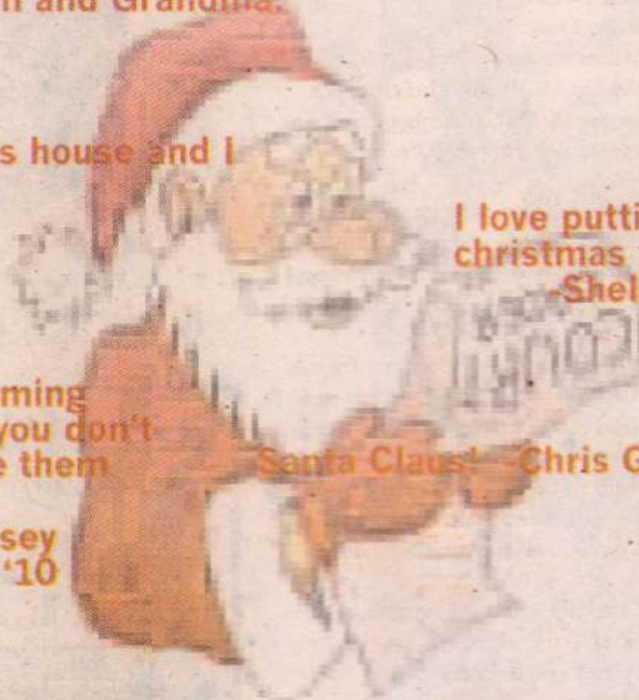
I love putting up my christmas tree.

-Shelbi Hudgins, '09

Family coming becaues you don't get to see them often.

-Kelsey Glandon, '10

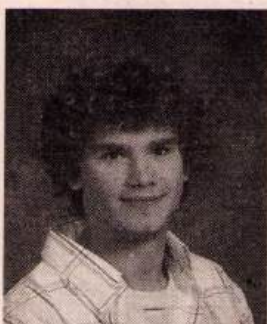
Santa Claus! -Chris Gustas, '07



Senior Interviews



Name: Levi Dixon
Main Activity: Basketball
Other Activities: Football, Track, NHS, NCYL, Win With Wellness
Season Highlights: Winning the District Championship and going to the playoffs in football. Being Lance Armstrong in basketball.
Best High School Memory: Camping trips and Halo parties.
What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : My friends, and sports.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Give everything you've got because you don't know when it will be over.
Future Plans: Go to college and be a teacher.



Name: Justin Daniel
Main Activity: Wrestling
Other Activities: Soccer, Football
Season Highlights: 9-1 District Champions in football, and making Varsity in wrestling for three years.
Best High School Memory: Break dancing in the No Talent Show.
What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : Seeing everyone and playing sports.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Live life to the fullest.
Future Plans: Attend college, not sure where.



Name: Darcy DeLong
Main Activity: Dance
Other Activities: Cheerleading, Track, SODA, Lean On Me, Band, Choir, Speech, Fall Musical, Spring Play, Chamber Choir, Show Choir, Mayor's Advisory Council, Winter Drumline
Season Highlights: Sweeping cheer camp, making UCA All-Stars, getting disgusting Mexican candy from the West Liberty cheerleaders, the team dinner before play-offs, and doing awesome at State!

Best High School Memory: Probably sophomore year when my friends and I totally plastered T.T.'s house with T.P., or sophomore year on the band/choir trip to Florida when my friends and I got in trouble every night (thanks to Planet Hollywood).

What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : The people! There are so many amazing people here, I'm going to miss them! It's nice to go to a school small enough that you know everyone and everyone is so different.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Don't ever settle for average because it's just as close to the bottom as it is to the top.

Future Plans: I wish I knew! I know I want to go to college, but I don't have any idea where or what I want to do!



