



Varsity Girl's Basketball have their best season yet, p.5

What's in a name? See some of the most popular names at MHS, p.16

What fits you best--a big or small school? p. 8-9



The Vox

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The voice of the Marion Indians.

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DIVERSE BLEND of SCHOOLS

By: Vicki Rentfro [Staff Writer]

Home schooling is an opportunity that thirty-one Marion high school students are currently taking advantage of. When Marion's home school program started in 1991 there were thirty-five students for the whole district. Since then the program has grown to an enormous 700 students for the 2006-2007 school year. The program also has open enrollment so that students who live in the Linn-Mar Community School District can come to take the needed classes at Marion if they so choose.

The Home School Assistance Program provides many services to the families of home-schooled students. Each family with home-schooled students is given an approved teacher to provide help if it is needed. Iowa law requires sixteen meetings with parents and the assigned teacher to discuss lesson plans, needed materials, goals, objectives, techniques, tests, finding strengths and weaknesses, interpretations test results, planning, and record keeping. Under Iowa law, parents are the main teachers of the students, and are responsible for the student learning enough to pass an exam at the end of the year, but at least the

Marion School District provides help from trained teachers.

The Home School Program provides a wide range of options for classes open to take from Marion High School, including choir, band, wood-tech, and more electives. They also have full access to school opportunities such as sports and clubs, just like any other student.

Although home-schooled students are not always at school, that does not mean that they are not students here. They have as much right to call themselves Indians as the rest of the students here do.

Random thoughts for random things

Many thoughts come and go through my mind every day. Some profound, many others totally trivial. Some are relevant and important, while a majority are rather pointless and a waste of brain space. I thought I might share a few of these with all of you. Now I must warn you that what you are about to read is utterly and completely arbitrary, so bear with me.

I really hate snow and cold. I have attempted to outsmart winter by not wearing a coat, but apparently that doesn't really work. I have decided to move to Hawaii at the earliest possible time.

I recently developed a theory that dinosaurs are entirely fictional and never actually existed in any form. They were, in fact, cre-

Commentary

ated over 100 years ago by the entertainment industry which had the foresight to see that millions of dinosaur paraphernalia could be made and sold for enormous profits in the future. You may think that this sounds completely ludicrous, which it probably is, but just think about it.

I have acquired a new hobby in journalism in which I scour the internet for cute pictures of a wide variety of animals and place them in a folder titled "Quirky Critters."

The performance of the girl's basketball team has been stellar so far. Keep up the good work.

I have parked in only three different parking spaces this year. My sole purpose for getting to school early is to ensure that I will secure one of these spots. I will not disclose the location of these however, in fear that someone will make it a point to park in these spots just to make me angry.

Some days I feel like there is a wooden plank in my head preventing it from functioning properly.

I have a dog named Hank and a cat named Stuart and they are very good friends.

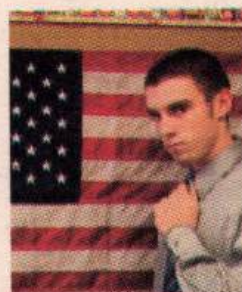
A couple of weeks ago, Mr. Z. told my Chemistry class that there is a spot in the school in which all doors leading outside can be touched at the same time. I have yet to discover such a location. Also, I haven't been able to find the second floor swimming pool that Mr. Bates described to my freshman year English class. I will keep searching for both.

I hear that the girls' locker room is three times the size of the guys'. I consider this a social injustice.

Well there you have it, a brief collection of some recent thoughts and sentiments. Hopefully they may serve you well in some way. If not, then I suppose I may wasted several minutes of your lives. For this I am sorry.

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By: Matt Barnd
[Photo Editor]

Should high school mascots be banned?

Recent actions taken by the NCAA against collegiate team mascots, traditions, and logos deemed "offensive" could carry over to the high school level.

Editorial

When you hear or read "Marion Indians," you probably think of nothing more than your school's nickname. Or, are you instead, extremely offended by the name? Over recent years the National College Athletic Association, better known as the NCAA, has been attempting to institute bans on a variety of offensive school customs, mascots, images, and nicknames, which have been met with many appeals.

If bans like these are successful, teams such as the Florida State Seminoles will no longer be able to participate in traditions such as one where Osceola, their mascot, rides a horse onto the field and throws a flaming spear before the start of each home football game.

This originated as a custom to help get the Florida State fans fired up, but unfortunately it is also just one example of the traditions that the NCAA has taken measures against in recent years. Although Florida State's appeal of this motion was successful in 2005, it was still difficult for them to obtain even despite the fact that the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma endorsed the mascot. So really, what is the harm if the so-called "targeted group" isn't even offended?

That seems to be exactly the problem; an excessive and futile amount of concern being placed on what COULD offend, rather than what it should focus on, like what actually DOES offend. Instead of just trying to ban mascots, logos, etc, the NCAA should make an effort to see which teams have received similar endorsements from tribes or other organizations, like Florida State did. If there is an agreement in place, and if the school isn't carrying out their



Pictured above is the Indian emblem that resides on the wall in the high school's gold gym. Some logos, like this one, have been deemed "offensive," "stereotypical," and "offensive," by the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) regarding some of their college teams.

traditions, or their use of mascots or logos in an offensive fashion, then there should be no issue. With the NCAA trying to stamp out possible offensive mascots in recent years at the college level, the campaign could spread to the high school ranks, although it obviously wouldn't be headed by the NCAA.

Imagine how Marion would be without their current nickname, the Indians. What would we become instead? The Warriors? The Tigers? The Wildcats? Or just another generic name that you see with a team in every other high school sports game you see? Different team nicknames give schools individuality, and their own identity. If the phenomenon of banning nicknames continues and spreads, what traditions and customs will each school have left?

Students suggest possible new mascots for the Marion district



"I don't really care, because I'm graduating after this year."
-senior, Zach Putnum



"I think our school should be called the Marion G-balers because everyone did it."
-seniors, Matt Jordan and Owen McGlynn



"We should be called the Marion Demons, because the Washington Demons sound pretty cool."
-junior, Alex Dean



"The Marion Nuggeteers because the chicken nuggets here are awesome."
-senior, Nathan Samuleson



"The Hawkeyes because my favorite college team is the Hawkeyes."
-freshman, Allen Schirmer

Making a change; defense against offenders

By: Jenna Koppedryer [Staff Writer]

On the news there is almost always something about sex offenders. It could be about anything, new updates on the sex offender website or a sex offender living too close to a school or daycare. But how do you qualify someone as a sex offender?

This is how dictionary.com puts it, "one who is convicted of a sex crime such as rape, molestation, or sexual abuse, involving illegal or coerced sexual activity." But many people who are on the sex offender list don't qualify for this definition. A person on the sex offender list could be on for several different reasons. One person could be on there for rape and another could be on there for exposure of a certain area. But on the sex offender website it does not list what that

person might have done; all it says is that they are on the sex offender list. So for the person that is on the list, they may be judged or discriminated for committing a crime much worse than the crime they actually committed.

Also, for many people who are looking into buying homes and are making sure they are going to be safe, it may be a frustrating process finding a place where sex offenders aren't. Even though there are laws prohibiting sex offenders being too close to schools or daycares, this doesn't prevent them from living by you. Although having sex offenders living by you may be a scary thought, it would be a nice to know what kind of sex offender lives by you. Having someone who was convicted of indecent exposure would be much more reassuring than having someone who was convicted of

rape or molestation.

Another inconvenience of many of these web sites is that many of the offenders aren't registered on the web sites. Yes, they are supposed to by law be on the web site but many of these offenders find loop holes and many other ways to get passed this process.

So, how can you make a change so sex offenders don't get passed this process and so you know that your neighborhood is safe? Vote for changes that will help protect you and your future children and family. Although many of you may not be old enough to vote, get yourself informed on when and where to vote when the time comes. Also, get yourself informed on what you are going to vote for and get all the facts before you vote.

Statistics on offenders in Iowa

-For the best local information, check out www.familywatchdog.us. This site provides local area maps of registered sex offenders.

-In the state of Iowa there are 5,951 registered sex offenders, as of December 31st, 2007.

-Linn County holds 273 of those total offenders.

-There are a total of 23 sex offenders that live, or work, within a 5 mile radius of Marion High School.

THE VOX 2007-2008 STAFF & EDITORIAL POLICY

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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 Tri-Co Printing Company 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.

It's raining cats and ceiling tiles at MHS

With poor weather the damaged ceiling tiles in the hallways have proven to be dangerous to students.

By: Ryan Brunner [Activities Editor]

The sky is falling! The sky is falling! No, it wasn't an acorn. It wasn't any sort of nut or seed whatsoever. It was a soggy chunk of ceiling tile.

Imagine standing in the hallway before school, talking to friends. Now, imagine being bombarded by pieces of wet, dripping ceiling. This actually happened to a small but courageous junior by the name of Ryan Kennedy.

Having a ceiling tile nearly crush you is a traumatic experience. "Now I have a fear of tiles. A tile-phobia," said Ryan. Sometimes, when he is walking through

the hallway, Ryan sometimes sees a droopy ceiling tile and falls into a fit of convulsions, shrieking loudly and shaking violently.

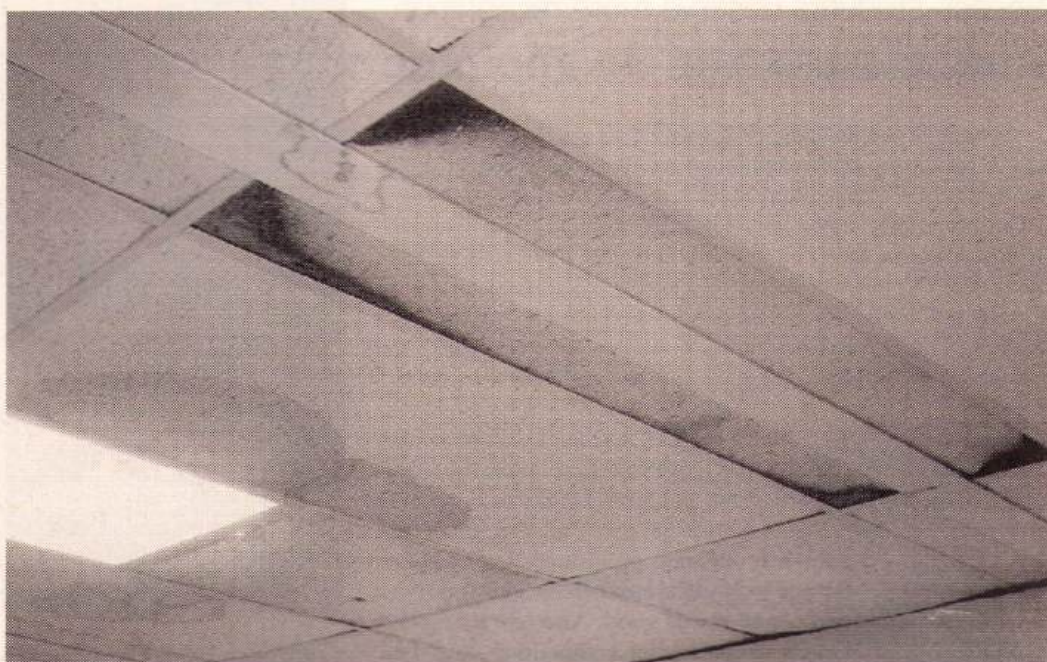
This case of attacking tiles is

an epidemic that must be addressed. As tiles fall, the well-being of the students at Marion is seriously jeopardized. It is only a matter of time until someone is seriously injured or killed. Something must be done to prevent this terrible accident from affecting any more of

our precious students here at Marion High School.

