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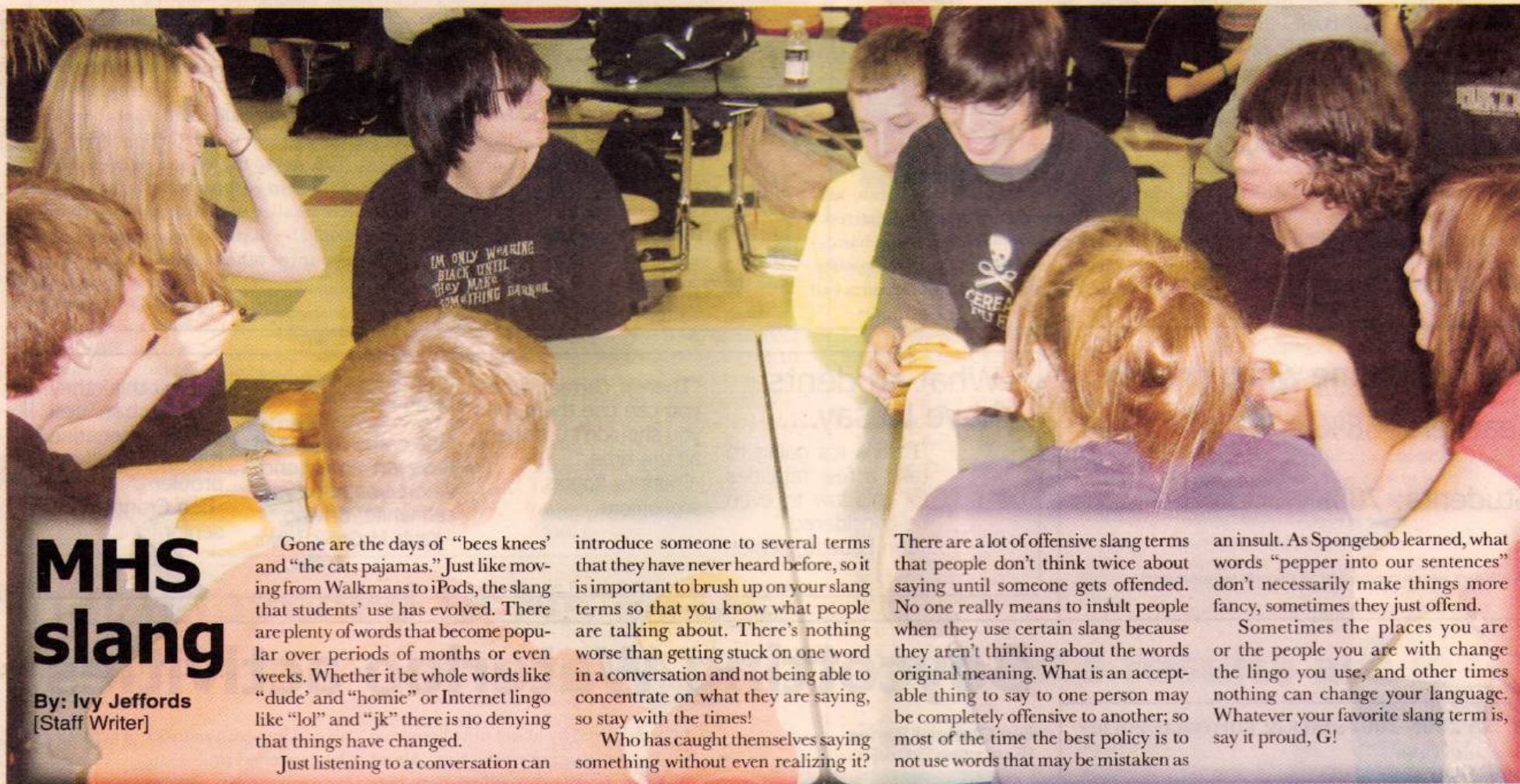


# The Vox

Oct. 11, 2007  
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*The voice of the Marion Indians.*

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## MHS slang

By: Ivy Jeffords  
[Staff Writer]

Gone are the days of "bees knees" and "the cats pajamas." Just like moving from Walkmans to iPods, the slang that students' use has evolved. There are plenty of words that become popular over periods of months or even weeks. Whether it be whole words like "dude" and "homie" or Internet lingo like "lol" and "jk" there is no denying that things have changed.

Just listening to a conversation can

introduce someone to several terms that they have never heard before, so it is important to brush up on your slang terms so that you know what people are talking about. There's nothing worse than getting stuck on one word in a conversation and not being able to concentrate on what they are saying, so stay with the times!

Who has caught themselves saying something without even realizing it?

There are a lot of offensive slang terms that people don't think twice about saying until someone gets offended. No one really means to insult people when they use certain slang because they aren't thinking about the words original meaning. What is an acceptable thing to say to one person may be completely offensive to another; so most of the time the best policy is to not use words that may be mistaken as

an insult. As Spongebob learned, what words "pepper into our sentences" don't necessarily make things more fancy, sometimes they just offend.

Sometimes the places you are or the people you are with change the lingo you use, and other times nothing can change your language. Whatever your favorite slang term is, say it proud, G!

## Lunches at MHS raise questions and concerns

'Ello Govn'ors! Welcome to the first periodical installment of my arbitrary thought column, in which I will be presenting my opinion on various happenings throughout the halls of MHS. I sincerely hope that I don't rub any of you the wrong way, but I'm not ruling out the possibility in which that does, indeed, occur.

As you all know, a hot topic this year has been the new and supposedly im-

### Commentary

proved three-line lunch dispersion system. The old method was just fine, and this new routine isn't getting me to my chicken nuggets or Mr. Ribb any faster, so a change was completely unnecessary as far as I'm concerned. Theoretically, it should cut down on congestion and make gathering students' desired lunch foods a smoother process, but unfortunately cruel reality doesn't always coincide with hypothetical perfection.

While we're on the topic of school lunches, another concern comes to mind. It seems that of

late the threshold, which separates, who is able to budge in the lunch lines has become blurred. Sure the teachers are a given, as it's rare to witness a student protest against a teacher dislodging them one position back in line, but what about seniors? The viewpoint on this matter will vary greatly from student to student but one widely held viewpoint does exist. The occasional budging senior is acceptable, but any sophomore and/or freshman attempting to attain "cutsies" will not be tolerated. So naturally, freshmen and sophomores should just chill out, and wait for their mythical lunch line budging privileges to be given to them.

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By: Matt Barnd  
[Editor]



# Cell phone usage; a hazard to people

## Making roads safer by vanishing cell phones

As the car accident rate increases, many states are taking action and banning the use of cell phones and other technological devices while driving. As a state, the use of cell phones and other devices should be banned to keep all drivers and passengers safe. States such as California and New Hampshire have already been successful with the new laws to protect the roads. In New Hampshire a fine of up to \$1,000 can be given for any distractions cause by the driver such as eating, drinking, talking on a phone, or putting on makeup. Other states, such as New Jersey and New York, only allow the use of hand-held cell phones. Other restrictions include banning the use of cell phones for just intermediate drivers, school bus drivers, and/or drivers with a

learning permit. In Iowa the safest route would be to ban the use of cell phones for all drivers.

The obvious reason to propose the new law would be safety. A study done at the University of Utah shows that talking on a cell phone while driving is equally dangerous as drinking while driving. David Strayer, a psychologist at the University of Utah, said "In both cases you are equally impaired." The study also showed that using hands-free cell phones didn't make driving safer. Although, drinking and talking on a cell

**"Talking on a cell phone while driving is equally dangerous as drinking while driving."**

**--University of Utah, cell phone study**

phone different ways, both can cause accidents and should be prevented. In the short time of nine months, cell phones could be blamed for 913 accidents, over a period of a year, at least 300 deaths. To know for sure that the number of deaths is reduced the use of cell phones while driving should be banned.

Not only would it be safer to not use cell phones, it would be respectful to other drivers. Talking while driving is not only a voluntary act, but also involuntary since it's not the other driver's choice to be risking their life. If using cell phones were against the law, people wouldn't be pressured to use theirs and put others at risk.

Not everyone agrees with making the use of cell phones while driving illegal. Some say cell phone use could be a positive thing, for instance when an emergency arises, or when last minute plans are changed and other people need to be informed. While it's true that using a cell phone can provide substantial personal and social benefits, is it worth risking lives? Even a five-minute chat with a friend you haven't talked to in awhile isn't worth risking your life and the lives of others.

To help create safer roads for others and ourselves we need to take action. Start by writing a letter to the senator or even signing a petition to go forth with the banning. An even smaller way to make the roads safer would be to stay off your cell phones and encourage others to do the same.

### Use cell phone while driving

Teachers: 68%

Students: 78%

25 teachers were surveyed, and 50 students were surveyed.

### What students have to say....

"I think it's going to take a few fatalities for this law to even be considered."  
-Ian Lebeau, senior

"There's certain times you can use them, but you shouldn't use them all the time,"  
-Courtney Rogers, sophomore

"It's crap. You might have an emergency where you need your cell while driving,"  
-Kayla McGrew, junior

"I don't think they should ban cell phones because it's not really a problem,"  
-Ben Cranny, senior

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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 Marion Times, and is distributed during fourth block of the school day by the journalism staff.

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 room 22 or to any staff member.

## Boycotting Waterloo activities

By: Chelsey Baner  
[Executive Editor]

All year round parents allow their children to travel to various cities for different activities ranging from football to speech. Never would a parent think that by allowing their child to drive an hour to a game that it would put them in any sort of danger other than the risk of getting in a car accident. However, a recent trip to Waterloo gave Marion High School a rude awakening.

As the football game came to an end Friday, August 31st, many Marion fans began exiting the Western Columbus football field. "We were leaving the field to go to the car, which we had parked by some apartments, we began

to be followed by about nine people so we began running to the van. About 20 more people showed up with bats and we began running again. It wasn't until later that we figured out someone had been left behind," elaborated senior, Keith Steffek.