Name: Elissa Cook
Main Activity: Basketball Cheerleading
Other Activities: Football Cheerleading, Competition Cheerleading, SODA, FBLA
Season Highlights: I like being at practice and having fun with my friends. We all have a good time laughing together.
Best High School Memory: Being nominated for homecoming court, camp all-star, and getting captain for cheerleading.
What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : I will miss the closeness between friends.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: High school goes by so fast, one time you are a freshman in the halls, and the next you are planning for graduation. Cherish the moment you are in, because it will be over sooner than you think.
Future Plans: Attend a four-year college, possibly the University of Iowa.



Name: Sara Teff
Main Activity: Bowling
Other Activities: SODA
Season Highlights: This year's first practice when I bowled a 210 and I have not bowled since February of last year.
Best High School Memory: Senior football games.
What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : I will miss my friends and football games on Friday nights.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Don't worry about what other people think, just be yourself.
Future Plans: My future plans are to go to Indian Hills Community College and major in Nursing.



Name: Colin Langfitt
Main Activity: Cross Country
Other Activities: Soccer, FBLA, Band
Season Highlights: Breaking the school record and going to state
Best High School Memory: The whole cross season
What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : seeing my friends
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Eat Mo' Pie" - Kyle Hacker
Future Plans: Go to a four year college

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Name: Carly Huffman

Main Activity: Basketball Cheerleading

Other Activities: Journalism, NHS, NCYL

Season Highlights: I love cheer practice and pep rallies because we work really hard but we laugh a lot.

Best High School Memory: All the fun times with Brittany and Allison, every single moment in journalism class all four years, chasing Christine and Ali around in Natalie's van, and singing "Sarah Plain and Tall" on the elevator at the FBLA conference.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : My friends, journalism, cheerleading, the school store, the Pepsi machines, the teachers, and the familiarity.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: High school goes by way too fast. Have as much fun as possible.

Future Plans: Go to the University of Iowa and major in Journalism and Cinema.



Name: Jake Cram

Main Activity: Basketball

Other Activities: SODA, NHS, FLBA, NCYL

Season Highlights: Playing in front of the Grateul Red.

Best High School Memory: Winning the first Conference Championship in 20 years, and hanging out with all of my friends.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : All of my friends.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Go hard or go home.

Future Plans: Attend a four year college, major in pre-medicine and play basketball.



Name: Nathan Nissen

Main Activity: Wrestling

Other Activities: Cross Country, Track, Baseball, Soda, FBLA, Winter Drumline, Band

Season Highlights: When I finally made varsity wrestling after three years of JV. It's nice for a change.

Best High School Memory: My junior year of cross country when the guys' team placed fourth, beating Xavier, and I placed twelfth.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : Seeing all of my friends every day. Also I will miss going to the games and going crazy for my team.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Run fast, die old, but enjoy life!

Future Plans: Go to a four year college and run track, and possibly cross country.



Name: Alyssa White

Main Activity: Basketball

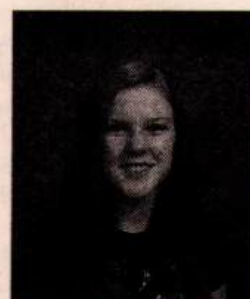
Other Activities: Softball, Track, NHS, NCYL, FBLA, SODA, ELP, FCA

Season Highlights: Last year when we finally came together as a team and beat West Delaware in the first round of Regionals.

Best High School Memory: All the fun times with friends like gettin' my groove on at dances, hanging out with Jessi and Jake, random road trips to Mantown with Tara, and of course all the Softball campouts!

What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : All my underclassmen friends that I've made throughout the years.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Hard work beats talent when talent won't work hard.



Name: Katie Schultz

Main Activity: Dance and Choir

Other Activities: Soccer, Fall Musical, Spring Play, Chamber Ensemble, Show Choir, NHS

Season Highlights: When Alisabeth said "Eight and Chah!" and Darcy said "What number is Chah?"