As much as I love handing out blame (you know who you are), I honestly don't know whose fault this is. It is definitely not the janitors' fault, because janitors have many duties here at Marion, and cannot be expected to keep up with every little thing. So whom do we blame?

I vote for the architects. I mean, whose idea was it to build a flat roof? That's like asking for leaks, not to mention deadly, falling ceilings. In the win-



Water damaged ceiling tiles droop in the hall of Marion High School. Though the ceiling is no one's fault here at Marion, the tiles can be an inconvenience. Pieces of ceiling tiles fall randomly throughout the day and can punish an unlucky passerby.



Ryan Kennedy, junior

ter, when precipitation is heavy, one can only expect some of those water droplets to permeate the roof. This is especially true when the roof is flat, and not at an incline to repel water.

Now, I am not suggesting that we rebuild the school, although that would be cool. I am merely proposing that we do

something to our roof to make it more water-repellent. This could mean as little as building a plastic inclined roof to go over the current flat one. Whatever is done, we must stop these ceiling tiles from traumatizing more of our students here at Marion.

Is Jamie Spears following in sis's footsteps?

By: Ashley Heald [Staff Writer]

If you haven't already heard, Jamie Lynn Spears recently announced that she is expecting a child. The father of her baby is her nineteen-year-old boyfriend. At the moment she is living with him also. You may know Jamie from the Nick show Zoey 101, where she plays a teenaged girl going to P.C.A. or Pacific Coast Academy, where she has class and hangs around with her unique friends.

When the news finally got out to the public, a lot of the first opinions were she shouldn't be pregnant at the age of only 16, but have you ever thought about the classmates or even the friend(s) of yours that happen to be expecting a newborn quite soon or have already had a child?

Did you judge them on how young they were or even are? If not, Jamie shouldn't be any different from them. Even if you did judge, you shouldn't because everyone sooner or later will eventually make a few mistakes or even tons. One mistake shouldn't make a difference on how you look or looked at a person.

For the people who aren't 100% in contact with this situation, the soon to be father of Jamie baby is Casey Aldridge. Casey and Jamie meant in high school and started dating soon afterwards.

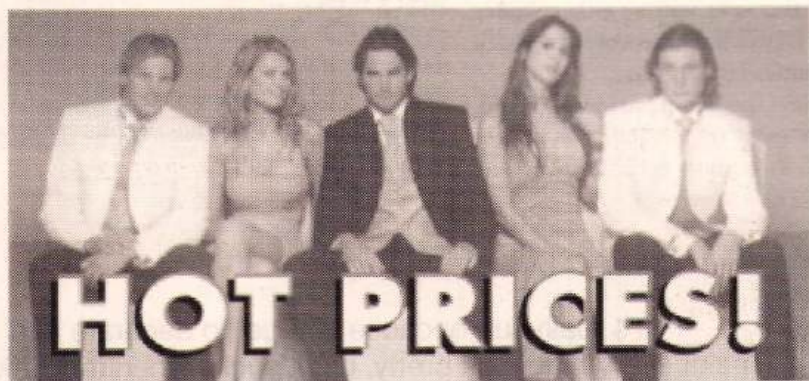
Even if you did judge, you shouldn't because everyone sooner or later will eventually make a few mistakes or even tons. One mistake shouldn't make a difference on how you look or looked at a person.

Jamie decided to tell her mother a few days before the Thanksgiving holiday. Have any of you ever thought about what it would be like to have to tell your mom or day, or even both that you or your girlfriend is pregnant? I took two weeks for Jamie to tell the public and even longer to tell her mom. Would it have taken any longer with you and your parents?

A lot of comments going around are one like, "Jamie shouldn't be pregnant, because of the show Zoey 101, and how

it will give her younger viewers a bad influence or role model." Since Jamie got pregnant the producers of Zoey 101 decided to no longer make the show. For an ending of the season, the produced an one hour episode called Goodbye Zoey?, where Zoey, played by Jamie, has to make the really hard choice to stay at The Pacific Coast Academy, where all her friends are, or to move along with her parents to London, while her younger brother stays behind. So, no where in the episode did they say she was leaving because of the baby or anything along the lines of her being pregnant, but used it as a cover up to hide the truth away from the younger children.

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Quotes on Jamie Spears' situation



"What I think about Jamie Spears being pregnant is that it's [scandalous]. I also think she should either get help from her mom, which she is doing, or give it up for adoption."

- Katie Mulholland, sophomore



"I think that her getting pregnant is a bad idea she is just following in her sisters footsteps. Now she isn't a very good role model for the people who look up to her."

- Chenelle Gaffney, sophomore



"I think she is setting a very bad example for the young because young people shouldn't have kids unless they're ready."

- Adam Cooper, junior

Olivia speaks

Speech students deserve more recognition

By: Vicki Rentfro [Staff Writer]

Speech is not an activity one come to watch the clock tick down and jump with excitement every time someone makes an awesome three-pointer. Speech is an activity that one listen to and one must listen very carefully. It's not about how athletic one are or how fast one can run, just how well one uses their mind to put words together and speak in front of a very judgmental audience. Students join speech for many different reasons. Olivia VanDerMillen, '11, joined speech because she "jumps at the opportunity of everything musical or theatre related."

Speech is a lot like other activities and a lot different. One still pushes them to do their best, but you try to make the words come out in the right order and not screw up instead of trying to make all of their shots. One still get upset when you mess up, but when one mess up in speech you have to try and work that into their speech and try to make it all sound good. And one still spend forever preparing for competition, and then you put all of that preparation into their work when one compete.

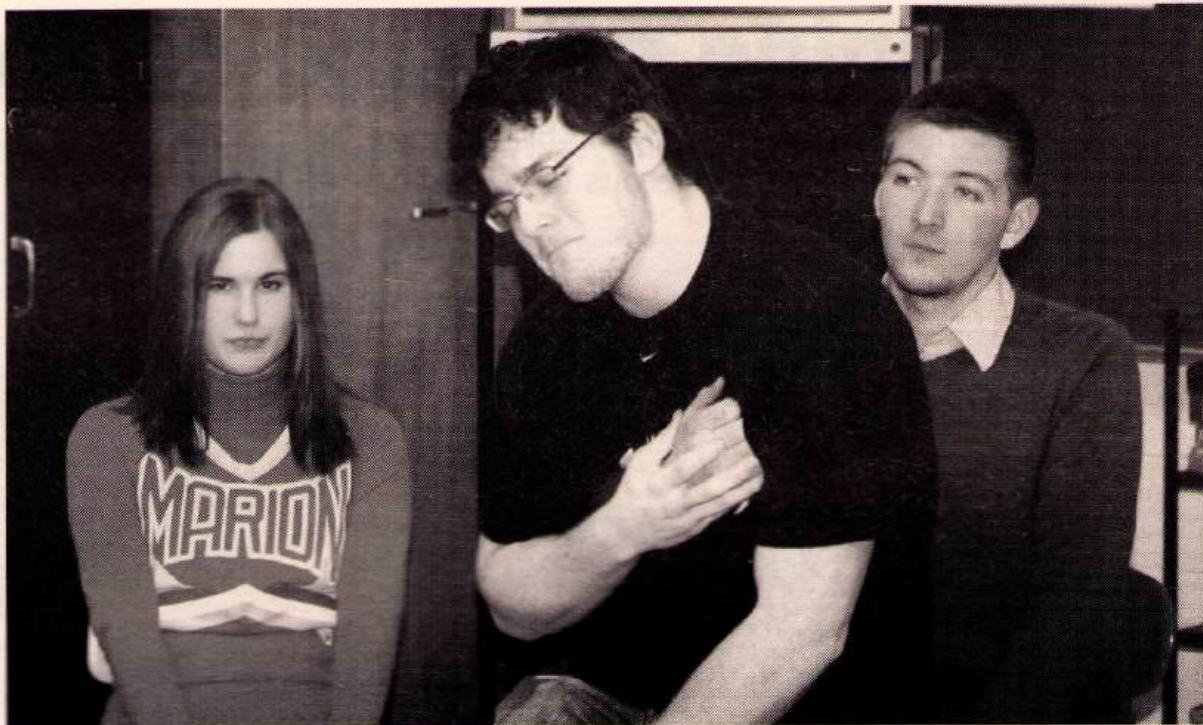


Olivia VanDerMillen, Freshman

Just imagine what those performers feel before competition waiting behind stage. It's probably something like the varsity players feel when they are waiting for the sophomore and junior varsity games to get over. Anxiety, nervousness, excitement, and a mixture of other crazy emotions. "I'm more driven [before competition]," states VanDerMillen.

Consider how students at Marion treat their athletes; shouldn't the speakers be treated the same way? Shouldn't they be recognized just as easily as the athletes, or commented on how good their last speech was? "No, [I don't think students in speech get enough], the recognition is saved for the basketball and football players," states VanDerMillen. If the athletes get a lot of recognition, don't you think the other performers deserve some too? So recognize the rest of the performers and don't just comment the athletes.

There are four opportunities for the speakers to show their skills. The first is at dis-

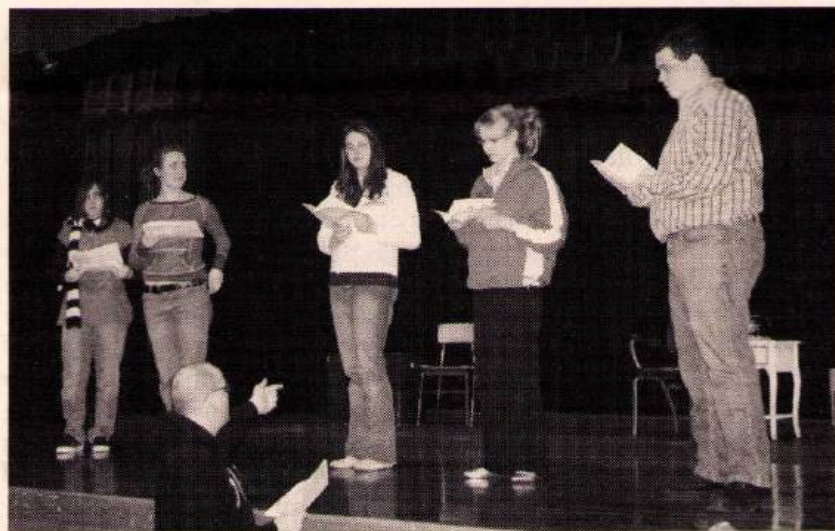


Sophomore Haley Cloven, and seniors Josh Ster and Joseph Jewell practice their ensemble act, "Enigma Variations." They are practicing for the state speech competition, which will be held at Farfield High School on February 2nd.

tricts, and if they make it the fourth and final stop on their tour is All-State. If a student makes it through all the competitions, they get to perform four times in front of a different audience each time getting more and more judgmental.