Luckily, everyone came out safe, but just the thought and situation was scary. This event has brought many parents and even some students to think about boycotting returning to Waterloo.

Although it should be expected since Waterloo has always had a high crime rate, no one thought the danger from the city would be brought into the football field. Boycotting the city might be a little extreme since in

would involve a number of activities to be cancelled or rearranged, which would be a big inconvenience for both schools. Little changes could be made such as requesting to play at home or just convincing students to be more careful and park in a well-lit area where they know other people will be walking.



Keith Steffek, senior



# Lunch room is in need of some changes

This year's lunch system at MHS is not exactly up to the standards of high school students

By: Ryan Brunner [Staff Writer]

There is nothing like spending time with friends and food in the middle of a stressful day of learning. Most students would agree that on the average day, the most enjoyable half hour of school is lunch. For everyone but seniors and the few juniors with open block, lunch could be much more enjoyable if some simple changes were made.

Some of these changes could be made with little effort. Sophomore Greg Chittick, an avid lunch-eater, has a traditional opinion that most people couldn't agree with more: "First of all, we need real meat. Open campus would be great, but at least once a week we need real meat, real potatoes, and real gravy." Meat is an important staple in the average diet, and soy burgers just don't cut it.

As important as meat is, salads are good too. That's another problem that has already been addressed, but perhaps not strongly enough. "I wish we had the salad bar back. I don't like the pre-made salads," stated Chittick. All of the students liked the additional options that the salad bar gave us, and it's a shame that the school took it away. Apparently, it wasn't generating enough business, but if you looked any day, during any lunch, you would have seen people making their salads.

Another change in lunches that has made a lot of students angry is the drinks. We look back nostalgically to remember 20 oz. Gatorades, green and white tea made with real sugar, and lemonade. And although these changes were mandated by the government, they didn't have to be made until the end of 2008. Do we have to suffer so early? By that time also, all pop in the soda machines will be diet, made with, not sugar, but aspartame, a sugar substitute that can

cause cancer.

We also have the new lunch lines, which can be good or bad. They allow for more options as to what to eat, but when there is something truly good to eat for lunch, the line is so long that everyone has to stand in line for half the lunch period. In any case, it is still better than having just one line.

Another thing that affects the length of the lunch lines is the extra snack line. Everyone loves snacks. We no longer have a "Snack Shack". Now it's really more of a "snack rack". Although it does make things simpler for the cooks and servers, it also contributes to the long lunch line problem.

Finally, there can't be an article on lunch without making an argument for open campus. It would be easier just to let anyone who has a parking tag, and anyone that they choose to take to lunch with them, to go anywhere they want for lunch. This would also make lunch lines shorter.

In any case, everyone's favorite part of school is by no means perfect, and could be improved on greatly, without much expense. And, in the immortal words of Hillshire Farms, "Go meat!"



Junior Levi Lynott, enjoys his lunch with his friends. There are three lunch cycles available for the school. Levi has the first lunch cycle, "A lunch."

## Punishing athletes in a different way

By: Patrick Tiernan  
[Opinion Editor]

Like most rulebooks, there is controversy with the Code of Conduct but it does not need to be changed. The code of conduct is set up so that if a student is found guilty of breaking one of the rules, they're forced to sit out a portion of their current extracurricular activity. The penalty comes into affect at the soonest possible time. However, when an athlete is between sports they can break the code of conduct, and go out for a sport he or she has never played before.

Some believe this should not be allowed because the athlete is getting let off the hook by not having to miss their favorite sport. This is not true because the athlete still has to play the other sport. Yes, sports are fun, but the punished have to miss the best part of them,

the actual competitions. Think about going through the same hard work and preparation as your teammates knowing your effort is pointless. When it comes time for your team to play, all you can is just stand there.

Practices aren't easy either. The difficulty of practices varies depending on the sport, but in general practices are repetitive, grueling, and boring. The purpose of practice is to make the athletes better, and they're just not that fun.

Remember that in most cases the athlete's have been guilty of just one offense. Because of one action, they have to endure months of dull exercise. That seems like the athletes are being punished enough and, more than likely, learning their lesson. Going out for a different sport is not ducking out of punishment, it's just an alternate option.

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## Future varsity warrior

By: Kristy Bell  
[Staff Writer]

The freshman football team doesn't get much recognition, because of who they are, obviously -freshmen. They might not be as skilled as the varsity team, or have as much experience. With more hard practice, they will soon lead MHS to victory.

Everyone knows that there are a lot of good reasons to be involved in sports, for instance, the constant exercise. That's why most Marion students are active in a sport or two every year and during the summer. Today it's really important to be healthy, active, and in awesome shape. Especially since we're seeing our youth's obesity increasing more then it has be-

fore. It's also fun to be involved, but for John Sagar, a freshman football player, it's not all fun and games.

"The conditioning really sucks, and it takes up a lot of time." Said John "when you're on the high school team you start practice sooner, and it's a lot harder then middle school football."

What is conditioning? "It's trying to keep physically fit and able to keep going through a whole game." Said John. "You do sprints, and just run a lot basically."

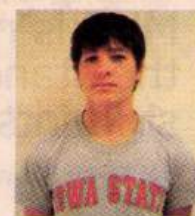
Sounds fun, huh? Conditioning is just the last part of a football practice.

First, you do warm ups. Second, you learn and practice defense and offense techniques. The third thing you do during

practices, is split up into individual teams and run plays and drills. Last but not least, the conditioning and then go home to put some ice on those sore legs.

There is a lot more effort put into football then people realize. It doesn't matter if you're on the varsity team or the freshman team, because both teams work hard to play well.

So lets show our Marion pride and go out to cheer on our freshman team, after all they are our future varsity warriors.



John Sagar,  
freshman



Marion number 23 keeps the ball away from one of Maquoketa's tackle. Looks like a touch down for the team.

## Rinehart; varsity moves on and up

By: Amanda Willson  
[Staff Writer]



Sam Rinehart, junior, and Jo Forkner, sophomore, attempt to block against CPU. Marion won easily in three games.

How is the MHS Varsity Volleyball team doing now that some of their best players have graduated?

Sam Rinehart, junior, plays middle front on the team said, "This year we are all playing different roles, sometimes one day I will have a small role to play and others I will have a big role to play." This holds true for all the players; everyone has to put in their best efforts now that Angela Bys has left the team.

"It's not that bad without Angela on the team because most of us can get a pretty good

kill," stated Sam, "but there is more competition for a spot, and just because [last year's seniors] are not playing does not mean we won't 'dom.'" What Sam says is true; the team is now ranked 5th in the state and are getting even better.

"...just because [last year's seniors] are not playing does not mean we won't 'dom.'"  
--Sam Rinehart, junior

"Some people think we are not going to be as good this year as we were last year but were are actually doing really well," said Sam. That's the truth--they

beat three ranked teams all in one day at the Linn-Mar tournament, and they have also beat Mid-Prairie. Sam strongly stated, "All the players have put their best effort into making this season great."

There has been talk about the varsity's new ace cheer. "I like the ace cheer because it gives us a chance to be loud and I like to be loud," said Sam. She also commented, "I love the team this year because when you mess up and miss a goal no one gets angry with you, we just joke around about it and let it slide because its not that big of a deal."

The varsity has been doing awesome this year and stand a great chance of making it all the way to state. They should keep up the great effort and keep on supporting each other. Keep on keeping on girls!

## Bridge is out; upcoming big hit

By: Ashley Heald  
[Staff Writer]

On November 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup>, Marion High School students are invited to come a watch the next fall musical. *I'm Sorry the Bridge is Out; You'll Have to Spend the Night*, was written by Sheldon Allman and Bob Pickett, the creators of classic novelty hit, *Monster Mash*. This musical is about young couple, John and Mary,

stranded near a castle outside of Steubenville, Ohio, when they realize the bridge is out, and of course they have to stay the night. "This year's fall musical is just all fun, the costumes are fun, the songs are fun, this whole thing is just filled with fun, fun, and more fun," said Ms. Cosgrove, choir director.

Tickets are on sale now from Ms. Cosgrove in room 311 for \$5 for students and \$6 for adults.

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# With a new year comes a new coach

## 2005 grad takes on MHS dance team

By: Sam Kiburz [Staff Writer]

With a new year and new dancers Marion High School's dance team, also comes a new coach. Alisabeth Caraway, a former 2005 MHS graduate herself has taken the position of the dance team coach. Since graduation she has been attending Kirkwood Community College, and graduated earlier this year.

When Alisabeth went to school here at, MHS, she was very involved in extracurricular activities. Such as volunteering, and being a very strong member of the dance team. She is a good coach because she is knowledgeable in her technique and knows a lot about dancing.

When a coach is so close in age with all of her team members, a big problem might erupt, the kids might start to take advantage of her as a coach or manipulate her as a coach too much, "We have all found a mutual friendship/respect for each other, and it all comes from our drive to want to be successful as a team. We aren't close like best friends, but we do understand each other, this doesn't mean I won't raise my voice from time to time, but this year we have really focused on respect ON and OFF the dance floor. I want these girls to feel they're working with me, not for me," said Alisabeth.

Being so close in age to these girls can also be a major plus. A great thing is when a coach and her team members connect on a personal level for bonding reasons and for

a strong support system in the team itself. "You know, I think it makes my job a heck of a lot easier. I was a senior when this year's seniors were freshman. I was in school with seniors Melanie Kemmann, Katie Barkdoll, and Kellie Barkdoll, and they knew who I was prior to coaching their team. I'm a bit wacky, and dress a wee bit funny but these girls are very accepting and you know maybe they see me as a peer, but are very able to separate when need be," Alisabeth stated.