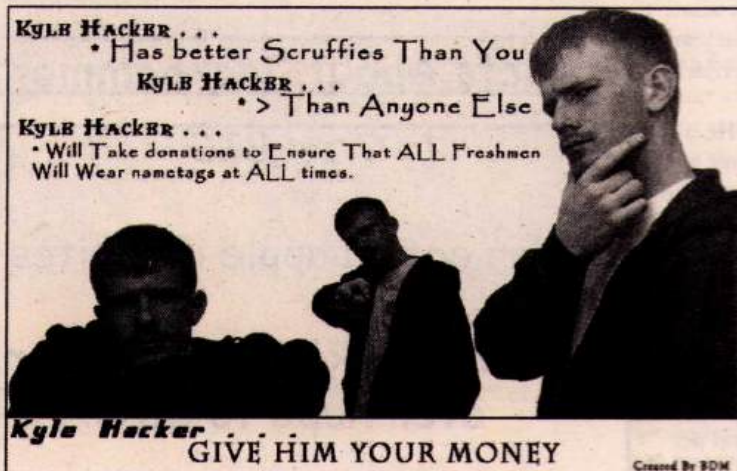
Best High School Memory: Going boxing with Derrick, Darcy, and Joe, Playing hide-and-go-seek at the cast party for Grease, and watching Brooke H. get stuck in a laundry basket with her

feet next to her face.

What Will You Miss Most About Marion? : Never having homework because of the long classes.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Make the most of high school, four years isn't as long as it seems.

Future Plans: Possibly attend UNI to be a music major.



Where did B.J. Goldsberry go?

B.J. Goldsberry



3 Facts About B.J. Goldsberry

- 1) Size: Medium
- 2) First spoken words
(as heard by the Football Team)
"Aww [poop]"
- 3) Favorite Game
Madden (any year)

By: Kyle Hacker

When was the last time anyone has seen B.J. Goldsberry? You still hear this name occasionally, mostly during role call, but when was the last time you saw the kid? You can look all you want, but you won't find the same person who we called B.J. He was replaced last year by someone with more: more confidence, more suave, and more jacked. With the loss of B.J. Goldsberry we gained the Jackhammer.

Those of us who remember back to freshman year might not remember the nervous young lad who had just transferred to our school. He was utterly silent, too shy to speak to anyone. The loudest noise that came from him was the sound of his hand hitting his desk as he sat with his head down, the position he favored during any down time given in class.

Even in football he was silent... for a while. As Jordan Kruger, '07, recalls, "He never really said anything 'till about the third day of practice when we were going through the ropes and he fell on his face, and that's when his first words came out." These words weren't only the first words he said in a practice, but also the first words he spoke in the school.

In sophomore year, B.J. finally broke free from his shyness... sort of. He spoke few words, most of them being, "No, hey guy", "I'm coming over", "Don't be a guy" or, if he was hungry, "No, can I just have some?" This brought the interest level in B.J. up, and he began to have quite the social life. Whether this was due to his personality or to the fact that he was so different from anyone we've ever met before, it didn't seem to bother B.J., who reveled in his newfound popularity.

Over junior year, B.J. changed even more. He became much more open, and while he still didn't talk much in class, he started to diversify who he spent his time with outside of school. He also started to make actual sentences and conveyed his thoughts in words that we could all understand.

This B.J. was a completely different person from the one we met freshman year. This new man needed a new name. On the fateful night of January 22nd, 2005, he received his new name. As many people (mostly the girls in the junior class of that year) heard, B.J. was gone, replaced by the bigger and better Jackhammer.

This year, Jackhammer has changed more than ever. He lays it all on the table, now participating in class discussions, and showing a new side of himself that no one even suspected he had: The Academic side. He frequently attends "Wings Night" at the Longbranch Hotel, where he puts down wing after wing in an effort to fill up an entire bucket by himself.

Over the years we have all changed a great deal, but no one has changed more than Jackhammer. He went from being a small, shy freshman to being the big, open senior that he is today. While the changes were dramatic, he never changed the one thing that made him truly unique: his one of a kind personality.

Jackhammer



3 Facts About Jackhammer

- 1) Size: BIG
- 2) Can eat an apple in 2 bites
- 3) More Jacked than you can ever hope to be

Must List...