Speaking in front of an audience is hard. And when that audience is picking out every mistake made it gets harder. Speech is a hard competition, and when one think about it, it could be harder than basketball and football. One doesn't throw balls to make baskets or run them in for touchdowns. When one step on stage one are alone, one don't have teammates backing one up ready to rebound the ball when one miss the shot. One has themselves, their notes and their voice.

Speech is important to a lot of students at Marion High School, but to many of students, it isn't. The speakers would like some recognition like the rest of the performers. Speech is harder than some realize, and the speech students would like some attention. Next time you see a speech student wish them good luck on their next speech.



Mr. McMahon directs as sophomore Kelsey Rhodes, senior Sarah Nissen, senior Laura Sauer, sophomore Alyssa Larson, and junior Riley Bell practice for the play on March 13th, 14th, and 15th.

Psychotic sanatorium

By: Ashley Heald [Staff Writer]

You are invited to come and see Marion High School's next spring play, *The Curious Savage*, which was written by John Patrick. The play is directed by Mr. McMahon, who also helped to direct the play portions of the fall musical, which was directed by Mrs. Cosgrove.

Mrs. Savage has been left ten million dollars by her husband. Her stepchildren keep trying to get their greedy hands on her recently new fortune, and they decide to put her in a sanatorium.

In the sanatorium she meets other misfits, or people who cannot connect themselves to life. Mrs. Savage, being the kind person she is, she tries to help the people feel more normal and more like everyone else and tries assist them discover their hopes and dreams, since they will not be able to determine them all by them selves or without any assistance from any

"normal" people from outside the sanatorium.

While she is helping everyone else straighten out their problems, one of the patient already there happens to be Fairy May. Fairy May is a pathological liar, and says things like "My parents are albino," and she loves when others, even ones she hasn't even met yet, to tell her that they love her. Another character is Dr. Emmett, who is a very tolerant man, is the head or main psychologist of this infirmary. His role in this story is actually is somewhat like a mediator for when the families come a visit the patients.

This play is being shown her at the Marion High School's very own auditorium. The three times the play will be performed are on March 13th, 14th, and 15th. The March 13th performance will be an understudy performance and the 14th and 15th will be a normal production with the lead characters.

Underappreciated effort

By: Ryan Brunner [Activities Editor]

It's every guy's favorite dance. You get to have just as much fun as any other dance, hang out just as long, and the girls pay for it all. It's WPA, also known as Women Pay All.

Now, everyone appreciates the dance itself, and everything that goes on during the night. But what few people realize how much work goes into preparing and decorating for any dance, including WPA.

Most people take the decorations for granted, and don't appreciate the effort of the decorators. In the case of WPA, the decorations are handled by the cheerleading and dance teams at Marion. One of the cheerleaders involved in the decoration is senior Chelsea Cimaglia.

"We have to get all of the decorations, the background, and the DJ," said Chelsea. The cheerleaders must set up the decorations as well as buying them.

The theme this year will be either winter or Valentine's Day, which are obviously both very creative and original ideas.

Everyone plays their own part in the setup, but some carry more responsibility than others. "This year, the seniors got it all together," said Chelsea.



"It's really fun because you get to decorate and make everything look pretty, but it sucks when they take it all down."

-Erin Harrity, junior



"I don't mind getting up early to decorate, because I don't have to tear it down afterwards."

-Jacqueline Noble, sophomore

Continuing the tradition

By: Jenna Koppedryer
[Staff Writer]

The Marion Girl's Basketball Team is breaking records left and right. After coming off one of the most successful seasons in the school's history, things are looking great for girl's basketball, but there was still much room for improvement and that is just what they did.

With such a successful 2006-2007 season last year, the Marion girls have set the bar high for themselves. "We have high goals for our team and we want to accomplish them," said Brittany Fish, sophomore.

The Marion girls started their season off on the right foot with a win over Anamosa. "It was great to play again," said Brittany "It was exhilarating." However one win wasn't enough and the girls still had much to prove to themselves and everyone else. "I took it as a challenge to go farther than we did last year," explained Brittany.

With everything to lose and much to gain the Marion girls just kept on going up. After their game against Anamosa, the girls went on to win 13 more!

"I had high expectations for our team but didn't expect such a great turnout," explained Brittany. With their 13 and 2 record the girls broke



Sam Rinehart, junior, and Maggie Murphy, sophomore, box out the opponent on a free-throw shot at game against Benton.

a girls basketball school record for the best starting record, with the previous beginning record being 8 and 0. Along with their 13 and 2 record the girls have also earned themselves a sixth place ranking above the seventh ranked Xavier, who had knocked them out of a second post-season game last year.

The girls aren't satisfied yet. "Winning every home game, advancing in the state tournament, winning more than one post-season game after winning the Wamac conference championships are just some of our goals," shared

Brittany.

The season is only half way through and the girls still have room to improve. "There's always room to get better as a player and as a team," Brittany said, "Every practice we have and every game we have we get better and better."

The Marion girls have had a very successful season so far and plan on going far into post-season play. But they still have a long way to go and have yet to reach the bar they have set for themselves.

Producing videos is a great experience

By: Alyssa Larson [Staff Writer]

"VPC meeting today after school" is an announcement that is frequently heard and also ignored by many Marion High School students. To a select few however, that announcement is a sure sign of a fun filled afternoon with Mrs. Tarwater. "Video Production Crew is a blast," exclaims freshman Kelsey Smith. She is one of the few students in the small club that has fewer than ten students at MHS this year.

VPC stands for Video Production Crew, but that is the extent of knowledge that many students have about the club. Kelsey was quick to offer details about one of MHS's lesser known clubs. "We come up with ideas to make videos and film people for our movie," explains Kelsey. It's more than just randomly filming people going about daily life, the members of VPC start at the beginning by learning all about the movie making process and what it is like to be a director. "We're currently making a script," Kelsey says.



Kelsey Smith,
Freshman

So far, Kelsey has enjoyed being a member of the group, and she is glad she joined. "I thought it would be fun randomly filming things," Kelsey deems as the reason she signed up in the first place. The whole

process has become a really interesting thing to learn about. "We had to learn how to operate the camera and what all of the buttons do," describes Kelsey.

The hard work of the learning process as well as all of the Monday and Thursday meetings is paying off with the excitement of their upcoming movie. "We're making a movie with murder," laughs Kelsey.

With the small number of participants, one may wonder how a movie could possibly be created. "The number is a disadvantage when we need more actors and actresses. It's the worst when no one's there to help contribute," Kelsey admits, "but it's ok at times because you get to talk more individually."

The members of Video Production Crew thoroughly enjoy participating in the filming process. They always have a great time at their biweekly meetings. "We love just having fun and laughing at everything and everyone," Kelsey grins.

Video Production Crew members are a group of students who love each other's company, but, as close as they are to each other, they are also very welcoming to the idea of new members. "People can still join. We need recruits," persuades Kelsey. VPC may be a small group, but the members want to go places with their work. "We aren't sure what we'll do with our movie; we just have to see how we do." With high hopes for future, VPC would love if everyone who is interested in filming, movies, and the life of a director to talk to Mrs. Tarwater about joining. As Kelsey points out, "You can be in a movie!"

The notorious Knicks

Commentary



By: Jordan Garretson
[Co-executive Editor]

In professional sports, it is often said that money can purchase success. It is also said that money cannot purchase success. The latter is having perhaps the strongest case ever made for it this 2007-2008 NBA Basketball season by the New York Knicks. As of January 12th, the Knicks had amassed an absolutely atrocious record of 9-26, including a 2-13 road record which was tied for the worst home record in the league at the time. And here's the kicker; this year their payroll comes out to a grand total of just under \$89 million, ranking them second in the league in highest payroll. The team at the top of the list, the Dallas Mavericks, at least has something to show for their high payroll: a 26-11 record, which was tied for tops in the Western Conference as of January 12th.

It can be said that many of the players are not playing up to their former reputations, and it definitely can be said that they aren't playing as well as they are being paid. However, with the likes of Stephon Marbury, Zach Randolph, Eddy Curry, and Quentin Richardson, there is no question that there IS talent present on the team. But just because there is talent present on the team, doesn't mean that will automatically translate to instant success. In fact, it is entirely possible that this year's New York team has TOO much talent on the team. The Knicks ranked dead-last in the NBA in team assists per game (17.3) as of January 12th. This is a direct result of too many players on the team that are scorers, and not even players that are simply compatible and play a variety of roles. There are some bright spots on the team that don't represent this, such as 3rd year forward David Lee. Despite being 3rd to last on the team in salary, making just under \$1 million in '07-'08, Lee has energized the Knicks coming off the bench, averaging 9.8 points and 8.0 rebounds per game, despite averaging just 26.8 minutes per game. He is one of the lone players on the team that has a defined role, which is an issue that has needed to be, and continues to need to be addressed.

But where does this have to come from? Coaching, and management. And who is at the helm of both of these positions for the New York Knicks? Head coach and president of basketball operations, Isiah Thomas. Thomas was elected to the Basketball Hall of Fame in 2000, the first year he was eligible, and was named one of the NBA's 50 greatest players history during the NBA's 50th anniversary. It cannot be argued that Thomas had a fabulous playing career. Although his coaching and management futility over the past four seasons since becoming the president, and the past two seasons since becoming the coach, is evident. New York finished with a less than average 33-49 record last season under Thomas, and is now on pace for a 21-61 record under Thomas as of January 12th. This makes you beg the question, why not just fire Thomas as the head coach? Unfortunately for Knicks fans, as not only the head coach but the President of New York's basketball team, Thomas must step down to be removed as the team's coach. And despite a heavily voiced disapproval from the fans, which even escalated as far as a 50 person protest outside Madison Square Garden on December 19th, Thomas continues to refuse any such idea.

When asked about the possibility of stepping down by the Associated Press, Thomas responded, "I've never given it that thought. I only think about how fix it, how to make it right. That's all my time and energy is focused on and until I do that, I'll be here trying to make it right."