"This summer we had a rockin' time at dance camp,"

-Coach Caraway

Alisabeth stated that, "This year is mostly about being successful and we sure have been." Also when asked, Did the team do well this summer at the UNI team dance camp? Alisabeth replied "This summer we had a rockin' time at dance camp. Not only did the girls bond as a team, we came home with 32 blue ribbons, Varsity Co-Captain Jorden Morris was named, "drill down champion" and got a sweet-looking trophy, and every team had the opportunity to vote for a squad they would be on if they weren't on their own for the "Leadership Award" plaque, and we were voted as that team! We will also be performing at all home games, and hopefully there is a little for everyone's style in all of our routines." Alisabeth elaborated.

This year's dance team is looking and sounding like they will have a very successful season, and a force to be reckoned with in the high school dance world. Not only because of the talent and all of the hard work that these girls have done they are lead by a knowledgeable coach that loves dancing as much as the girls do.

## Burhite: don't cross us out

By: Lindsay Cayton  
[Staff Writer]

So far this year, the Girl's Varsity Cross Country Team has been outstanding. In every meet, the team has been a major threat to the opposing schools. The number one runner on the team, Chelsea Burhite, junior, thinks very highly of the team and expects herself, along with the team, to accomplish a lot.

"Last year at state I got 8th individually, but this year I've been working a lot harder to get better. I've been lifting and running everyday," says Burhite. "I'm hoping to finish top five in

state this year."

As for the team, they got 3rd at state, but Burhite strongly believes that they can win it all this time around. "As a team, we've gotten a lot stronger. Our goal was to beat Xavier and we did!" Said Burhite.

According to Burhite, everyone on the team has been improving their fitness. "Coach Logan really helps us by making practices more intense." Adds Burhite.

Let's show our support for these hard working girls and make our way down to some of their meets and cheer on our Indians.

# Under-aged and overpaid

It's Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2007, and FINALLY the #1 overall selection from April's NFL

Commentary

and John Elways there are just as many Ki-Jana Carters.

A first round pick guarantees

Draft has agreed to a contract with the organization that picked him, the Oakland Raiders. Quarterback JaMarcus Russell, who was playing college ball less than a year ago at LSU, will earn up to a maximum of \$68 million throughout the



By: Jordan Garretson  
[Activities Editor]

duration of this 6-year deal, not to mention an already guaranteed \$31 million by just signing on the dotted line. But here's the kicker: Russell has of course, yet to play in an NFL game in his career, and despite this, he is allowed to have just as much leverage in negotiations as a 10-year veteran who has been voted to multiple Pro Bowls in his career. But hey, he's the #1

pick, so there's no doubt he'll succeed and be worth all that dough, right? Wrong.

David Carr, Tim Couch, Courtney Brown. They are all former NFL #1 overall picks who have still yet to come CLOSE to meeting expectations, while one, Couch, is already retired despite being the top pick just eight years ago. None of them proved to be worth the dollar value originally dished out when they signed their own multi-million dollar deals. So why should teams continue to be willing to let their star rookies attempt to secure contracts of exorbitant amounts by means of not showing up to their first practice until say, September? It's quite simple actually; they SHOULDNT.

For all the Peyton Mannings, Bo Jacksons,

you a spot on a team, and some pretty good money, but it shouldn't guarantee you money that is among top salaries in the league before you've even stepped foot on an NFL field. Just because a kid runs a 4.3 40 yard dash or can do 30 bench press reps of 225 pounds doesn't mean he is automatically entitled to these ludicrous amounts of money. Maybe if this was the World's Strongest Man (reruns can still be seen on ESPN2 at obscure times in the early morning), or the National Track and Field League. But it's not, it's the National Football League, where skill isn't directly determined by his athleticism. Just ask a couple former league MVPs like Tom Brady, the 199<sup>th</sup> pick in the 2000 NFL Draft, or Terrell Davis, who was the 196<sup>th</sup> overall pick in the 1995 Draft.

Still disagree? Well let me liken this situation to another one, such as the idea of how incoming freshmen athletes should be dealt with at the Sophomore and Varsity levels, or even Sophomores at the Varsity level. What you have done in the past at lower levels of competition is thrown out the window, and rightfully so; it's irrelevant. An athlete must prove his worth, he must be able to show that he has what it takes to compete at the next level by paying his dues in such lack-luster times as practices and the so-called "garbage time," the final minutes of blowout games. Then, if that athlete is successful and is able to prove that they possess the ability to compete at the next level, they are finally rewarded by being slotted into a starting position or receiving significant amounts of playing time during relevant points in a game or competition.

## Crazy cheers make team fun

By: Ashley Heald  
[Staff Writer]

Imagine the cheer squad after school preparing for Friday night football games by going over cheers and being thrown into the air. One of these cheerleaders is freshman Liz Smiley. "Cheerleading is so fun," says Liz, "We all get along so well. We act crazy around each other, and we trust each other too. We can tell each other anything and we know that... I think."

Friday nights are very busy for Liz and the rest of the cheerleaders. They arrive at the games pepped up and ready to

cheer, and they are needed to get everyone pumped up and shouting for the football players. Their enthusiasm helps the guys to play harder and better. Without Liz and the rest of the squad Marion's football team may not be undefeated. Liz says, "I love knowing that we may be a reason the team plays so well, and I hope the rest of this year's season goes as well as it is already going, for us and the football players."

Before going out under the Friday night-lights, Liz has some major butterflies. She states, "When I get nervous, I think about what will happen if I or another one of the cheerleaders

mess up or performs incorrectly, and I hope that every thing will go perfectly." She also thinks about how much the football players must be on edge as well. She takes a step back from all of the chaos, takes a deep breathe, and thinks about how smoothly things go at practice and hopes they run the same way. In the end every thing goes smoothly and before you know it, the next game will be here.



Liz Smiley,  
freshman



# 30 videos and still going strong

## Shaffer, Combs join in on the YouTube mania with videos

**By: Sam Kiburz**  
[Staff Writer]

When you think of YouTube.com, you usually think of comedies, sporting events, and many other things of that sort. But you might not think of someone who would visit the website religiously, three times a week and also someone who has made over 30 videos on the website. Sophomore Dalton Combs is that person. "I visit a lot of different videos

on YouTube.com, but mostly mine and Blake's videos." freshman Dalton Combs replied.

When asked, Why do you guys make so many videos? Combs replied, "We make so many videos because we think that they're hilarious and a lot of other people think that they are funny too."

**-Dalton Combs, sophomore**

people think that they are funny too."

A very large number of videos are uploaded daily to YouTube.com and a massive number of them are viewed by a variety of

different people. You might not know this but there are many videos on YouTube.com that MHS students are in, along with Combs and Shaffer. The videos of the different MHS students are choir performances, (mostly just certain songs that were outstanding at the choir concerts, such as River In Judea, and He Never Failed Me Yet.) the drum line, the dance team, numerous folies performances, and then the ever so popular home-made music videos and dance videos.

There are all different kinds of videos and they all fit into different categories. (the different categories that are available on YouTube.com are: comedy, entertainment, film/animation, games, music, news/politics, videoblogging, animals and pets, sports, and travel

sites.)

The kinds of videos that Blake Shaffer and Dalton Combs, both sophomores, make are mostly music videos. Which is the majority of the videos that are aired on YouTube.com and watched by youtube.com users daily.

You might be wondering, why youtube? You tube is a great way to express your self through video. Maybe some of your videos, if you choose to create them, will be seen buy many people and make a lot of people laugh. Check out YouTube.com and create a account and start making your own videos just like some of your very own schoolmates like sophomores Dalton Combs and Blake Shaffer.

You can see all of Blake and Dalton's videos at [www.youtube.com/user/marionindians34](http://www.youtube.com/user/marionindians34)

# New king's arrival

**By: Jenna Koppedryer**  
[Staff Writer]

So you're trying to decide where to go for dinner and you get a hankering for Chinese food, where to go? Well, why not start the night right with the king...that is China King.

China King is the new Chinese restaurant located along Seventh Avenue next to Huntington's, and when it's said they are the king they truly are the king. From crab rangoons to sesame chicken, everything is top of the line.

Like any Chinese restaurant they have "the regulars" like fried rice and different kinds of chicken, but they are also different in their foods. One of the out of the ordinary foods that china king provides is duck.

Now duck sounds weird to us Americans, but it's actually really tasty!

But lets just say you're not into the duck, your next best bet would be the crab

**The new China King is a great success and I highly recommend giving it a try**

rangoons. The crab rangoons are a must if you're into creamy goodness. They are home-

made and you can actually see the real pieces of crab in the rangoons.

Maybe you're crazy and don't like crab rangoons either, the egg rolls are the way to go. Although, the egg rolls probably wouldn't be your best choice health wise, being deep fried, they're a treat for the taste buds.

All in all, the new China King is a great success and I highly recommend giving it a try.

# AP is worth the effort

**By: Ivy Jeffords**  
[Staff Writer]

For most students, regular high school classes are enough to keep anyone busy. For some, though, an extra challenge is needed, and that's where the AP online program comes in. Run by Apex, a variety of classes from language courses to AP Art History are offered, giving students the opportunity to work through more difficult curriculum.

The program runs a lot like a regular class, with a teacher, other students, class discussions, and writing assignments. The only difference is that everything is assigned and turned in either by the Internet or

fax. You also don't get to see anyone in your class, or your teacher in person, unless they go to the same school as you.

When you begin a class, you are usually asked to write a short explanation on why you are taking the class and a little bit about yourself and post it on the class discussion board. Then you respond to another student's post. Not all assignments are as simple as that one, though. You may be asked to write reports, take quizzes and tests, and summarize reading sections in your book.

While the workload for any class you choose to take with Apex is bound to be large, the rewards are well worth the effort. In addition to getting a

half credit for the class, just like a regular class at school, you can choose to take an exam at the end of the course. This will give you a chance to earn credit hours. You receive a score between zero and five, zero meaning no recommendation and 5 meaning high recommendation. From there, you are given a certain amount of credit hours, up to five. While the test is pretty pricy, ringing up at about \$82, it is much cheaper than taking the class at a community or regular college, which can range anywhere from \$100 to \$250.