Top Ten T.V. Shows

To Watch:

By: Sam Kiburz

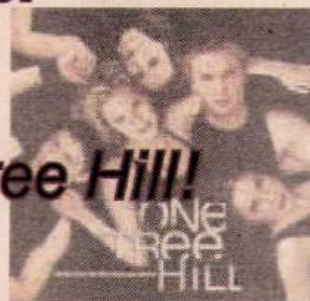
10. *Desperate Housewives!*

9. *CSI!*



8. *Heroes!*

7. *One Tree Hill!*



6. *The O.C.!*

5. *Family Guy!*

4. *Lost!*

-When i heard that there was a second season of lost on an island i figured it would be amazing, and it was.

3. *Law and Order!*

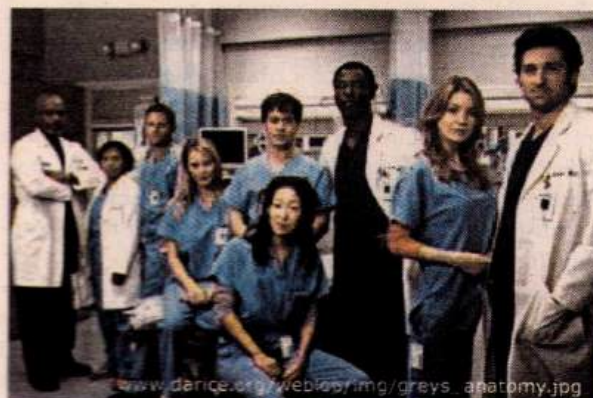
- Amazing actors, suspensful plots, and a catchy themes are the main reasons why this is such an outstanding suspense packed show.

2. *The Bachelor!*

-A prince and beautifl women what can get better than that? It a recipe for some good dramma on Television.

1. *Greys Anatomy!*

-If you like doctors and the suspense of a hostile environment, and if drama is your thing, then this is the show for you! When you watch this show you will experience the most shocking time of your television-watching-lifetime.



Christian athletes

By: Patrick Tiernan

Freshmen Joe Davis expected the Fellowship of Christian Athletes, or better known as FCA, to be boring and like church. Joe was pleasantly surprised though when he found out it's a fun chance to meet with your friends and talk about God. Joe has been to every FCA huddle meeting except one this year and has come to find out, despite the early wake up, it is worth the trip. "FCA is fun because unlike church, where you sit there and get preached to, you break down into groups and you can par-

ticipate in the discussions," said Joe.

Joe also enjoys the information he receives at FCA meetings. "We talk about recent events in the news and how it relates with God," commented Davis. During meetings FCA members participate in the four W's, The Welcome, Warm-Up, Work Out, and Wrap UP. Members of FCA discuss topics of the Athletes Bible such as Commitment, Eye on the Prize, Relationships, and Being a Team



Player.

Davis, like many athletes, feels it's very important to take time for his religion but with an athlete's busy schedule that's not always possible. Many times Joe can't make it to church on the weekends and since FCA is before school on Tuesday there are no schedule conflicts. "I like FCA because it gives me a chance to thank God and to pray for everyone's health during competition," explained Joe.

Joe along with all the other members of FCA would

not be enjoying the experience with out the efforts of PE/Health teacher Mrs. Dostal. Dostal is the group's advisor, with help from Mr. Laube and Mrs. Gaffney Paige, and is very thrilled for the group, "I've been praying on this for years. I have been trying for about 15 years to get something started and MHS. FCA is a great place for kids and or adults to share their Christian faith," Mrs.Dostal stated.

FCA is open to any student and is a great opportunity for an athlete to take time for his or her Christian religion.

www.calvin.edu

A Dangerous Addiction

By: Jordan Garretson

Skin Cancer. It is the most common type of cancer, with more than 1 million cases diagnosed annually in the United States. The ironic, and sometimes sad thing is that it is also one of the easiest cancers to avoid with proper care.

About 90% of all cases of skin cancer can be traced to over exposure to UV, or ultraviolet rays. They are given off when the sun emits energy. These UV rays can damage genes that control the growth and health of skin cells. When the damage is severe enough, a skin cell may grow in the form of an uncontrollable cancer cell, leading to skin cancer. In addition to skin cancer, UV

rays also cause sunburn and can cause the skin to look wrinkled and older than it is.