Boy's Basketball Update

Record: 13-2

Place in WaMac: 1st (11-0 record)

Leading Scorers: 1. Amry Shelby 20.4
2. Jon Hannah 10.2
3. Ian Lebeau 8.5

Leading Rebounders: 1. Jon Hannah 4.5
2. Ian Lebeau 3.9
3. Ryan Clark 3.7

Leaders in Assists: 1. Amry Shelby 4.6
2. Jon Hannah 3.7
3. Levi Lynott 2.1

Leaders in Steals: 1. Jon Hannah 2.7
2. Amry Shelby 2.5
3. Levi Lynott 1.5

Next game: Anamosa at Home

(Stats updated after 15 games and values are per game averages)

Have you ever received a vampire kiss?

This book is an exciting read no matter what types of books you're into!

By: Lindsay Cayton [staff writer]

Looking for an interesting book series that will keep you hooked? How about a series with suspense and romance between two gothic teens throughout? The *Vampire Kisses* series is an extremely popular teen read and it's a set of books that is addictive and that you won't want to put down.

Raven, a sixteen year-old "goth", had always dreamed of becoming a vampire since she was a little girl watching Dracula on the TV



Vampire Kisses
By: Ellen Schreiber

screen. She always thought that her hometown, "Dullsville," was extremely boring. So when a new family moved into the mansion of Benson Hill, she grew suspicious of the Romanian foreigners since that house was well known for being haunted.

The first time she encountered the dreamy goth son of the family, Alexander Sterling, she couldn't stop thinking about him. She felt as if he was her gothic soul mate. Raven couldn't help but wonder about his family history and if he was her dream vampire or not.

Their friendship quickly became romantic and he finally told her the truth of the vampire blood flowing through his veins.

As the romance grew, Alexander felt he needed to leave town to protect Raven of the danger of the nightlife. But once he left, she was heartbroken and went looking for him. Instead of finding his location, she ended up running into someone else who was looking for him. Before she knew it, she was reunited with Alexander back in "Dullsville" but brought an enemy of the night back with them, Jagger.

Jagger was a friend of Alexander's from long ago but ever since he left Romania, Jagger has held a

grudge against him. Their families were good friends as well, but once Alexander decided to run out on ceremony to make Jagger's sister, Luna, become a vampire with a vampire kiss on "sacred ground" (cemetery). They had been feuding ever since.

After many attempts to get to Alexander and Raven, Jagger and Luna finally left. Raven thought everything was going to get back to normal but little did she know that Jagger's younger brother, Valentine, would go after Raven's brother, "Nerd Boy", to get to them. her very uneasy to know that something to happen to "Nerd Boy" at any minute.

When Alexander got the chance to talk to Valentine, he realized that he was only looking for his older siblings, Jagger and Luna. They had never returned home. That made Raven and Alexander nervous but they knew exactly where he was.

The *Vampire Kisses* series is very suspenseful and romantic. A teen read you can't put down and a series with two teens who have a forbidden love, you can't go wrong!

The Vampire Kisses series:

Vampire Kisses

Vampire Kisses: Kissing Coffins

Vampire Kisses: Vampireville

Vampire Kisses: Dance With a Vampire



"It's a really good series and it has the perfect amount of vampire romance. The story really catches the hate that can happen in a high school."

~Jordan Condon, '09



"The *Vampire Kisses* series is a hilarious cliché filled with drama and everything else you can think of. But never-the-less, it's a good read. JAGGER!"

~Courtney DesForge, '10

Sparks fly for Jordin's recent hit song, "Tattoo"

By: Ashley Heald [Staff Writer]

For all the American Idol fans out there, the sixth season's winner, Jordin Sparks, was a really good choice because she was, and still is, a very hard worker and has just



Jordin Sparks' hit new album is titled, after her, *Jordin Sparks*.

come out with an amazing new album. Jordin Sparks' c.d. came out in stores November twentieth, 2007.

Her most popular song is "Tattoo," which is about Jordin not being able to forget someone, her first love, and how he will

always be like a "tattoo" on her heart and will be there forever.

The lyrics to this song are really catchy and once you hear it you can never get them out of your head, you will be singing this song all day long. Guys, this album probably isn't fit for you kind of music, but for girls, it may just be your cup of tea.

Along with the other eleven songs Jordin has prepared a bonus track, "This is My Now." It is about how she wants to live in the moment and live her life to the fullest extent.

Also, along with the bonus track, she also has an exclusive track for Wal-Mart buyers. This song is called "Worth the Wait." Overall this pop c.d. gets three and-a-half out of five stars.

Something special to eat for barely-there bank accounts

By: Sam Kiburz [Staff Writer]

Do you like bite size, and creative food? Zin's located in the heart of the Cedar Rapids downtown district (227 2nd avenue SE Cedar Rapids) is the new indulgence of many when it comes to the creative and delicious menu.

The price of the food is perfect. Not too much, but it's just right for a high schooler's "barely there" bank account.

On the menu there is something to nibble on, something to begin with, something "old school" to reminisce on, and something special to experience for the first time. All of the different choices are set up up in an almost perfect menu full of everything one could ever want in a meal.

To nibble on something before your dinner you could go cliché and go for the chips and salsa or get the classic house made French fries or go all the way and go for the marinated olives and get a kick start on your night at zins.

To begin your night at Zin's you should get the chicken of chorizo

sausage quesadillas, that runs at only seven dollars. You could also work your way down the smorgasbord of a menu and decide on the flatbread pizza that will only be getting six dollars out of your pocket.

With an end to your night at zin's, after all of that bite size food may or may not have filled up your stomach. You could get what they're best at: dessert.

On the menu at Zin's:

Something to Nibble
Something to Begin
Something Old School
Something to Reminisce On
-and-
Something Special to
Experience for the First Time

The Zins dessert experience could go either way for best. Anyone could choose the cookies and milk to the peaches and cream crisp of even maybe the house made almond ice cream. Anyone could

also go extra fancy and get the red velvet classic cake, almost all of the dessert are under seven of eight dollars at most.

All the way from the appetizers to the desserts Zins is the perfect place to go if your looking for a deliciously food filled night out on the town, and you can get a good meal and with out breaking your bank account.

What do MHS students think of American Idol winner's new album, Jordin Sparks?



"I have only listened to a few of her songs, but I think she has a really good voice and her songs are really catchy. I can't wait to buy her c.d."

- Sarah Rosenberger, Sophomore

"I have heard her album, but I don't like it, [unlike others], because I think the radio stations play it on the air way too much."

-Holly Isaac, Freshman



A drama-less teen movie

Teen pregnancy hits the big screen making a big splash

By: Chelsey Banes [Co-Executive Editor]

After many long weeks of watching previews and trailers, moviegoers finally got their chance to see the movie of the season. A family comedy about growing up, hidden with adult humor and an emotional ending, *Juno* had a very positive outcome. Starting in select theaters before Winter Break, *Juno* eventually came to Cedar Rapids theaters on January 4th. The outcome of the antsy-viewers is tremendous, packing the theater from front to back.

Making a first time appearance, Ellen Page stole the show by playing the part of pregnant teen, June bug. *Juno* also stars Michael Cera as Paulie Bleeker, Jennifer Garner as Vanessa Loring, and Jason Bateman as Mark Loring.

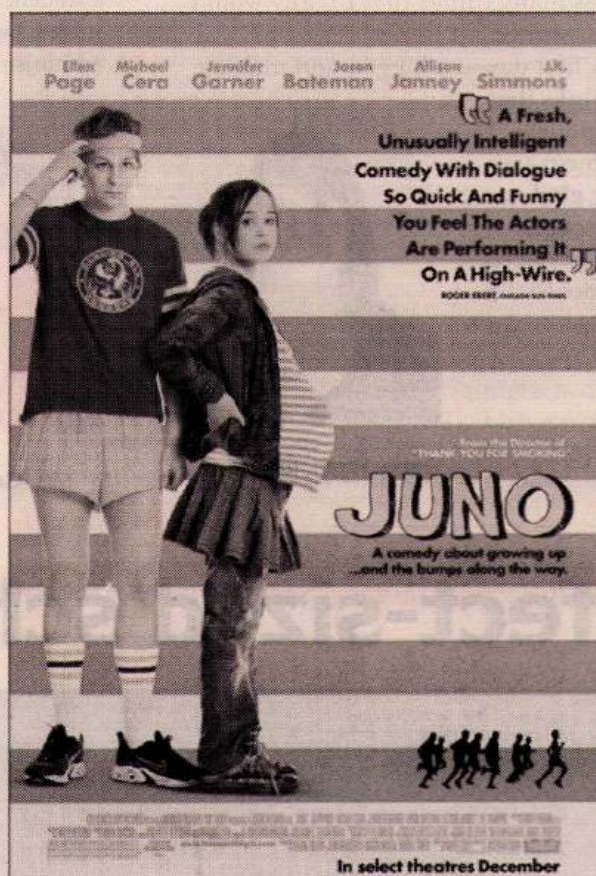
Juno isn't your typical teen movie. It isn't full of drama, and cat fights from your "typical" popular crowd. Instead, *Juno* is about a girl named Jun-bug, also referred to as Jun-bug, who happens to be a pregnant teenager. *Juno* has a smart sense of humor, but let her curiosity get the best of her when she decided to test the birds and bees. She seeks

best friend Paulie Bleeker, and their little experiment turns into a little more than expected.

After going through numerous pregnancy tests and gallons upon gallons of Sunny D Orange Juice, the initial shock begins to rub off and she finally turns to girlfriend Leah for help. She then tries to get an abortion, but cracks under the pressure. Next, she turns to the classifieds where she finds the perfect family for the baby "cooking" inside of her.

She begins spending a lot of time with the couple and they begin to realize what they've been missing for a while. *Juno*'s choice for a perfect family soon gets more complicated than ever and just when everything seems to be fitting perfectly together, a piece to the puzzle doesn't fit. *Juno*'s softer, more sensitive side shows, and she realizes she might need some help after all.

This comedy will have you crying from laughter and becoming more attached to the characters than you would have every thought possible. This simple movie about growing up reminds you of what makes movies so good. *Juno* plays for only 98 minutes but it is impossible to not relate to. *Juno* has been nominated for many awards and is one of those movies you won't want to miss out on.



The movie, *Juno*, recently hit theaters and has been a big hit among teens, parents, and even from the critics who speak highly of it.

Students give their opinion on the new hit, *Juno*

"I loved it; it was magnificent. It was like me pregnant on screen. I saw it three times!"
-Haley Cloven, sophomore



"I thought it was better than *Knocked Up*, but I don't see why it got an Oscar nominee."
-Derrick VanDerMillen, senior

"It was precious, some parts got a little creepy and other parts made me cry. It's in my top favs. I loved it!"
-Kayla McGrew, junior



A book that is quite the keeper

By: Brittney Railsback [Staff Writer]

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult was a wonderful book. The author does a very creative job of seeing all the characters' points of view clearly, switching back and forth so the reader doesn't get confused is a very hard job to do and Picoult did it.