Whether your reason for taking an advanced placement course is, the benefits far outweigh the risks.

# The Kingdom delivers

**By: Matt Barnd**  
[Photo Editor]

In recent years, many movies have dealt with the plethora of religious, governmental, and social issues that exist between the United States and Middle Eastern countries. However, there have been few motion pictures to illustrate these issues as they are presented in *The Kingdom*.

An edge-of-your-seat action thriller, *The Kingdom* is about a select FBI team (Foxx, Garner, Cooper, and Bateman) which is sent to Saudi Arabia to investigate a terrorist attack on an American oil complex in Riyadh, killing hundreds of innocent Americans and Saudi security personnel. Despite having to overcome immense legislative barriers from both countries' governments to gain permission to enter

Saudi Arabia, the team is determined to locate the terrorists responsible for the horrible crime.

Combining elements of thrilling action, political and ethnic tension, along with complete relevance to current events, *The Kingdom* will grip you from the outset and not let you go until the ending credits. Foxx, Garner, Cooper, and Bateman interact seamlessly, creating highly believable relationships. Exciting, original, and intelligent, *The Kingdom* is a definite must see of the fall.



**-Rated R for violence and language**

**-Directed by Peter Berg**

**-Written by Matthew Michael Carnahan**

**-Starring: Jaime Foxx, Jennifer Garner, Chris Cooper, and Jason Bateman**

**-Produced by Universal Pictures**

**-Release date: September 28th**

**-Running time: 110 min.**

**-Barnd's Rating: Two Thumbs Up**



# Psyched for football

Sindelar, senior, is one of many devoted supporters

By: Jordan Garretson [Activities Editor]

It's third down and short for the opposing offense in a Marion High School varsity football game. The pressure is on the visiting team as they must convert to keep their hopes of a win alive. Besides the defense, what else is standing between them and the first down? Over 1,000 loyal Indian fans screaming their hearts out in hopes of willing their team to a huge defensive stop. But does it really affect the game, and the players participating in it?



Zach Sindelar, senior

For Curtis Hubbell, it definitely does. "Of course it affects the game, I feel the student section is a large factor in setting the atmosphere of the game," offered the senior wide receiver/defensive back.

Some players, such as Curtis, even feel obligated to perform well for the fans. "When you see the student section screaming their lungs out for you, you start feeling the need to play your hearts out for them." As far as a little extra boost to the players' desire? "Even though we all love playing

football no matter what, when we have the most loyal student section in the district it's nice to know that the support is always there."

What about the flip side of things? How do the most loyal, rabid, screaming fans from the Marion student section feel about the topic? "It gets the players pumped up, and it affects the game in more ways than one would think," explained senior Zach Sindelar, one of the leaders of this year's student section.

Bleeding red and gold for the Indians is a shared love by many students. "The best part of the game is jumping up and down, screaming your lungs out, running the flag around, and of course yelling at underclassmen for sucking," added Zach. Many students, like Zach, even have their own favorite chants. "Ole is my favorite chant, but I also enjoy when we chant whatever it says on the scoreboard."

Everything hasn't been just happy-go-lucky in the land of crowd pushups and the wave this year, however. "The student section has been sub-par at best, I feel we have room for improvement, such as the chants and overall just paying attention to the game."

Zach went on to add, "You don't go to a football game to socialize. You pay four bucks to



Jordan Garretson, senior, cheers on the varsity team at the first home game of the season.

watch what's happening on the field! You play to win the game!"

Despite the level of performance the student section is operating at, Curtis and many other players still feel a strong affection for their classmates who are cheering their hearts out. "Without their loyalty, our team wouldn't feel the same desire we feel on Friday nights to go win a ball game."

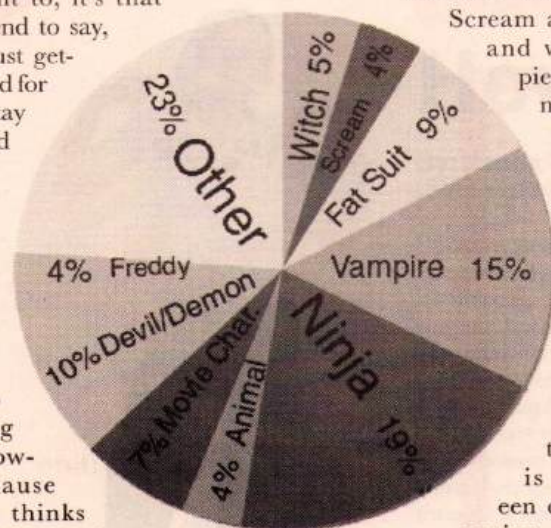
If you are skeptical, take careful notice of the passion that the students display for their team at the next Marion game you attend. It might just change your mind. If you are skeptical, take careful notice of the passion that the students display for their team at the next Marion game you attend. It might just change your mind.

## Sizzling costumes for 2007

By: Kristy Bell [Staff Writer]

As children grow older, the tradition of going trick or treating tends to fade. Sometimes it's not that teens don't want to, it's that parents tend to say,

"You're just getting too old for it!", or "Stay home and hand out candy!" sophomore, Jordan Farnham says "I don't do anything for Halloween, because my mom thinks it has to do with the devil. For those who still dress up and go from house to house, or attend a costume party, regardless the cold weather, the options are



endless.

Each year new costumes surface the racks in stores. In a recent poll taken of Marion students, you can see how some obvious classics like Freddy, Jason, and

Scream are still loved and worn. As the pie chart shows, ninja costumes are becoming increasingly popular, as well. It seems the "Other" group beat out all the other choices. "I'll wear a shirt that says, 'This is my Halloween costume,'" says senior, Mark King.

Whether it's a sexy school-girl costume, or maybe a mystical creature from your imagination, the tradition of Halloween will always live on.

## The buzz on Greys

By: Tabitha Scott  
[Feature Editor]

As many of you may know, one of the most anticipated shows of the year is already on air. The season premiere of Grey's Anatomy took place on Thursday, September 27th, with many "Grey's Fans" tuning in.

This show has been a favorite across America for the last three seasons it has been airing. With the fourth season beginning, many people were unsure of what to expect since the show lost two of its main characters, Dr. Addison Shepherd (Kate Walsh) and Dr. Preston Burke (Isaiah Washington). The premiere proved to be a success though and had many people glued to the television set, wanting more.

This season, all of our

favorite interns are no longer the newbies. Instead, they have interns of their own, except for Dr. George O'Malley (T.R. Knight), who couldn't go on since he failed his intern test in the last episode from last season. Knight is still on the show though, despite rumors of him being fired. This news was a relief to many die-hard fans, who were already suffering from the loss of the other two vital characters.

The start of this season shows to be another huge success, and is already putting viewers on the edge of their seats. Grey's airs every Thursday night at eight.



Grey's received a rating of four and a half stars out of five

## Great T.V. programming

Commentary

With so much to choose from on TV, how can someone possibly decide what to watch? Well, with hours and hours of exploration and investigation, I have come up with three shows, that I never miss.

The first, and my favorite, is NBC's, "The Office." Though the show is scripted it, is set up as a documentary. The show centers around boss Michael Scott, whose played by the hilarious Steve Carrell (*40 Year Old Virgin*.) Michael's ignorance of reality around him provides much of the humor in the show, and he's not the only quirky office worker.

Other colorful characters include Dwight Schrute, Michael's assistant who takes his job way too seriously, and Jim Halpert, a laid-back paper salesman who spends much of his time playing pranks on Dwight. Everyone in the office has their own humorous traits that make every joke and scene that much funnier.

The second insightful show is Discovery Channel's, "Mythbusters." The show features a colorful cast of characters who have a lot of fun with their myths. The show centers on busting common and uncommon myths alike, using scientific methods.

The myth being busted can be anything and has ranged from pop rocks and soda exploding the stomach to whether one can use salsa to eat through prison bars. The show is extremely entertaining and also informative. Science is wrapped into almost everything the mythbusters do and you can learn a lot without realizing it.

The third show that I always try to watch is Fox's, "Family Guy." The animated show centers around the Griffin family, which is headed by funny, fat man Peter Griffin. The comedy in the show is random, bold, and often controversial. No topic is safe from the writers of "Family Guy," and they go where other shows wouldn't dare.

The show often features random clips that have nothing to do with the plot that make the show that much better. One example are Peter's minute long fights with a human sized Chicken. Only during a show like Family Guy are you going to find something like that.

All three of these shows are tremendously entertaining and if you give them a chance, you won't be disappointed.



By: Pat Tiernan  
[Review Editor]



# The birds and the bees

Senior, Paige Plagman stays positive about teenage pregnancy

By: Amanda Willson [Staff Writer]



Paige Plagman, senior

Pregnancy and sexuality have become socially acceptable as the years have gone by. It used to be that if someone had pre-marital sex, or if someone got pregnant as a teen, than that person would most likely be frowned upon or called a sinner. Today, people talk about sex to their friends like it is nothing, and every year the percentage of teenage pregnancies is getting higher. There is an advantage for teenage girls who are pregnant in the 21<sup>st</sup> century; more of them can graduate and stay in school, unlike 30 years ago

when they would be kicked out or would choose to drop out.

When sitting down to interview Paige Plagman, 08, there was this look of confidence in her face that was hard not to notice. With every question she was asked she knew exactly what she wanted to say. She stated, "We all make mistakes, it's just how you deal with them that matters." To hear her say that was very touching because it is all so true. "My days feel fuller and I am happier [now that I'm pregnant], I guess you have to experience it yourself. You have something to look forward to and that something else just fulfills your life."

Plagman also said, "I want people to look at me as if I haven't changed, and I think I'm strong for what I'm doing. Most teenagers wouldn't stay in high school, some people may look at me and say, 'wow she's young,' and look down on me, and the rest think what I'm doing is great!"