With the evolution of technology, powerful devices that allow people to achieve that desirable 'golden shine' have been created: tanning beds. While it can be much more convenient than simply laying out, tanning booths also emit harmful UV rays. These UV rays are also 2 to 3 times more powerful than as the ones emitted by the sun itself, imposing a higher risk of skin damage upon the user.

Despite these risks, many teens across the country, including many at Marion High School, continue to turn to

tanning salons to attempt to acquire and maintain the optimal golden brown color. But why do they risk their health?

"A lot of girls feel better after tanning. Their self-esteem goes up when their bodies are more tan, and some girls even become tanning 'addicts' because they do it so often. They also think that the chances of getting skin cancer are slim to none," commented Marion Senior Natalie Ryther.

While the best way to avoid skin cancer and other harmful consequences is to not go tanning, if you do still in fact seek the ideal tan, you should still attempt to protect your body as well as



http://www.shopbrownbox.com/Images/800x600/ETS_SunVision_24S_Tanning_Bed.jpg

Tanning beds, like the one shown, emit UV rays that are 2-3 times as powerful as those emitted by the sun. Over exposure to these UV rays can cause sunburn, premature aging of the skin, and even skin cancer.

possible.

First off, those whose skin burns easily should never use tanning beds. Secondly, you should always, ALWAYS use tanning goggles when in a tanning bed. The UV rays

can cause harmful eye problems in the future. Third, you should always make sure that the timer on the tanning bed you use has its timer set to the correct time that corresponds with the appropriate

exposure limit for your skin. And last, but not least, when you are going to be outside and exposing yourself to direct sunlight, you should always utilize sun screen with an SPF of 15 or more.

Turning A Page

By: Kyle Hacker

Not many people are too concerned with politics in high school. Some think that their vote doesn't matter, others are confused by all the political mumbo-jumbo, and still more just don't care. But there is at least one student that cares. She cares enough that she actually got involved in a campaign. This student is, of course, senior Amanda Greider.

Amanda got interested in politics in the same way most people get interested in anything. "I just watch the news in the morning and read the paper," says Amanda. While most students would just skip to the sports section, Amanda actually reads the sections that most would consider to be nothing but "fire starter."

She is mostly interested in local politics, going so far as getting involved in a local campaign. Amanda boasts, "I helped Swati Dandekar with campaigning by putting up signs and talking with people." Even that small amount of help keeps

her at the top of political activists in the student body.

Why did Amanda give up her free time to help in an election that she couldn't even vote in? "I feel it's important to exercise our right to vote and to keep up on what's going on at the local and national levels," explains the exasperated senior.

Later this year, Amanda will become even more involved. She is following in her older sister, Marion alumni Holly Grieder's, footsteps and has become a Page at Des Moines. When asked why, Amanda responded, "Because I've worked on political campaigns and I think it would be rewarding to go and work under the Chief Clerk for awhile." To do so she will have to leave Marion from January 6th until the end of April. She doesn't look at it like she's losing her senior year, but rather like she's gaining life-changing experience.

Amanda is undoubtedly one of the most politically involved seniors in this school. Not only does she keep up with politics, she also became a part of the political system. When she leaves, the school won't only lose a great student, but a very politically active individual as well.



The State Capitol building in Des Moines, which is where Amanda will be traveling to in January. Grieder will be there until the end

A day in the life...

By: Nicole Pratt

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to live a day in the life of someone? Maybe even teacher? Well a day in the life of a teacher is far from boring, especially when your name is Jim Bates.

Mr. Bates, teacher here at Marion, starts his day off with a coffee and panini sandwich from Panera. After enjoying breakfast, Mr. Bates heads over to school at about 7:15. His first class of the day starts off with a class of eighteen sophomores in English II Advanced, who are studying Shakespeare right now. Next, Bates teaches a class of twenty-three sophomores in English II General, who are studying



teen problems.