However some of the points of view were not needed such as the role of Julia's sister her point of view and place in the story was not great enough for a separate section of the book and only raised more questions as to what could really tie her in with the main story happening within the book.

It is also unclear, up until near the end, why the dog, Judge, is with Campbell, the lawyer and confident in the book. It can be seen as to why there is lying, he gets sick of the questions all the time, but the lying also confuses the reader. You laugh at what he says, but you also get frustrated- thinking as the reader that you missed something somewhere that gave Judge's real purpose.

So when Judge starts barking non-stop in the courtroom, as the readers are led to believe, the dog is going nuts- since you have

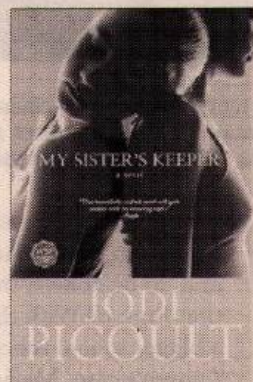
no real information on the dog or his owner.

Other than the small things stated above about the content within the book, the book as a whole keeps you guessing. Whatever you think is going to happen, whatever you think the characters are going to say, and whoever you think will die in the end- is not it. It keeps you guessing but does a good job of tying everything together in the end.

This book is meant for mature adults that can handle the emotion, hardship, and realness of this book, but it is not limited to that. This book would also be very good to put in the classroom to teach teenagers to not only stand up for themselves, but do so in a respectable way.

More books by this author

Jodi Picoult has written many other books that you may enjoy if you liked *My Sister's Keeper*. Also, a movie is soon going to be filmed as an adaptation to the book, *My Sister's Keeper*. Her newest book to hit the shelves is titled *Nineteen Minutes*, which came out in 2007 and was on one of the best seller lists within a week! Another novel of Jodi Picoult's, *Change of Heart*, is expected to come out March 4, 2008; it is sure to be a hit. If Jodi Picoult's style of writing is the type you like, be sure to check out one of her other novels. She has fourteen total, and many of them have won awards and been on best seller lists. Jodi Picoult is on tour currently talking about her books, and while she won't be making a trip to Iowa, if you get the chance, you should go see her speak!



Cover of Jodi Picoult's book, *My Sister's Keeper*

Youtube videos cover all genres

Commentary

Bored at home and looking for something to do? Well, look no further than the Internet and Youtube.com. With thousands and thousands of videos covering all topics you'll find hours upon hours of entertainment at this wandering website.

A favorite video of the Journalism class, the "The Mysterious Ticking Noise," is one you'll either love or hate. The video features popular Harry Potter characters in puppet form. I don't want to give anything else away about the video, so you'll just have to check it out for yourself. The video is random, odd, and just...different. The video is definitely more funny if you're a Harry Potter fan, and probably wouldn't make much sense if you had never read the books or seen the movie.

Not all Youtube videos are fun and games. "Battle at Kruger" takes place at Kruger National Park in South Africa and shows a remarkable interaction between a pack of lion, a herd of buffalo, and two crocodiles. If you're a fan of the channel Animal Planet you'll enjoy this incredible video of animal behavior. The interaction between the animals is nerve-wracking and will keep you watching until the end. The video features jaw dropping moments and truly shows how wild nature can be.



By: Pat Tiernan [Opinion Editor]

The video is lengthy at eight minutes, but worth the time if you appreciate amazing video footage.

Another video in the comedic genre is Demetri Martin's "The jokes with guitar." The video is the audio of Demetri Martin's standup with graphics to go along. The video features stand up comedian Demetri Martin and his random observational humor. In the video Martin puts humor into everyday things like vitamins, batteries, and glitter. The video is laugh out loud funny and at fourteen minutes is the longest of the list. This video is my favorite of the bunch and I strongly recommend you check it out.

Youtube videos cover all genres, even the supernatural. One video that is truly amazing is "Ghost Car Ad." The video is footage from a foreign car commercial that never made it to television. In the video a car is driving a winding road and if you look closely you can see an image resembling a ghost and faintly hear strange voices. The video is truly freaking so be warned if you're easily scared. The video is one that you have to see to believe and will make you reconsider whether or not ghosts are real.

One of the best features of Youtube is its vast video library, so of course there are more great videos than the ones mentioned. Here's a quick list of some of my other favorites; Robot Dance, The Best of The Office, Dramatic Chipmunk, McDonalds Rap, Whitest Kids You Know videos, Noel Devine Highlights, Beat Boxing videos, Bo Burnham videos, and Frank Caliendo Impressions.

So if you ever find yourself bored and wanting to pass some time check out one of these videos. From the amazing to the hilarious Youtube.com has something to offer for everyone.

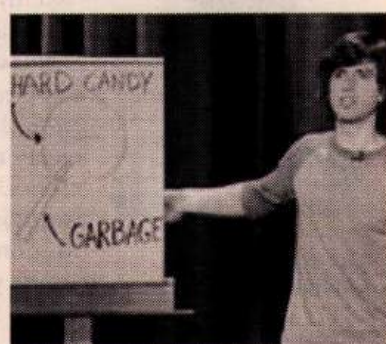
Video features animal entertainment



An overlook at a section of Kruger National Park in South Africa. Youtube videos are more than comedies and one of the most interesting is a video of animal interaction at Kruger Park.

Comedian plays on suburban humor

Comedian Demetri Martin stands by his easel and flipbook during his routine. Martin's stand up routine is very random and features observational humor. Martin uses his flipbook to add visuals to his jokes and he sometimes plays to a guitar.



Many differences between large and small schools, other than size

By: Sam Kiburz [Staff Writer]

Compared to majority of the Cedar Rapids high schools MHS isn't up to par with our student body population, but for junior, Betsy Ryan it was a huge step up from Saint Joseph's Catholic School (she left after 4th grade). "On my first day of school at Marion it wasn't that horrible of a transition, because I had friends at Marion already. It was crazy when recess would come around and having so many kids around was



Saint Joseph's Catholic School is located right down the street from Emerson Elementary. This is the school that Betsy Ryan went to from kindergarten to fourth grade. She changed the MISD because she and her parents felt that she would get more opportunities in education and in athletics. The size of St. Joe's is subsequently smaller in comparison to Marion.

really weird at first," Betsy stated.

Going to a small school definitely has its advantages that a bigger school doesn't offer. For example getting really close with your classmates which makes it easier to get along, which can provide the best school environment. "Being in such a small school I got really close with my class mates, and we all became best friends," Betsy said happily.

When it comes down to it, the education is the most important part of the school. Being enrolled in such a small school the class sizes are small and you will for sure get more attention out of the teacher, and also get more information out a teaching lesson. "Being in such a small class everyday I got so much out of a the lessons, and it felt like I was learning so much everyday. It seemed like I was really challenged and it wasn't coming as easy as it might have been at a different school." Betsy affirmed.

With every advantage there always comes a list of disadvantages. Going to quite a smaller school limits the quantity of extra curricular activities offered by the school. "One of the main reasons I left St. Joe's was because the school didn't offer as many things that I really would of like to try," Betsy said with self-assurance.

After adjusting pretty well on her first day at a bigger, and making a lot of friends junior Betsy Ryan thinks that, "Not everyone who comes from a smaller school to bigger one will have to same experience that I did, but I'm really glad I came here. I just wish I could of brought some of that small school vibe into play here, but Marion has everything in a school that I need."



Betsy Ryan, junior

MHS

By: Alyssa La
[Staff Writer]

Wouldn't it be nice if MHS that has you like going to four classrooms the size of the MHS. Where building on 35th high school.

Community COMPASS, is that many students attend has," Mrs. Grant.

One may wonder Mar or Marion alternative school term 'non traditional' Grant offered a student in the administration



Mrs. Grant

Marion is considered the perfect-sized school

Many agree that when deciding on the size of a high school, the bigger the building gets doesn't mean it's always going to be better.

By: Tabitha Scott
[Feature Editor]

Many people may think that Marion High School is the perfect size for a school, and anything bigger would be too much. Try going here after you've gone to a school much larger, like Linn-Mar for example, that consists of more people and more activities. Sophomore Lauren Jilek knows exactly what that is like. "Before transferring to Marion this year, I had gone to Linn-Mar my whole life, and it's a lot bigger than this high school," Lauren points out. The size of the building isn't the only difference either. There is also the size of the student body. The halls are more crowded than MHS, and the classes are even more full. "At Linn-Mar, there is twice as many people, and when you went to class, each was filled with more than thirty kids. Here, a full class averages about a little over twenty students. It's a big difference," says Lauren. Another difference is that Linn-



Lauren Jilek, sophomore

Mar doesn't have the same block scheduling that we do. They have "skinny" blocks, which are classes that last forty minutes each, instead of Marion's eighty minute classes. "I like the way it is here at Marion better, because you can get

more done and it's a lot nicer," says Lauren.

At Linn-Mar there are a lot more people, who are involved in many different things. But, does going to a bigger high school and having more students pose as a pro, or as a con? "My favorite part about going to a bigger school was how many people attend all the games and activities, especially the dances. They're packed, and it was a lot of fun with so many people," remarks Lauren. At Marion, the student body is extremely small, and there isn't near as many people. "But a pro about this school," says Lauren, "is that it doesn't have nearly as many cliques." It may not seem like it to some, but the truth is the more people there are, the more groups are formed. "When I went to Linn-Mar, you couldn't just hang out with everyone. It was just the people who shared the same sport, or activity as you. Here, everyone supports everyone in everything, rather than basing all the support in just a few activities," explains Lauren.



Linn-Mar High School is located off of S. Tenth Street. Lauren went to Linn-Mar Schools since kindergarten to go to Marion after her freshmen year at Linn-Mar. The things that Lauren misses the most about her friends. According to Lauren Marion High School is the perfect size, And many other students a

This isn't just with the students either. It's also with the interaction between the students and the teachers. "I love how you can interact with the teachers on a more personal level, in and out of the classroom." When asked what she misses most about going to a bigger

school, Lauren gave a smile. "Who go to Linn-Mar ask me and, to be honest, there's nothing that I miss." With that said a bigger school is better, in Lauren's case, Marion is t

and LMHS are lending out a helping hand

on
nice to be in a more relaxed environment than
er students and smaller classes? How would
chool where there are six staff members, and
"The total size of the school is less than half
d gym," depicts Mrs. Grant, a counselor at
his building she describes? It's the old REC
reet that now serves as COMPASS alternative

artners Active in Student Success, or
chool for the Linn-Mar and Marion districts
s at MHS aren't very informed about.
comparable to Metro in Cedar Rapids, except
30-3:15 daily instead of half days like Metro
portrays.

der why students don't simply attend Linn-
high schools. "COMPASS is a high school
for non-traditional students," she says. The
onal' describes a variety of situations. Mrs.
a few of the many circumstances that land
COMPASS school setting. Some jobs land
ard time getting to MHS on time or the MHS
ay feel that a student would gain more from
being in the smaller setting.