Plagman seems like the kind of person who takes every situation, bad or good, and does something great with it. "I am going to finish high school and then go to Hamilton for one year, and then

go to Mount Mercy for four to five years and become a nurse, my dreams have not changed at all." She also said, "I will be a great mother to my baby."

"[My pregnancy] has been tough, but I know I can do it," said Paige. When asked if she was scared she bravely answered, "No, I have four younger siblings that I have taken care of before, so I know what it's like."

Plagman had a lot of laughs while doing this interview, but she was so complete with what was asked.

"[Pregnant moms] just have to grow up a lot faster, its not a bad thing, but sometimes its nice just to be young."

It is a nice thing to be young, but she is right; now she has to mature a lot faster, but she can do it. Seeing her answer these questions has hopefully opened many eyes to how confident and brave she and the other pregnant teens are.

Many truly respect the choices that she has made to not only keep her baby, but to also fulfill her dreams while she is caring a child and taking care of one too.



"I wish I could have more piercings and tattoos, they are so cool!"

-Erin Pieffer, junior

"I wish I had a tattoo. It would be sweet! But piercings on the other hand I'm not so into that,"



-Trashon Thompson, sophomore

## Top 8 places to get tattoos or piercings

1) Clovers

2) Claires

3) Arbuckle's

4) Wild Side

5) Hard Core Tattoo

6) Rough House

Customs

7) Neon Dragon

8) A Friend or

Family member



Ch  
Ho  
'10



"Tattoos are great, only if you're old enough to get one [though]."

-Jon Hanna, senior

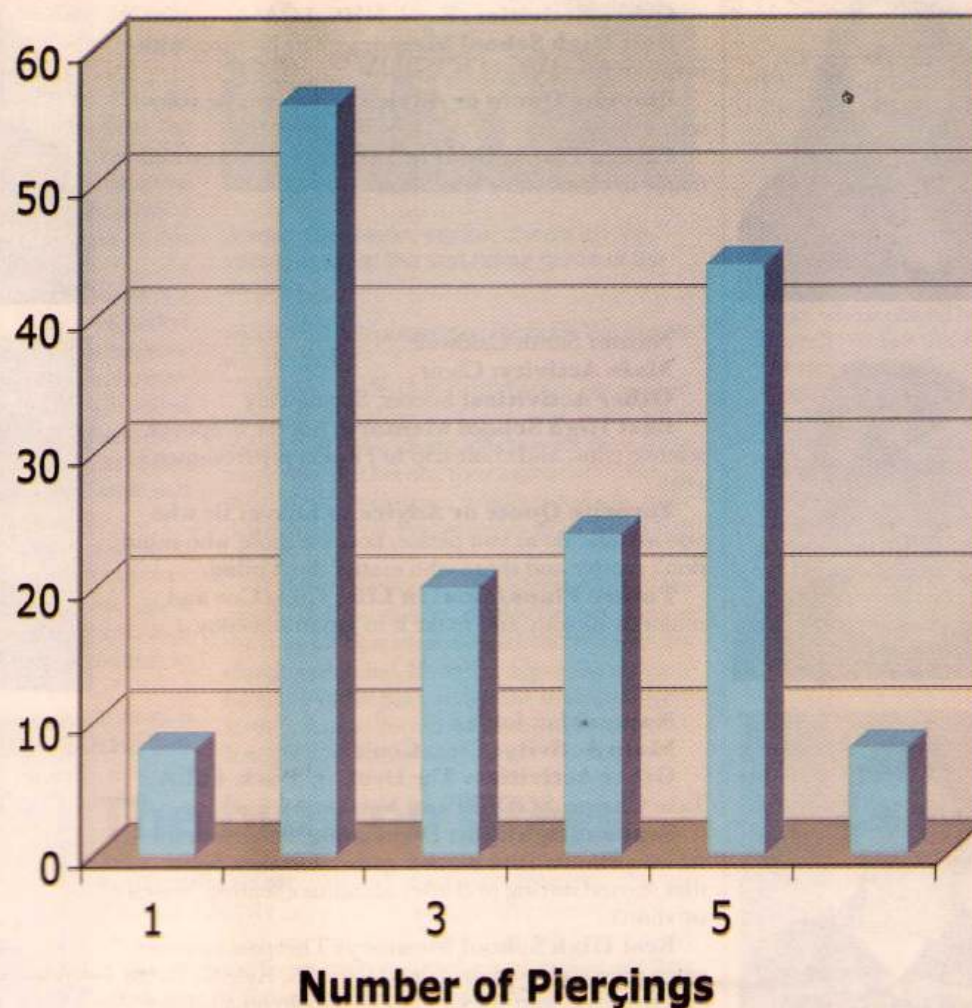


"I think tattoos and piercings are all right as long as you don't have too many because too many are tacky."

-Paige Satterly, freshman



Number of Students



## How do you express yourself?

By: Jenna Koppedryer  
[Staff Writer]

Many people have different ways of expressing themselves, whether it's through diaries, artwork or even singing, but for senior Kristi O'Neil she expresses herself through piercings.

Kristi started her piercings fanatics with getting her ears pierced. "I first got my ears pierced when I was a little girl, because what little girl doesn't want their ears pierced," said Kristi. "I thought I was so cool having my ears pierced; I showed them off everywhere I went."

But Kristi couldn't stop there. Once Kristi had gotten a little older it was time to try something new. "I had gotten bored with just having my ears

pierced and I needed a way to express myself," Kristi explained. But unlike most kids Kristi didn't go and vent to

"I had gotten bored with just having my ears pierced and I needed a way to express myself."  
-Kristi O'Neill, senior

her friends or write in her own private diary, she decided to do something different and wild. "I decided that getting my belly button pierced was the way to go," said Kristi, "Not only because it looked cool, I also wanted to be different than everyone else."

But Kristi still wasn't satisfied. "I was still looking for more. I still didn't feel

complete." So the first thing that came to mind was another piercing. "I didn't know what I wanted to get pierced I just knew it had to be something," Kristi said. But after a long debate Kristi decided to get her lip pierced. "I thought it was going to be a lot more painful than what it was, even though it still hurt a lot, it was worth it in the end."

After getting two more piercings, Kristi decided to get another and another... All in all Kristi just couldn't stop. She ended up with 6 different piercings! "I may not have needed all of them, but they are a part of me now and I love them!" said Kristi.

For Kristi piercings might have been her way of expressing herself but for many others it may be something else that may be even more fun and different.



# The beginnning of the end...



**Name:** Megan Beaty  
**Main Activity:** Volleyball  
**Other Activities:** Band, NHS, FCA  
**Best High School Memory:** The bonfires with my friends.  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Be yourself.  
**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Go to college and major in elementary education.



**Name:** Sarah Caldwell  
**Main Activity:** Choir  
**Other Activities:** Soccer, Spring Play  
**Best High School Memory:** Soccer sleepover, science trips, and choir trip to Florida my freshmen year.  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Be who you are and do as you please, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.  
**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Go to Coe and major in Biology and make it to Japan someday.



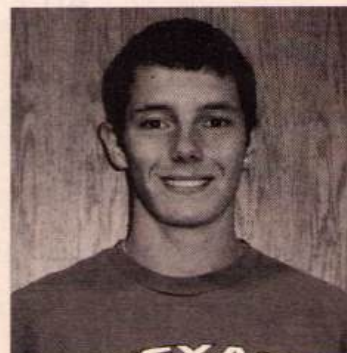
**Name:** Matt Jordan  
**Main Activity:** Cross Country  
**Other Activities:** The Dynasty, Track, FBLA, Take Charge, SODA, Party Van  
**Season Highlight:** Dominating the girls in the 1st ever Hanna Park marker game, and then fights that started during and after about us cheating, which we didn't.  
**Best High School Memory:** This past summer when me and five of my friends (Joe C., Kyle S., Keith S., Owen M., and Alex F.) decided to go on a tubing trip down the Wapsi River, which turned out to be by far the funniest and best day of the summer. Until, we realized we were lost on the river 9 hours later, and had to wander through corn fields in the middle of no where for an hour to find someone to give us a ride to our car. Finally realizing we planned an 18 hour trip. Thanks Fiala.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "I have met my hero, and he is me." - George Sheehm  
 "Every morning in Africa a gazelle wakes up. It knows it must move faster than the lion or it will not survive. Every morning a lion wakes up and it knows it must move faster than the slowest gazelle or it will starve. It doesn't matter if you are the lion or the gazelle when the sun comes up, you better be moving."  
 -Maurice Greene

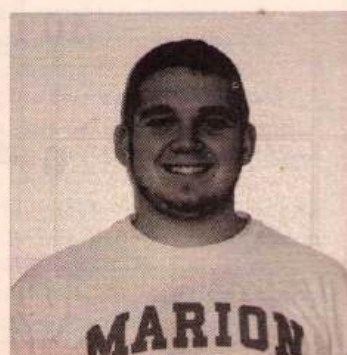
**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Get a bachelor's degree in statistics/buisness from one of Iowa's state universities and go on to be an accountant.



**Name:** Brandon McCarron  
**Main Activity:** Disc Golf, Radio Controlled Cars  
**Other Activities:** Plastic Models, Model Rail-roading  
**Best High School Memory:** Seeing Mrs. Jackson's smiling face every morning.  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Love me, hate me, but never ignore me," - Marilyn Manson  
**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Attend college and work for Santa Fe Railroad Co.



**Name:** Owen "Total Package" McGlynn  
**Main Activity:** Cross Country  
**Other Activities:** After School Crew, FBLA, Track, Basketball  
**Best High School Memory:** Night we got Steffek's car stuck in the dead of winter on some class B road while trying to pull a sled behind it.  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "If you ain't cheatin' you ain't tryin'." "It's gotta be the shoes." "Look at these." "This is SPARTA!"  
**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Live fast, die young.