Mr. Bates says his favorite grade to teach is sophomores because, "They are in between the age of innocence." During third block Bates goes to lunch. His favorite

places to go are Blimpe, Piz-za Ranch, and 3rd On 1st, but he sometimes just likes to eat here at school. Last, fourth block, Mr. Bates has a class of twenty-eight senior

students in English four composition. He says this class is for students planning to attend Kirkwood or smaller community colleges. Usually at 3:30, Mr. Bates finally gets to go home, where he gets to enjoy some of his favorite hobbies that include golfing and fishing.


















It has been a really hard decision for Bates to decide to retire at the end of this year or next year.

"I still really enjoy my job because I still enjoy teaching the variety of high school kids", says Bates.

Mr. Bates has been an English teacher here at Marion for the past thirty-seven years. He chose to teach English because he enjoys reading and writing, especially creative writing, because you get to write about things that you enjoy.

Mr. Bates has not only been a teacher, but also a coach here. He coached football for about twenty-three years and wrestling for about twenty-five years. "I am amazed at how quickly these years have gone by, how kids are still pretty much the same, and how I'll have to wait another thirty years for the Green Bay Packers to win another Super Bowl."

Bates knowledge-bank

-  Has taught for thirty-six years at Marion
-  Wife's name is Sue
-  Has a cat named Dusty
-  Has two sons and one grandson
-  Attended college at UNI
-  Original hair color is blonde
-  Has been married for thirty-nine years
-  Favorite book is *To Kill A Mockingbird*
-  Favorite restaurant is Lonestar
-  Favorite presidents are George W. Bush, Lincoln, and Truman
-  A Miami dolphin once broke his collar bone
-  Once had a job delivering Frito Lays
-  Summer-teacher at UNI
-  Loves pizza
-  Wishes he was one-hundred and sixty pounds
-  Has a degree in art, enjoys sketching, sculpting, and poetry.
-  Coached football and wrestling at Marion

The best of the best: Lala dominates the Playstation 2

By: Jordan Garretson

For some gamers like Patrick Lala, online competition isn't just a hobby, it's a way of life. Like many other avid online players of NCAA Football, Patrick would spend almost 7 hours per day playing online when his interest was at its peak.

Lala first became involved in playing PS2 online in October of 2004 when he was informed about online play by fellow junior Ben Cranny. When asked what was the most tempting aspect of the idea of playing online, Lala responded, "Not very many people around here play online so it was a great way to expand my horizons and become an elite gamer."

He was right. Since 2004 Patrick has drastically increased his NCAA skills, having been ranked in the top 100 in the nation for the last two years, including being ranked as high as 57th this year.

Among other teams, Lala feels the most comfortable defending his high ranking when playing as the Mountaineers of West Virginia. "They can establish the run game. Once you do that, you have your opponent right where you want him and that's when you go over the top," explained Patrick.

But why not just play against the computer? "I like being able to

talk to my opponent. And once you're done smashing the kid, you have more self pride than after you get done beating the computer," answered Lala. "I also enjoy the stat-tracking. They even award you trophies for corresponding goals that you achieve."

Perhaps Patrick's favorite aspect of online play is the trash talk that goes on between gamers. "I like the trash talk. It becomes a part of the game. You can psyche people out and frustrate them. You get a rep online, and I like to be known as ocho cinco."

In addition to NCAA Football online play on the PS2, there are a wide variety of games that have the ability for online play. Amongst the vast selection, Halo 2 on Xbox Live is a popular choice among Marion High School students. As the new gaming systems are released along with games like Halo 3 and NCAA 2008, online play is destined to become more advanced and push technology to its limits as we move into the future.

So while NCAA Football is just one small piece of a large, mouthwatering online gaming pie, Patrick Lala will be one of many gamers anxiously waiting to devour their helping come next July when the 2008 version of NCAA Football is released for the PS3.