COMPASS is an overall
great program. "It started because
of a need for a place for students who
need a smaller class setting and school
size with more flexibility," explains
Mrs. Grant. How does someone
determine if COMPASS is right for
them? The MHS administration
can make a decision to send a student
there. "Another use for COMPASS
is if a student's attendance or grades
are bad." In this situation, the

student attends 4-8 classes at
COMPASS and then they can
determine whether or not they
wish you return to Marion or
continue at COMPASS.

Since Dawn Young and
her staff serve students
with a variety of situations,
COMPASS offers a very
flexible schedule. "If someone
works late, they can choose
not to have a first or second
block," Mrs. Grant offers
as an example. Also,
COMPASS students receive
little to no homework, to help
accommodate their schedules.

COMPASS also has
other conveniences. Their
open campus policy and
proximity to Hardee's give
students a great option for
lunch. Graduation can be
accomplished by students as
well. "Students can easily go to Kirkwood after graduating,"
reports Mrs. Grant.

Some students may feel that with all of its flexibility,
COMPASS is the easy way out of rigorous high school years.
Mrs. Grant has insight into a COMPASS student's life that could
change that thought process however. "It is similar to MHS in
that COMPASS has high expectations for students to learn as
much as they can to help with post secondary jobs or education,"
Mrs. Grant compares.

These expectations are basically the norm for all
highschoolers, but there is another policy that sets COMPASS's
high standards apart. "COMPASS center has a strict policy.
They only allow five days absent, excused or unexcused," Mrs.
Grant explains, "after five days, the class is dropped."



COMPASS School is located at the S. 35th Street and 7th Avenue four-way stop. The school is another opportunity for students either from MISD or the Linn-Mar Community School District.

This policy isn't the only difference between MHS and
COMPASS. "Electives are very limited at COMPASS,"
elaborates Mrs. Grant. "They do offer work experience as a
class, but MHS doesn't accept the credit back as it does with
most classes." Physical education is one elective that COMPASS
offers. Students can independently work out or participate in
group activities at the local YMCA, similarly to regular classes.
Students have the option of how to take classes. "Classes can
be taken teacher lead or independent study via the computer,"
describes Mrs. Grant.

Maybe the administration hasn't offered COMPASS to you,
but you feel like you are in a situation in which COMPASS
would be beneficial. "If you are interested, see one of the
counselors for more information," Mrs. Grant concludes.
COMPASS hopes to continue helping students for years to come.

The good, the bad, and the ugly of going to a BIGGER school.

The good

1. Athletics
2. Education
3. Opportunities

The bad

1. Unindividualized
2. Population
3. Competition

The UGLY!

1. Hazing/bullying
2. Parking
3. Confrontation

Would you ever want to go to a larger school, instead of MHS?



"No, I wouldn't go to a bigger school
because I like how I know everyone
here, and nothing is really a secret."

- JoAnna Forkner, Sophomore



"NO, because people seem nicer here,
and you get more of a small town feeling."

- Cael Clendenon, Junior



"No, because I've been to a bigger
school and it's hard to get recognized for
your best, if everyone else is there doing
the best too."

- Alexandria Sturtz, Senior



"No, because it's hard enough moving
to a new school similar in size is hard
enough. I couldn't imagine moving to a
school any bigger."

- Boudicca Fisher, Junior

The beginning of the end...



Name: Brianne Wade

Main Activity: Choir

Other Activities: Volleyball, softball, Show Choir, Vocal Varietas, volleyball coach, Win With Wellness,

Season Highlights: Dorian! Singing the national anthem all the time, trying out for All-state, meeting new people at WaMaC, bus rides where all we did was sing! Follies, musical (since I got to be a girl vampire)

Best High School Memory: Our lunch table! Listening to The Fray with Derrick, going to basketball games with Kiley, girls night! Sock volleyball, AP calculus, the Elite 8 turning into the Fantastic 4, football games, Prom! All volleyball and softball seasons, marathon days of the O.C. with Alicia, AP English and all our odd conversations.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Everybody makes mistakes. Everybody has those days. Everyone knows what, what I'm talking about, everybody gets that way." Haha JK! That's from my girl Hannah Montana...for real though be yourself and don't get all caught up in the drama. Be honest and figure out who your real friends are. You can do anything that you believe you can.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to St. Ambrose for four years and then Palmer to be a chiropractor.



Name: Bailey Brewer

Main Activity: Working

Other Activities: Hanging with friends

Season Highlights: Mondays with Rach, closing with Daniel, playing cards, making new kids believe things that weren't true.

Best High School Memory: The moped days and getting harassed by upperclassmen, meeting new friends and catching up with old ones, going to Dubuque and seeing Kettmann with Sweeny and TP.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "All days are good, some are just better than others."

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Get a degree in business then go to law school.



Name: Trisha McNulty

Main Activity: Hanging out with my friends

Other Activities: Work

Season Highlights: Prom of '07

Best High School Memory: Open blocks, football games, parties, and friends.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: High school really does go fast so don't mess up.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to Kirkwood for Nursing.



Name: Broc Dobling

Main Activity: Football

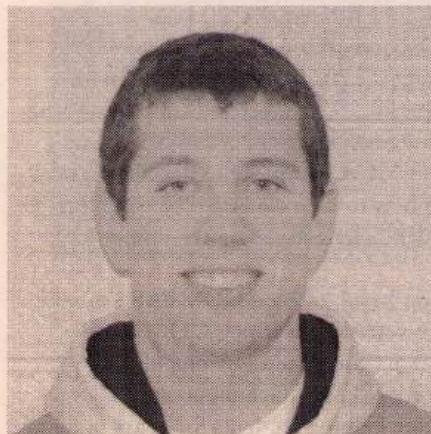
Other Activities: Baseball

Season Highlights: Breaking 1,000 yards and 18 touchdowns, getting first team All Metro and All District, and getting first team All Conference outfielder in baseball.

Best High School Memory: Every football practice, but mostly Saturday morning practices.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Take every second as if it's your last," Coach Perkins.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Going to a four year college and playing football and hopefully baseball.



Name: Ryan Clark

Main Activity: Basketball

Other Activities: Cross Country and Baseball

Season Highlights: Being in first place in the WaMaC, and winning in our triple overtime game against Waterloo Columbus.

Best High School Memory: The cliffs, Party Van, football games, and anything stupid I've done with my friends.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Live everyday as if it's your last.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Play baseball at Kirkwood and hopefully a D-I school in two years for baseball.



Name: Josh Ster

Main Activity: Choir/Speech

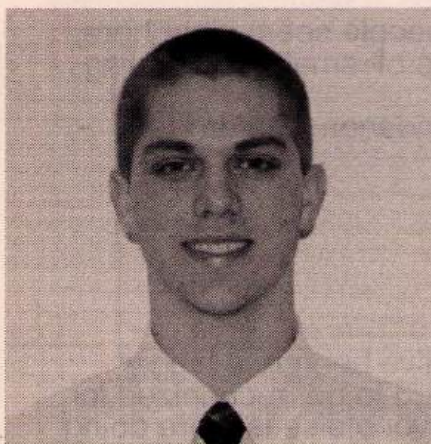
Other Activities: Football, Track, Fall Musical, Vocal Varieties

Season Highlights: Winning districts and going to state in discus.

Best High School Memory: Sweeping the homecoming categories junior and senior year, Fridays before football games, NCAA '08 and Subway at Dan Morgan's house.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Live your life to the fullest and do what you want to do because you only have one.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to Iowa and major in Computer Sciences.



Name: Ian LeBeau

Main Activity: Basketball

Other Activities: Track, work, play, eat, sleep, school, practice, church, bells, Call of Duty 4, snowshoeing, four-wheeling, walking

Season Highlights: Crashing three's left and right, watching movies on Barnd's DVD player, Subway cookies, team dinners at Pizza Ranch, Team bobsledding in the Red Gym, potato launching, being a team member of the "Cardiac Kids."

Best High School Memory: Playing Moola with Joe in Thornton's class, being chased by Waterloo Columbus street rats after the first

football game (and the brick), Party Van.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Someone's poisoned the water-hole!" "Eh... What's up, Doc?" "There's a snake in my boot!" "To infinity and beyond!"

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to college, raise a great family, and be a successful business.

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Name: Alex Fiala

Main Activity: Maintaining my 4.2 GPA by studying during all of my freetime and not playing any Call of Duty 4 or Halo.

Other Activities: Four year varsity letter winner for the after school crew, Party Van, Grateful Red, FBLA, Win With Wellness, full time Dynasty member.

Season Highlights: Ride to and from the Keokuk games, watching Steffek dunk on Linn-Mar... TWICE, the crowd chanting my name after I speared Vandenberg to the ground in the first-round of the playoffs.

Best High School Memory: Locking Owen out of Joe's house for two hours and disabling the doorbell without him

knowing, tubing down the Wapsi and getting lost- with the boys, bumper sledding with Keith's explorer and at Bowman Woods, Going to the cliffs and the beach, Waterloo Columbus Party Van trip (all Party Van trips), Monday night RAW trip to the Mark, Riley's birthday party freshman summer and sinking the paddle boat, F.S.U. nights with MJ, Owen, and Steffek, getting in trouble with the police throughout my entire high school career and being with Steffek all but one of those times, Party Van to Keokuk, Steffek's fires and sleeping on the trampoline, going to the Marion pool every summer, Hubbell's 2006 New Year's party, Sindelar's 2007 and 2008 New Year's parties, joy ride trips with Big Dad, Dan's anti-homecoming party '04 where I used the DDR mat as a blanket, all my campouts and 5 a.m. "guy talks" and when Owen boxed Sindelar and made him pick his teeth up, Joes basement (timesplitters, crud, GRA San Andreas, wrestling, etc...), Monday night b-dubs, taking Big Dad on 5 on 1 in wrestling in Cranny's basement and losing hardcore, Halo system link parties at Putman's, Riley's, and Joe's, football games in B-Ren's pool one torpedo diving, trampoline into pool, running little kids over with the tobaggan with Immerfall and myself, football games in the student section my senior year and having the most ridiculous chants in MHS history, lava tag at Novak and Indian Creek, devoting my entire Chem II call to making a "to-do" list for summer with Owen, building legit snow forts at Joe's on snow days, ballin' at Garyson's, late night walks around town and bike rides, Halo parties at Raeside's, O.D. runs to David's house to play Halo II during freshmen track, and the night Big Dad and Cranny got the boot from the number 23 because they were underage and the rest of us stayed.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "Today's hard work is tomorrow's expectation." "Life moves pretty fast. If you don't stop and look around every once in awhile, you might miss it." "High school flies by so have as much fun as you can. It'll turn out to be the best years of your life."

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Graduate from the University of Iowa with a bachelor's degree in whatever I don't flunk out of.