**Name:** Nick Shirmer  
**Main Activity:** Football  
**Other Activities:** Trapshooting, SODA  
**Season Highlights:** Going to the Iowa games and getting 3rd place for trapshooting and Coach Perkins impersonations during Saturday morning practices.  
**Best High School Memory:** Meeting Jen at the West Delaware game for the first time.  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Live every day like it's your last."  
**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Go to Kirkwood and become a carpenter and then own my own business.



**Name:** Rachel Dullea  
**Main Activity:** Volleyball  
**Other Activities:** Softball  
**Season Highlights:** Getting 18 digs against Dike-New Hartford in the Waterloo Columbus tournament.  
**Best High School Memory:** Going to state in volleyball, and getting to the second round.  
**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "It's not where your from; it's where your going. It's not what you drive; it's what drives you. It's not what's on you; it's what's in you. It's not what you think; it's what you know." - Gatorade  
**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Going to a 4 year university, or a smaller school to play volleyball.





**Name:** Ian Ster

**Main Activity:** Marching Band

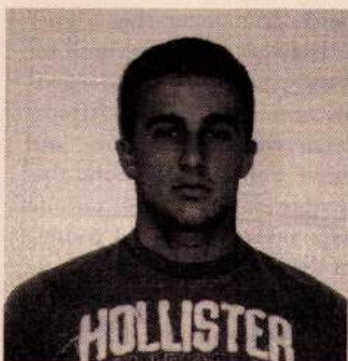
**Other Activities:** Speech, Pep Band, Concert Band, NHS, SODA

**Season Highlight:** My solo I had for a home game junior year.

**Best High School Memory:** The band/choir trip to Walt Disney World and St. Augustine Beach in Florida my freshman year.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Poor planning on your part does not constitute as an emergency on my part."

**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Go to a 4 year college and get a major in Marine Biology/Zoology.



**Name:** Matt Sagar

**Main Activity:** Football

**Other Activities:** NCYL, Take Charge

**Best High School Memory:** Soccer sleepover, science trips, and choir trip to Florida my freshmen year.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Be who you are and do as you please, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind.

**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Go to Coe and major in Biology and make it to Japan someday.



**Name:** Derrick VanDerMillen

**Main Activity:** Musical

**Other Activities:** Cross Country, Speech, Track, Spring Play, Student Senate

**Season Highlight:** Having the greatest musical script with the greatest cast!

**Best High School Memory:** Girls screaming as I danced like a pedophile on stage! Ah-hee-hee!

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Its not who I am underneath, but what I do that defies me," -Batman (from Batman Begins)

**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Study film at Iowa and make it big in the movies.



**Name:** Rachel N. Smith

**Main Activity:** Cross Country

**Other Activities:** Track, Student Senate, NHS, SODA, FCA, Volunteering, and Win With Wellness

**Season Highlight:** Winning State my freshmen year! And our mud wars while we did our Rambo runs. Also, going to Wendy's after every meet!

**Best High School Memory:** The t-ping escapade that a few friends and me tried to do during halftime at last year's homecoming game. Even though we failed miserably and chickened out every time we tried to t-p a house, I still had a blast sprinting back to my car and speeding away!

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Never change who you really are. Always keep your friends close and remember to relax and have fun.

**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** I'd like to go to medical school and become a pediatrician, and I'd also like to run in college.



**Name:** Kyle "Big Dad" Schau

**Main Activity:** Football

**Other Activities:** FBLA

**Season Highlight:** Going undefeated last year and getting so close to making it out of the first round and to the dome last year.

**Best High School Memory:** Going on a wicked tubing trip with the boys down The Wapsi. Best 12 hours of my life.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Uhh... What are you doing?

**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** I'm going to attend Iowa and major in Finance and Accounting and then enter the real world and dominate it just like I have life thus far.



**Name:** Tabitha Scott

**Main Activity:** Football Cheerleading

**Other Activities:** Journo! Basketball Cheer, Competition Cheer, Soccer, NHS, FCA, SODA, Win With Wellness, and Volunteering.

**Season Highlight:** Dominating at cheer camp, making All-Stars, team dinners every Thursday night, Tropical Smoothie before every game, and laughing unorthodoxly loud with Kelsey Labs everyday in practice!

**Best High School Memory:** Any day in Journalism, staying an entire night in the ER with the "Fab Four", freezing at soccer games, cheer camps, and spending every minute with my amazing friends.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Be not afraid of greatness; some are born great, some achieve great, and some have greatness thrust upon them," -William Shakespeare

**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Attend at least a four year college to study law.



**Name:** Brooke Hingtgen

**Main Activity:** SODA

**Other Activities:** Bowling

**Season Highlight:** Homecoming and the boys winning all their games so far for football.

**Best High School Memory:** Kristi and I dressing up in all black for school spirit week sophomore year, and having our yearbook pictures taken like that.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** "Life's tough, get a helmet." "Are you tired? Cuz' you've been running through my mind all day!"

**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Attend either Kirkwood or Hamilton in hopes of a degree in Human Services and become president of the United States. (teehee!)



**Name:** Alicia Spurgin

**Main Activity:** Volleyball, cheer

**Other Activities:** Soccer, NHS, FCA, FBLA, SODA, competition cheer

**Season Highlight:** Diving for a ball in practice and having my teeth go through my top lip. I looked like Angelina Jolie minus the stitches...

**Best High School Memory:** Pushing tabitha out of her chair durring trig. Box diving and doing cartwheels down hallway during the food drive with Tabitha, Ryan, and Brooke.

**Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave:** Don't follow the crowd. Do what you want to do and don't worry about what thoe others say. Be yourself and have fun..you only live once.

**Future Plans/Goal in Life:** Go to Iowa and get my masters in nursing. Move to California and become a Nurse Practitioner.



# Are celebs poor influences?

Are today's celebs bad examples for youth?

By: Ivy Jeffords  
[Staff Writer]

There has been a lot of controversy surrounding the behavior of celebrities lately. It has come to light that many stars struggle with alcohol and drug abuse,



Sarah Caldwell,  
senior

which has contributed to many highly publicized accidents and scandals. These events have raised some questions about the effect of bad behavior on the part of famous persons to the young people around the nation

look up to stars to find out what's cool. If they see stars getting in trouble, doing drugs and getting in fights, what kind of example is being set?

As kids, we all learned what to do by watching what we saw being done around us. When children and teens dream of what they want to be when they grow up, somehow it doesn't look like the best idea to want to be a movie star anymore. Being irresponsible seems to be part of the celebrity package nowadays, and when the words 'pop icon' are uttered, thoughts of car crashes and mug shots come to mind, not fun films and boy bands. Our attention needs to be turned towards what actors and actresses are doing on the silver screen, not how many times they've been

and the world. in jail.

Many children and teenagers

Another problem with the current trend of following stars' personal troubles is that we are being desensitized to very serious abuse of various substances and other problems. When people are forced to watch something every day on T.V. programs and read about them in newspapers, they begin to see them as standard behavior. If this continues much further,

"Kids watch [celebrities] on T.V. and the news... and they think it's okay to imitate that behavior."

--Sarah Caldwell,  
senior

## What is more important to you....?



"I think the soldiers should come back to America because the war was none of our business and it wasn't our war,"  
- Shelby Brooks, sophomore



"I think they should come home so I can see all the helicopters and so people stop dying,"  
- Sam Magnifico, junior



"I think getting the soldiers out of Iraq is more important to me. I would rather have the people in my country be and stay safe,"  
- Kayla Rethwisch, sophomore



"I don't care what they do in Iraq and dealing with the war, as long as they just impeach Bush!"  
- Shawn Stampka, senior



"I would say getting the soldiers out of Iraq, because I have an uncle out there, and I care about him,"  
- Daniel Van Gorg, freshman

## Iraq war: are we done yet?

By: Ryan Brunner  
[Staff Writer]

As one of the many issues Americans cannot decide on, the Iraq war merits plenty of attention. Many brave men and women have given their lives to this cause. However, some Americans don't think that it is a worthy cause at all.

As much as he is opposed, President George W. Bush has done some things in an attempt to speed up the process. In an effort to end the war, the Bush administration has used a surge of troops in an effort to leave Iraq sooner.

On September 10, 2007, General David Petraeus gave a speech to outline the successes of the recent strategies employed by the Bush administration and the U.S.

military. In his speech, he showed that the troop surge that we have recently used has worked to a certain extent.

The surge has met the military objectives it was designed to. It was meant to decrease attacks on our troops. It was also meant to increase

The biggest mistake we have made is out premature entrance into a huge war in Iraq.

their moral, and to overwhelm some of the terrorist factions that cause so much death and destruction in Baghdad and other major cities in Iraq. But not everyone thinks that it was enough.

"I think we that what we need to be doing to just get out," Junior Olivia Moskot stated vehemently. "The biggest mistake we have made is

car crashes and drug abuse will become no big deal to everyday life. There are many differing opinions on this issue. Some think that the inappropriate behavior is a bad influence on world's youth, as Sarah Caldwell, '08 thinks. "They are all pathetic excuses for role models. Kids watch them on t.v. and the news and hear them on the radio, and they think it's okay to imitate that behavior. On rare occasions someone does something good, but it's mostly just promiscuity and drugs." Others argue that children don't really pay attention or care about what stars are doing outside of their movies and record deals. Whatever the "right" answer is, this is a very hot issue, both for the press and those who watch the television programs about celebrities. Almost all major news networks, magazines, and newspapers have run stories about this topic, and the opinions of citizens can be seen on message boards and chat rooms, or even just in the lunch room.

our premature entrance into a huge war in Iraq. More preparation and information were needed." Although many Americans agree with this statement, we must also consider that we have done some wonderful things in a terribly war-torn country.

We have lost many brave men and women in this war. We have alienated several countries in the process. This war is by no means perfect, but no war ever is.

As terrible as any war is, the Iraq war is not all bad. We have eliminated a terrible dictator who needed to be removed. We have saved tens of thousands of lives. We have established a democracy in the Middle East. We have done some wonderful things in this war. We have also made some terrible mistakes that have cost us time, money, and support.