Gender Preference

By: Amanda Greider



Girls and boys sports used to be thought of two very different things, but today they are beginning to run together. Some situations are questionable, but most are more of a question on what is fair and unfair. What it comes down to is that 'times are changing' and some need to be more accepting. Just recently, the dance team had another try out for the team. When someone tries out for a spirit squad they are taking a chance of getting cut. Josh Crespo was one that was willing to take that chance.

"I love to dance. I'm not in any other sports and it sounded like a fun after school activity," says Crespo about his motives for trying out for the dance team. Josh Crespo participates in other activities such as football, choir, show choir, and many other things. His intentions were sincere and he feels that it is unfair that he wasn't even allowed to try out.

"Yes I feel I'm being discriminated against. It's unfair that freshmen and others

can try out but not me. Boys can try out for cheerleading, so why can't they try out for

"Yes I feel I'm being discriminated against. It's unfair that freshmen and others can try out but not me. Boys can try out for cheerleading, so why can't they try out for dance?"

-Crespo, '07

dance?" says Crespo

The dance team coach is Ms. Parr. She commented on Crespo's situation in a different way. "I'm not opposed to having males on the team. It makes a different dynamic for the team which is challenging in different ways... Guys would have to make the team just like everyone else, proving their talent through tryouts," says Parr when asked about Crespo trying out.

To promote the tryouts there were fliers placed

around the school. Each contained the information about the tryouts. On the fliers, it said the tryout was open

to anyone, so wouldn't that mean boys too? Par comments, "Regular dance season tryouts occur during the spring. This winter is my first time coaching the team so I opted to not open the

tryouts to guys at this time." Dance is consid-

ered a club. It isn't apart of any category, such as athletics or fine arts. It stands in it's own division. Therefore, according to Mr. Gotech, there are no school or state rules that would apply to a boy trying out. When asked directly why Josh Crespo wasn't allowed to try out Parr stated, "I'm sure there is a protocol to follow which I'd have to check with the administration or state rules on this issue, and given the short amount of notice, lack of knowledge on my part, being a first-year coach, and Josh's tryout was not feasible for this winter season."

There are many factors that play into boys going out for what generally are girl's sports or vice versa. Even though tryouts were rushed and right before the season started, they were an open tryout. Anyone that wanted to tryout should have been able to, and then the rest should have been left up to the judges. "I'm definitely going to try out for dance team this spring, and I hope I make it," says Crespo.



The dance team performs at this year's Winter Bowl

Cheating Or Cheated

By: Amanda Greider

Cheating is a common action taken by students that either feels they can't or are too lazy to get the grades they want. Webster's Dictionary defines cheating as: "To deprive by trickery". Students are definitely tricking teachers when it comes to cheating techniques. Just by asking around kids are generally open to telling about their cheating experiences. One of the many questions brought up by my fellow peers was, "If you let someone cheat off you, are you at fault too?"

One of the students that I interviewed was senior, Chris Gustas. When asked why he lets people cheat off him he said, "Because it isn't really hurting me. And it makes me feel smarter." He also quoted, "They usually just ask and then take my work. It's so common that it's less of a big deal." In Gustas' case, the person getting cheated off of can sometimes be at fault also. But most of the time it is accepted among students. Cheating is actually a big deal, especially when you get caught for it. While doing it most students wouldn't think anything of it, when from a teacher's or administrator's perspective it's a HUGE deal. Junior, Christina Hamous recently got in trouble for cheating on an Algebra II test. When asked why she did it she said, "Stress between my family and having them want me to be the best and me wanting to get good grades." In this case there was only one person cheating, but in most there are multiple. Christina got access to answers from an old test. Hamous cheated off someone without them even knowing.

Even though cheating is common and somewhat accepted, there are still some that feel it is wrong to take someone's work for your own. "I don't think cheating is right, and I don't do it because you can get in trouble easily," says Southerland West.

Cheating is so common in school that it is sometimes easier to make a 'cheat sheet' or look off of someone's test than to actually do the work for yourself. In most cheating cases, students never get caught by an authorial figure, but eventually it will catch up to them when classes get more rigorous and the stakes are higher.