Name: Laura Sauer

Main Activity: Speech

Other Activities: Band, Jazz Band, Winter Drumline, Choir, Show Choir, Fall Musical, Spring Play, Individual Speech, Bible Study, Youth Group, Soccer, NHS, CNCYL, Pep Band, Thespians

Season Highlights: Being choked to death and having my neck snapped every Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday by Ryan Brunner, getting to scream during rehearsals and improv practices.

Best High School Memory: Definitely all the fun times in band, choir, and speech, all the musicals and plays. I'll miss all the cool band people! Definitely the band and choir trip to Florida my freshman year- it was the best. Getting to be in shows

with my friends and making new friends, too.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Be nice to other people... they just might be really cool. Don't let setting up mental boundaries keep you from other people. Do as many activities as you can, because you'll miss out on a lot if you don't. It's cheesy, but high school goes by faster than you think- have fun! Don't take yourself too seriously. Oh yeah, be sure to mentally prepare yourself for Money Math and Chemistry- its a doozy.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Attend the University of Iowa, be in the Hawkeye Marching Band, travel, major in something cool like social studies or the performing arts and live a long, happy life. And before I die, I want to learn how to break dance.



Name: Jon Hannah

Main Activity: Basketball

Season Highlights:

When we beat Waterloo Columbus in three overtimes.

Best High School Memory: When we beat Waterloo Columbus in three overtimes.
Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: I'm the seventh letter of the alphabet.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Play basketball at Iowa Lakes and major in Criminal Law.



Name: Sydney Bean

Main Activity: Choir

Other Activities: Softball, Volleyball, Show Choir, Vocal Varietas, Basketball Manager, Volleyball Coach, WWW

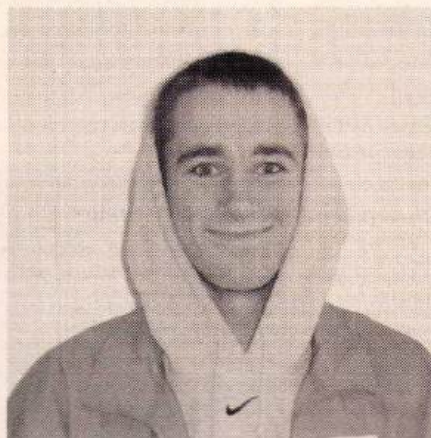
Season Highlights: Dorian, meeting LJ, constant National Anthem singing, hanging out with all the girls at volleyball and singing Hannah Montana, hair-braiding marathons.

Best High School Memory: Spending three hours helping Lauren get ready for a date, New Year's party, amazing lunch table conversations with Brianne Wade, Rachel Smith, Haley Cloven, Erin Peiffer, and Brittney Railsback the past three years, candy cane messages, softball

bus rides, the ten-finger game, creative writing three finger salute, WWW last minute projects, pretty much all of sophomore year/summer of that year, writing on like a million lamps for prom last year, dateless on prom night, ShortStop runs with LJ and Brianne.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "He's just not that into you." Everyone can sing, but that doesn't mean they should." "May your wisdom be your armour, your compassion be your sword."

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Go to Luther and major in English and History, to go to law school and become a lawyer... Then go on to being the president of the United States of America.



Name: Riley Quinn

Main Activity: Eating all of Cranny's food, making Sindelar cry, breaking stuff at Joe's (on purpose), setting all of the passing records in tailgating football.

Other Activities: Basketball, Cross Country, Golf, FBLA vice-president, Student Senate, SODA, NCYL, Fantasy Football, Team Dinners at B-Dubs, Team Breakfast at BK, wearing velcro shoes and Halo apparel, Call of Duty 4, World Domination

Season Highlights: When I led my team to victory in tailgating football week in and week out. Season Stats- Completion Percentage: 78%, Touchdowns: 87, Interceptions: 2, Yards: Too many to calculate

(statistics from four games).

Best High School Memory: Getting a honey bath from the wild Fi after running up the score, Robo-Killer vs. Fitard, being better than everyone at Halo 3 (especially Brennen Menken), campouts at Steffek's, Fiala's and my house, senior year football games when we would chant the most random things.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: "That's what she said." "George?" "Get owned." "Yeah, that's right." "Losers say what?" "When my mother was pregnant with me, they did an ultrasound and found she was having twins, and they did another ultrasound a few weeks later, they discovered that I had resorbed the other fetus. Do I regret this? No. I believe his tissues make me stronger. I now have the strength of a grown man and a little baby," Dwight Schrute (*The Office*) "Somebody replaced all my pens and pencils with crayons. I suspect Jim Halpert." "Everyone has called me Dwayne all day. I think Jim Halpert paid them to." "This morning I found a bloody glove in my desk drawer, and Jim Halpert tried to convince me I committed a murder. I think he may be the real murderer." "Jim Halpert said there was an abandoned infant in the women's room. When I went to save the child, I saw Meredith on the can," Michael (*The Office*).

Future Plans/Goal in Life: I plan to enter the NBA draft right out of high school, If I don't get drafted, I will attend the University of Iowa to major in Engineering.



Name: Katie Barkdoll

Main Activity: Dance

Other Activities: Fall Dance, NHS, SODA, Volunteering

Season Highlights: Going to state for the first time and getting third place.

Best High School Memory: Football games and hanging with my friends.

Favorite Quote or Advice to Leave: Live life to the fullest and have no regrets, life is too short.

Future Plans/Goal in Life: Plan to attend UNI and become an elementary teacher.

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First timers rock the caucus

'08 Caucuses see biggest numbers

By: Jordan Garretson [Co-executive editor]

Unless you live under a rock, you've probably heard the term "caucus" used quite frequently. Whether it be on television, from the your parents, from teachers at school, or other students talking about it, there's no doubt you've heard something about it. And while some may know what it's all about, just as many still lack a good understanding of what the caucus is exactly.

During the Iowa Caucuses, residents of Iowa meet in the state's 1,784 precincts to elect delegates to the different county conventions. There are 99 different conventions as a result of the 99 different counties in the state of Iowa. The conventions determine the delegates for Iowa's district and state conventions, which then select delegates for the national party conventions. This may cause one to wonder, okay, so why all of the media attention? There's good reason.

Since 1972, Iowa's caucuses have been the first official event in the selection process of the President of The United States of America. And while Iowa's convention chooses roughly just one percent of the country's delegates, the caucuses have been pretty indicative of which candidates will receive their party's nomination at their respective party conventions. The numbers are in for the 2008 Iowa caucuses, and only time will be able to tell if this holds true for this year's election on November 4th.

Taking place on Thursday, January 3rd, the caucuses saw a record turnout of Iowans, with 236,000 Democrats and 120,000 Republicans making the effort to go out and participate. Both numbers were all-time records for both parties, with the Democratic party almost doubling the turnout of 124,000 people in the 2004 caucuses. Perhaps most impressively was the increase in youth participants, aged 17-to-29 years old. According to CIRCLE, the Center for Information & Research on Civic Learning & Engagement, 56,875 youth participated in this year's caucus, more than doubling the 2004 number of 20,740. So with the record turnouts, who was able to jump out to an early advantage in the nomination process?

Capitalizing on 57% of the young voters present at the Democratic Caucuses, Illinois Senator Barack Obama was able to claim victory with 38% of the Democratic vote, edging out John Edwards by 8% and Hillary Clinton by 9%. Bill Richardson received 2% of the vote while Joe Biden received 1%.

Garnishing 34% of the vote, Mike Huckabee was victorious in the Republican caucuses, while Mitt Romney finished in second place behind him with 25% of the

vote. Both Fred Thompson and John McCain received 13% of the vote, however Thompson was able to barely edge McCain out, receiving only 305 more votes than McCain. Congressman Ron Paul received 10%, while former New York mayor Rudy Giuliani earned 4%, and Duncan Hunter earned 1%. There's no doubts that both Huckabee and Obama gained large amounts of momentum from their victories, but how exactly has the momentum from past Iowa caucus winners translated into a seat in the oval office as President for past candidates?

Before this year, in the nine Iowan Democratic caucuses since 1972, the individual candidate that received the highest majority support from voters has won the Democratic nomination six times. In the last two Republican caucuses where a candidate wasn't running unopposed (2000 and 1996), both winners, George W. Bush, and Bob Dole, were able to capitalize on their success in Iowa, and win their party's nomination for President in those years.

While it can't yet be said if a similar level of success will be observed the winners from this year's caucus, we will continue to learn more and more as November's election draws near. However, if you will be of age by that time, know that you can help make a difference by participating in the election on November 4th.



Caucus-goers gather around the gym at Vernon Middle School during a Democratic Caucus on January 3rd. Participants sat in arrangements according to which candidate they supported. Administrators at each caucus location counted the number of supports for each candidate, and then the results were reported.

A better place

By: Kristy Bell: [Staff Writer]

Bullying in school is inevitable, but each year it seems as if younger and younger kids get involved in harassment, or they are a victim. Eight years ago reportedly more than 2,000 kids committed suicide over the entire year. That's about four times more than the number of students that attend MHS, can you picture that? High school students all over the U.S. suffer harassment in all different forms.

The fact that kids end their life because of bullying is horrible. In August of 2005, hope shed its light on Milwaukee, WI. The Alliance school is: "A place where it's okay to be black, white, gay, straight, punk, gothic, Buddhist, disabled, or just plain unique!" said Tina Owen, co-founder of Alliance School. Most of the 115 students there have experienced harassment at their previous schools. Alliance has created a better learning and living environment for students to be in. "I think that one of the things that makes Alliance work is the fact that students are empowered to make that school what it is," Owen said. "The students are able to vote on changes in the school, they are part of the interview committees, they help to create the classes, they help serve lunch, and they serve as the discipline council." We have no choices over classes offered, and we (students) don't have the option to vote on if Marion needs a fixed ceiling or new science labs.

Bullying has altered many students' futures, "Many of the students who come to Alliance had either dropped out of school or were close to dropping out before coming. There were students who contemplated suicide and many who didn't think they would ever make it to graduation," Owen said, "Many of these same students are now making the honor roll, preparing for college, and leading presentations at schools and organizations around the city."

"I love it when people tell other people about the school, because it gives other people hope to know that there is a school like this one. I receive letters from people all around the country and around the world telling me how they wished there had been a school like this one when they were growing up. I always read these letters to our students because it encourages them to reach out to others and be advocates for those who are still in environments like the ones they came from, and it reminds them of how lucky we are to have such a supportive community."

If you go to Alliance's website (allianceschool.org) you can buy some merchandise, donate money, or send items to them from their wish list. Items such as gym equipment, art supplies, tissues, books, headphones, batteries, etc.

Oprah's African school

By: Chelsey Banes
[Co-executive editor]

Unlike here in the United States, education isn't as important or as big of a deal or necessity in other countries. However, changes in other countries, especially Africa, are being made with thanks to Oprah Winfrey. Six years ago Oprah made a promise to Africa's president of the time, Nelson Mandela, that she would open a school for disadvantaged girls and is now fulfilling that promise.