The question we must ask ourselves is simple: Is it worth it?



# New torture for freshmen

Freshmen spend some mornings in homeroom

By: Vicki Rentfro [Staff Writer]

As students walk into their classroom, they see the schedule, and on the top it says "M" block, but what is an "M" block? The "M" block is used when your class has a meeting. There was never really any use for this in the past, but now, freshmen have to wake up early Wednesday mornings and come to school for a meeting in their homeroom. During this time, the students discuss the student handbook.

Many students, not just freshmen, think this is a bad idea. Some students don't like the idea, but there are some good points to it. A lot of freshmen think it is a waste of time, "I don't think there is a point or reason for a homeroom. They may think there are better things to do, but without this meeting, many wouldn't

even look at the handbook once they got it.

Some of the good things about freshmen homeroom is that you get to see all of your friends if they have the same homeroom as you. Not every thing is bad for homerooms, there is a point to it even if you don't know it. Homerooms take up about 30-45 minutes of their time in the morning, where they go over consequences and the required things of the freshmen.

Not only do freshmen have to get to school early, but the teachers do too. And for the teachers who are never on time, it is a hassle to get to school earlier than they are normally expected to be here.

If somebody complains, just ask him or her what he or she'd be doing if they weren't here right now. Most students

would say sleeping or wasting their time in the cafeteria. The class helps to wake students up before the day even starts. So if you hear somebody complaining about having to get up early, tell him or her all the good things about homerooms. The homeroom wakes them up, and helps get them ready for the day. It isn't as bad as many think. Now there is use for the "M" block and it doesn't just sit there on the schedule.



"I think it's kind of helpful but it's really stupid that it's in the morning."  
--Brenea Zapata, freshman

# From Europe to the United States

By: Kristy Bell [Staff Writer]

When one lives their whole life in a country, it's hard to imagine living it differently. You have your customs, and you're used to doing things the way you've always done them. When you decide to be a foreign exchange student though, you have to set aside your normal way of living, and you get to experience a whole new world. Especially when you're coming to a small-town from Europe.

Two years ago, we had students from Japan spend the year as Marion High School students. This year we have the pleasure of hosting Svenja Otto, from Krefeld, Germany, and Sandra Ferring-Harsen, from Frederikssund, Denmark.

Svenja is staying with the O'Briens. Her younger sister are in the Marion district. Sandra is living with Alana Johnson and her family for the year. Her little brother is an eight grader at Vernon Middle School.

The way school is taught here, in Iowa, is a big change from how it's taught in Germany and Denmark. "I like school here, because it's totally different. It's like the teachers are more fun. They want to help. In Germany, most teachers don't care if you fall behind. If you don't get something, they won't help

there, but I like school better here because you get to choose your classes."

Like most schools in the Marion/ Cedar Rapids area, besides us, in Germany the school day consists of six to seven classes. In Denmark, the teachers are addressed by their first name.

Not only are the school

neighbors are five steps away." Sandra also commented on how there is more space between the houses here. "There are lots of malls here." Sandra said, "Everything in Denmark is smaller and more expensive."

Another difference between America and Europe is that you have to be 18 to get a license (in Europe). The cost of it can add up to almost \$3,000! Here you can be 14 to get your permit, and 16 to get a license. Plus, it hardly costs a dime.

When you're gone from your family for almost a year, of course you're going to miss them. No matter how pesky and irritating your siblings can be, or how nosey and strict your parents are. Both Sandra and Svenja miss their family and friends. "I feel at home with my host family, but it's not the same." Svenja said.

No matter how different the lifestyles are and where we come from, there are more similarities than meet the eye.



"[What I like most about America is] the people. They're so open, friendly, and positive."  
--Svenja Otto, Senior



"I like that you can drive at sixteen. Everything is cheap here, and I like the peanut butter cups."  
--Sandra Ferring-Larsen, Senior

much," Svenja said. "You're pretty much on your own if you don't understand something."

Sandra commented, "In Denmark school is better, because I have my friends

systems different, but also the towns show significant differences.

"Houses here have space between them, in Germany the houses are closer together." Svenja said. "Your

# Busy bee Cochrane

By: Lindsay Cayton [Staff Writer]

These past two years we've gotten a couple new teachers. The newest addition has been a very energetic and enthusiastic Spanish teacher. "Señora" Cochrane is a Spanish 1 teacher along with becoming a new competition cheerleading coach.

Cochrane graduated from Central College, in Pella, and although she hadn't actually planned on teaching, it ended up happening. "I didn't originally want to teach, but when I was in a Foundation of Education class, I had to sit in on classrooms for a total of 30 hours and loved it!" Said Cochrane.

This is not Cochrane's first teaching job however, she used to teach at Iowa Valley in Marengo. She

moved to Marion and wanted to teach here because she really liked that it was a little bigger than her other school, loved the block scheduling, and like that it had more opportunities.

"I like Marion a lot so far. I really like teaching Spanish because that's what I majored in at Central, but I also wouldn't mind teaching English." Said Cochrane. She is also the new competition cheerleading coach here at Marion. They've only had one competition so far, and did pretty well. Cochrane hopes to have a great season.

We've had a few new teachers in the past year and Cochrane is sure to stand out for her enthusiastic personality and that she's already involved in so much with the students here.



Senora Cochrane's third hour class, working on the day's assignment in class.

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## We've been waiting too long

### Big improvement to the drivers of MHS

By: Ryan Brunner  
[Staff Writer]

Last year, many complaints were made about the lack of parking spots in our high school parking lot. People were forced to get here much earlier (some came at 7:30), or made their own parking spots by parking in the grass or at the ends of the rows. With the rising number of students at Marion High School, something had to be done.

Over the summer, we had a new section of parking spaces put in the front parking lot. The 70 new spaces have made a vast difference, at least for now. They definitely solved the problem of people parking in the tennis courts.

"There are enough spaces so people aren't fighting over spaces in the morning. It's way less hectic," said junior Emily Shaw. The new spaces have satisfied the students at

Marion, and made things easier on students that arrive later in the morning.

However, the new parking lot has not made as much of a difference on some upperclassmen that may have their own regular spots. "I park in my spot, if someone else parks in my spot, I do bad stuff to their car. It makes me feel better," joked Emily.

The only thing that's not to like about the new spots is the sharp, continuous left turn on the way in from the entrance. "That turn is just annoying when you turn in," Emily said.

Nevertheless, the new parking spaces that were built during the summer have made a major difference that they were intended to make, and the student body in general is more than happy with the improvement.

Even though putting in a new parking lot had been a subject in many administration meetings for the past few years, we can thank our own, now junior, Michael Buh for taking

up the responsibility of mapping out our old parking lot to use to make plans for our new one.

The mapping out that Michael had to do was a very meticulous job. He had to be very exact in how many spots there were, the dimensions of all the spots, and even had to put in the area of the grass around the parking lot.

This new addition not only affected MHS' students, staff, and faculty, but also the parents of students over at Starry Elementary. With Starry's parking lot being compact for the teachers, parents are forced to find their own spots and even result to parking in the street and up to three blocks away.

On top of the school hours, the after hours with events ranging from choir, conferences, transition night, and athletics; this upgrade of our parking lot has for sure done more good than bad, even if you don't get the same spot everyday.

## Back 2 back, float style

By: Tabitha Scott  
[Feature Editor]

As many of you may have realized, homecoming week is taken pretty seriously here at Marion High School. The school spirit throughout the week is outstanding, but the competition between classes is fierce.

This year turned into a battle between the junior and senior classes. Both put in an overwhelming amount of time into the competition, which showed in all of their door signs, banners, and floats. When it came down to it though, the floats were the biggest time consumer, and most sought after for the win.

"The competition

was extremely intense with taunting constantly between our class and the senior class," remarks junior Kelsey Labs on the homecoming week activities. The senior class put in about forty hours, with the junior class spending around thirty-eight hours. "We had about the same five people helping out," states Labs, "but we're all studs, so we got it done."

After all of the finishing touches, it came time for the floats to be judged. Every year in the homecoming parade, the floats make their first appearance, where the teachers vote on the best one. This year, the senior class happened to have the best one, going over the top with their "Arma-

geddon" theme. Last year the class of 2008 swept the competition, winning in all of the categories. This year, they swept it again. When asked about their accomplishments, senior Riley Quinn confidently replies, "I live, eat, and breathe homecoming festivities. We (the seniors) are the best there is, plain and simple. We repeated the 3-pete. All that hard work definitely paid off."

The outcome of the entire week was far beyond what anyone had expected. The banners, door signs, and floats were a great success, and proved to be one of the week's favorite traditions. Every class gave it their all, and showed how much school spirit MHS truly has.

## It's got a modern day touch

By: Sam Kiburz  
[Staff Writer]

One of the most popular football season traditions is tailgating. "Tailgating is my second favorite part of football season, and of course the best is the game," said senior Alicia Spurgin, '08. Eating hot dogs, drinking pop, and just passing around the pigskin is usually just the home game tailgating standards. But at Marion the seniors take tailgating to the next level. They take all the football tailgating necessities to the road.

At most of the home and away games a large group of the seniors travel together to bond and just tailgate together for their last year of high school. But there is an

obsolete group of guys that ride in the party van. "We started the party van my

"Tailgating is my second favorite part of football season, and of course the best is the game,"


-Alicia Spurgin, senior

sophomore year, we go to all of the home games and away games," senior Keith Steffek affirmed.

The party van consists of up to 15 guys from either the junior or senior classes, predominately from the senior class. (They are seniors, Matt Jordan, Zach

Putnam, Riley Quinn, Ben Cranny, Ryan Clark, Jordan Garretson, Alex Fiala, Shawn Crosser, Joe Classon, Owen McGlynn, and juniors Amry Shelby, and Levi Lynott.) Those are the regulars but many others tag along for the ride and the experience.

"Party Van." We've all heard of it, most of us have seen it, and more than not have laughed at the stories of the party van. Party Van, '08 consists of up to 15 senior boys, with only a couple of junior exceptions, that have gotten together since last football season and go to every football game together. They're obnoxious. They're funny. They're the Party Van.



*Read Photography*

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# Ups and downs

Students have mixed emotions being around friends at the work place.

By: Jenna Koppedryer  
[Staff Writer]

Many companies consider their employees a "family", and many are so close-knit that they basically are. This would describe the Weherenberg family. Many of the employees who work at Weherenberg Theaters have known each other since elementary school or even earlier, but it's not just two or three employees that have known each other since they were little tikes, it a total of 15 Marion students who work at Weherenberg, and they think of each other as nothing other than a family.

"It's really cool to work with



Derrick VanDerMillen, senior, sweeps popcorn off the floor at his place of work, the Weherenberg Galaxy Theatre. There are 15 MHS students who work at the Galaxy Theatre.

people you know," said junior Dustin Ivey, "it makes you feel more comfortable." Along with a more relaxed environment, working with friends also has some other positives as well. "Working with friends is really great. When something pops up and you can't work you can always count on at least one of your friends to step in," said senior Derrick VanDerMillen, another Weherenberg employee.

But when there are the ups, there are also downs. "Sometimes it gets kind of obnoxious seeing the same people all the time, up to like 8 or earlier in the morning to 10 or so at night," said Dustin.

"Even though there are the negative things about working with your friends, it always seems you're having more fun than not," Dustin said. In the end, you just have to have fun and go with the flow.

# What happened to Mr. Bates?

By: Ashley Heald  
[Staff Writer]

Have you ever had to go into a major surgery and miss a lot of school? Mr. Bates has, being absent from teaching here at Marion High School since September 4<sup>th</sup> because of this surgery. Bates was in the hospital starting to recover from a hip replacement until the night September 6<sup>th</sup>. Bates stated, "I return sometime in the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> week of October."

While stuck at home getting ready to start teaching again, Bates likes to check papers

for his classes, reads his favorite books, watch television, and take small walks in his walker. "Some activities I would like to do again are to play golf, go jogging, and to play some basketball," said Bates, "but some activities I am required to participate in are doing six

to seven exercises, three times a day."

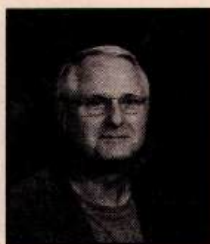
Bates added, "I am so lucky to have found Mr. Sloan as a long term sub, since it isn't always easy to do so, but I am preparing to come back and work on my favorite unit, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, for my class.

Many of Bates' closest co-workers have checked up on him to see how he was doing and if he was okay. "I haven't had

any students check in with me so far," said Bates, "but I can't wait to come back, not just for teaching, but to also finally see my students, the teachers, and surprisingly the school in general."

With such a long break from teaching Mr. Bates is ready to return, "I'm ready to teach and I'm happy to come back.

"...I am preparing to come back and work on my favorite unit, *To Kill a Mockingbird*,"  
-Mr. Bates



Mr. Bates

# Wikert's huge improvement

By: Vicki Rentfro  
[Staff Writer]

As many students know, family consumer science teacher, Mrs. Wikert was in a horrible horse accident last year. She was hospitalized with many injuries.

As news of Mrs. Wikert's recovery spread through campus, many students were pleased. Since Mrs. Wikert hasn't yet returned, there are rumors going on that she is not coming

Mrs. Wikert

back. These rumors are very wrong though; Mrs. Wikert is expected to come back in January.

While Mrs. Wikert is gone, her substitute is Mrs. Allard, the band director's wife. Although consumer science is not her specialty, she is doing well taking the place of Mrs. Wikert, but students are anticipating the day that Mrs. Wikert is back in her classroom.

A normal day for Mrs. Wikert includes spending three hours a day doing various exercises such as walking around her home trying hard not to depend on her cane,

and physical therapy. "She has two steel rods in her back, and they sometimes bother her," says Mr. Wikert. She spends two hours each day getting electrical stimulation, and does different chores around her home. After she does her therapy, she has to take a nap. She can now walk indoors without a cane, but she still needs one for when she walks outside on uneven ground. Mrs. Wikert still enjoys cooking and tries to as much as she can. She has also gained back the use of her hands. Before she could only use one hand, but now she can use both. Although she gets tired quickly, she can still do what she loves.

If Mrs. Wikert were here right now, many people would like to tell her how much she is missed by all of her students. Not that Mrs. Allard is doing anything less than perfect, but the students are anxious to have Mrs. Wikert back. The faculty and staff also wish her the best of luck in her recovery and hope she comes back as soon as she is feeling better and up to the task of teaching again. Mrs. Wikert is recovering quickly and wishes to return to school as soon as possible. She cannot wait to come back and teach her classes again. Mrs. Wikert is waiting patiently until third quarter when she will be able to come back to school. Her injuries are healing well and she is expected to make a good

# Food vote results are in

Here are the results of the Food Service Survey:

Subway---338  
Pizza Hut---324  
Chinese---101  
Jimmy Jacks---93  
Hungry Hobo---81  
Taco Bell---55  
KFC---47  
Chick-fil-A---46  
McDonalds---14  
Burger King---11  
Papa John's---10  
Jimmy John's---7  
Arby's---5  
Better food---5

Outback---5  
Panchero's---4  
Eggs---4  
Carlos O'Kelly's---3  
Quiznos---3  
Zio Johnos---3  
Paul Revere's---2  
Red Robin---2  
Big Gatorade---2  
Godfather's---2  
Wendy's---2  
Red Lobster---2  
Zoey's---1  
Hacienda---1  
Soup/Pasta Salad---1  
More Hashbrowns---1  
Mashed Potatoes---1  
Blimpies---1  
Applebees---1

SBarro---1  
Sub City---1  
Hardees---1  
Culver's---1  
Noodles---1  
Villa's Patio---1  
Cookies---1  
Baked Potatoes---1  
Home Made Food---1  
No 3rd Line---1

The food service providers would like to thank the students of Marion High School for taking the survey. The top three choices will be served. Hy-Vee Chinese will be served for \$4.00.



# Dreamland

By: Joseph Smith

Waiting. Just waiting and listening to the sound of the voiceless students ready to leave the scorching school. Waiting for that last bell to ring so that I can go home and relax; so that I can bathe in the air conditioning. Then it rings.

Rushing through the hallways, trying to dodge the freshman crowd, I run through those double doors. I throw my body into the car and put the key into the ignition. I start it up and turn on the air conditioning full blast.

Driving home, hoping not to get stopped by a policeman, or worse...a red light, I try to keep calm, knowing that any distractions may hinder my driving. Right out of the parking lot, left at the first light,

and another left. I'm in my cracked driveway. I rush into my house.

Finally, the moment I've been waiting for. I go into my room and turn on the fan. I lay my tired body onto the comfortable bed and place my head down onto the soft, clean-scented pillow. I close my eyes, and I am isolated from the outside world.

The beautiful, amber sunset had come upon my ever-amused eyes. I just sat in the cool, tan sand in awe. It was beautiful.

With the soft, smooth sand in between my tickled toes, I was taking it all in. The pleasant aroma of the sea, and the absolute stillness out on the water. Oh how long I've wanted to be free out on the sea, just swimming. Swimming with the bluish-grey dolphins

and multihued fish. The edible sea urchins and savory eels would be the only thing that I would eat underneath the cool, deep blue sea. I just wanted to be out there on that aqua blue water.

And then the sky. It was peach with a hint of lilac spread throughout in the distance. It was like a painter just splattered the paint off his paintbrush and across the oh-so-colorful canvas. The sky was truly a masterpiece.

As soon as I took the sight in, it was gone. It was replaced with a midnight sky and an odious sea. The cool weather had become icy, seeing my breath when I breathed.

A blast of thunder arose every five seconds, and the still water became a rumble of waves. Crash after crash, the waves came closer towards the shore. They came closer towards me. I couldn't get up. Paralyzed in fear, all

I could do was to scream, but I couldn't even do that. There was no one around. All I could do was to pray that I can wake up from this horrible nightmare before it's too late.

With every minute seeming like an hour, I was getting tangled in the seaweed. The food that I would eat underneath the sea was coming forth to hurt me. I could taste the rotten fish in my mouth as the water went over my head. There was no way out. I was running out of air. I just needed help. I needed to wake up.

I'm just hoping that I don't remember any of this nightmare when I wake up. I just wish I could remember the joyful part of this dream, but I know I won't. The only way that I will remember would be coming back tomorrow night. Maybe, just maybe, I'll dream about the calm beach. I just want to dream.

Drawn by: Ashley Timp



# Just give it to a boy

By: Sara Wilkey

A heart is not a plaything.  
A heart is not a toy.  
But if you want it broken  
Just give it to a boy.

Boys like to play with things  
To see what makes them run  
But when it comes to kissing  
Boys do it just for fun

Boys never give their hearts away  
They play us girls for fools  
They wait until we give our hearts away  
Then they play it cool

You'll wonder where he is at night  
You'll wonder if he's still true  
One moment you'll be happy  
One moment you'll be blue

If you get a chance to see him

Your heart will begin to dance  
Your life revolves around him  
There's nothing like romance

And then it starts to happen  
You worry day and night  
You see, my friend, your losing him  
It turns out you can't do anything right

Boys are great, though immature  
The price you pay is high  
He may seem sweet and gorgeous  
But remember, he's a guy

Don't fall in love with just a boy  
That takes a lot of nerve  
You see, my friend, you need a man  
To get what you deserve

So when you think you're in love  
Be careful if you can  
Before you give your heart away  
Make sure that he's a man!



Drawn By: Derek Miller

MHS students submit their stories, poems, and artwork to *The Vox*. Thanks to all who participated!

If you would like to have some of your artwork, stories, poems, etc. displayed in the next issue of *The Vox* submit it to Mrs. Eicher in room 22.