The idea for this school was created in 2000; Oprah wanted to build an academy in South Africa. She chose Africa due to her own African roots and her love for Mandela. Oprah pledged to make the academy the "best school in the world." Although, that is a hard task to take on of all people Oprah can do it. She promised to continue to support the girls that attend the school until they reach college level, and then she promised that they would be able to go

to any college in the world.

Finally opening, her school is now giving many girls the chance of a lifetime. The \$40 million dollar academy is directed towards girls with deprived backgrounds. Over 3,500 girls applied for the school and 152 from ages 11 to 12 were accepted. The girls had to meet certain criteria for instance, they had to have potential in leadership and academics, as well as have a family income lower than \$787 a month. Oprah is working to make the academy eventually accommodate 450 girls.

As more work seems to be done in Africa, from aid prevention to missionary work, Oprah's school will help strengthen Africa's educational department. Although Oprah's school isn't trouble free, she has already turned many girl's life's completely around. Oprah is even looking to build a home near the school so she can truly be apart of each of their lives. With Oprah as a role model, we should all try helping foundations for education.

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Can there be real love at a young age?

By: Lindsay Cayton
[Staff Writer]

People have many different opinions about when you should get engaged and/or married. Nowadays, teens are getting engaged as early as high school. One opinion is that it's kind of naïve since you haven't really been out on your own at all, but on the other hand, if you're in love and want to spend the rest of your life with that person, why should you have to wait?

Senior, Brooke Hingtgen, has gotten engaged this past September. She is engaged to Evan Davis, a graduate from Linn-Mar. "My family and friends are really happy for me. They're excited and they love Evan. But they do also want me to make sure that I know that it'll be hard at times."

Many people feel that when you get married at a young age, there's a greater chance of regret it and getting divorced than when you wait to make sure that you're ready. "I feel that divorce is caused by poor communication more than anything. Evan and I feel that if we talk through things and be completely honest with each other, we'll do fine."



Brook
Hingtgen,
senior

Others say that it's just not

smart to get married before your mid to late twenties, that maybe you won't be mature enough or ready for all of the challenges. "I feel that it's just their opinion. When there's always a chance I couldn't even be here tomorrow, why wait when we're ready now."

"You have to make sure that you're ready to grow up fast. You'll have a lot more responsibility so you have to realize that life can't always be a party and I know that."

"There are definitely some advantages to getting married at a young age. It's nice having a partner to help support you so you don't have to go through things alone. It'll be comforting to have another person with a job helping pay for the bills and apartment."

Some couples like to get engaged young, but want to wait until they're a ways into college or maybe even out before they get married. "We've set a date and location already, and we got the dress and tux, too. It's going to be June 11, 2008, in Las Vegas and we're just going to have our parents there and that's it."

What's your opinion? Should teens who are madly in love wait so that society approves, or should they follow their hearts and begin their lives together as soon as they please? Teens are getting engaged earlier and earlier so maybe more people should accept it now that it's becoming the new norm.

Students offer opinions on marriage issue:



"I don't think that you can always find your true love at a young age. Some do but others don't."

~ Josh Ster, senior

"I think that getting married at a young age is fine as long as you've been together for a long time and your family is okay with it."

~ Erin Peiffer, junior



"I think that sometimes it's not a good idea because how could you know if you're really supposed to be with that person?"

~ Nick Tuetken, junior

"If you've been together for awhile and in love, then I don't see why you should have to wait."

~ Jenny Brimeyer, sophomore



Be a person of character

By: Alyssa Larson [Staff Writer]

Respect, responsibility, integrity, honesty, determination and modesty are all important character traits, but how do they relate to MHS? "It's a list student council made of attributes to focus on," states Mr. Clark, a science teacher at MHS. This list was created earlier this year in hopes of following up on it and growing in these areas as a school.

Many students, especially freshmen through juniors, may remember the Character Counts program that was implemented at VMS a few years ago, and what Mr. Clark, the student council, and the rest of the staff are hoping to bring back to MHS.



Mr. Clark,
science teacher

"Character Counts is a special program, but we aren't doing that exactly. We're making it fit teachers and students in Marion," Mr. Clark explains.

Mr. Clark along with other staff members began working on the program because character building was at the top of the MHS staff goals to accomplish this year. As work on character building began, they found out that Marion's Student Council had the same thoughts on what our student body should work on to grow into a better community. "It was a little serendipity, but they are working on the same thing, so we are trying to work with the Student Council members," Mr. Clark says.

This year is the first year for the program to be a part of the MHS curriculum, so all options are being explored. "We are just

forming it from programs that are already out there," explains Mr. Clark. Marion is its own school, and so we need something that fits our tastes and needs. "We don't want it to take away from classroom learning, but we want it to impact student character development," elaborates Mr. Clark.

Not much is being done yet in the classroom for the newly formed program, but research and organizing are continuing at full speed. Student council plans on funding some projects such as a courtyard holding the 'pillars' of character and character display boards around hanging about the school. There are many ideas floating around, but sometimes executing these successfully can be a problem. "It's hard finding something that isn't phony that works," Mr. Clark discloses.

Getting the ball rolling on this project is a little slow going, but the reasoning behind trying to get everyone at MHS involved with Character Counts remains as strong as it was from the start. "As a young person you trip up once in a while," admits Mr. Clark, "We want to work on this so that character development isn't an accident, it's a plan!"

The staff is ready for change in everyone's character at MHS. "As a teacher you see things: copying, dishonesty, and you want to help young people keep growing," Mr. Clark describes. The staff realizes that they can't make this huge change with only their own effort, so it is really exciting and encouraging to see that the students of Student Council are working on it as well.

Mr. Clark, Mr. Zrudsky and the rest of the Student Council and staff hope that implementing their refined version of Character Counts will help MHS grow into a place of better character that is a role model for our community.

Ready to come back

By: Tabitha Scott [Feature Editor]

Last year, as many of you may remember, a teacher of Marion High School was in a serious accident while she was horseback riding. It could have left her paralyzed for the rest of her life. That teacher, Mrs. Wikert, is now almost fully recovered and expected to make her return back to teaching by fourth term. The teaching staff and students are all very glad to have her back soon, and to be able to see her. One of the most anxious to see her back and better would be Mrs. Allard, the teacher who has taken over Mrs. Wikert's classes for her while she has been recovering. "I'm greatly enjoying my time here at Marion and, although I'm glad to have Mrs. Wikert back soon, I'm also sad to have to leave," says Mrs. Allard.

Mrs. Allard graduated from UNI in 2001, not for teaching, but for business. She then ended up working for radio stations from 2002 to 2006. After that, she found her true passion in teaching. From there she decided to pursue that career. Many students may remember seeing Mrs. Allard from before this year. That's because she was a student teacher for Mr. Laube in the fall of 2006. She received her teaching license in December of that year also, and began substitute teaching right after that. "I love teaching," shares Mrs. Allard, "Working with students is a great experience."

Mrs. Allard has been a long-term substitute teacher for Mrs. Wikert since she was hurt in her accident. "I like long-term subbing a lot better than day to day subbing because it allows me to know the students better, and not feel like I'm just kind of babysitting them," remarks Mrs. Allard. It's clear that she really enjoys her job, and loves what she's doing. So when fourth term arrives, is Mrs. Allard going to be ready to leave? "It's going to be a bittersweet experience for me. I love being at Marion and teaching here, but even if Mrs. Wikert couldn't be back by next term it would still be time for me to leave. I'll have to be able to stay at home and take care of my baby," she shares. Mrs. Allard is pregnant and is due around the same time Mrs. Wikert is going to be back. "I'm really going to miss it, but when it's time to leave, I'll be ready," says Mrs. Allard. With the joyous return of one of our teachers, it's also going to be a sad time as we say good-bye to one of our new ones.

Teacher returns to scene of the crime

Former Marion High School student returns to Marion with a different type of schedule.

By: Sam Kiburz [Staff Writer]

Marion High School has helped produced a plentiful list of intelligent and talented students throughout many years ever since the school has had student enrolled. One of the many good things a student can say about MHS is that we have some of the best teachers in the area, all well educated, friendly, and skilled in teaching. They all have or will have an influence on us sometime in our high school careers.



Mr. Raymond
social studies
teacher

That is exactly what happened to Mr. Raymond and former student and graduate of Marion High School, back in 1997. "I became a teacher because I had some of the greatest teachers in high school, and I was very fond of those teachers." Mr. Ray-

mond stated. "My friends and family said to me many times that I would be very good at teaching students, with my personality and the way I naturally am." Mr. Raymond added in.

Things sure have changed here at Marion just in the last few years, so one can only imagine how much has changed in the last 11 years. "Things that I have noticed since teaching here, some are subtle, and some are more obvious things that most wouldn't notice, but I have noticed that we don't use the ICN room, the choir and band area, and a lot of the rules have also changed." Mr. Raymond acknowledged. Those are just a few of the small changes that Mr. Raymond noticed.

Although many big changes have occurred since then, "[the bigger changes] the new wing (were the band and choir room is now), the new Red Gym, and the lunch has changed a lot." Mr. Raymond believed.

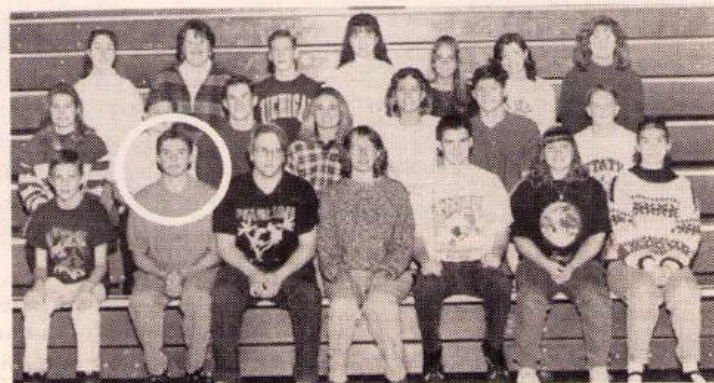
Since starting to substitute teach in

2002, he got his job at MHS in 2004. Mr. Raymond finally got what he wanted to do for so long and was glad that he was going to get to use his mind.

Mr. Raymond enjoys a lot about teaching. The certain things that he enjoys the most about teaching are, "I have quite a bit of freedom to do what I want. I get to use my brain everyday and there is always a challenge in each day." Mr. Raymond said proudly. Mr. Raymond furthermore said, "I get to work with great people, the students and the teachers are great."

Along with getting to work with great people for his career he

also gets to teach something that he has a passion for, Psychology. "Getting to teach psychology is one of my favorite classes to teach, because I feel most comfortable because of my Bachelor of Arts degree in, and I also feel that I have the most resources in that subject." Mr. Raymond explained.



Mr. Raymond participated in many activities while at Marion High School. This is Mr. Raymond's high school FBLA picture. He is circled in the first row second person in.

Letters come with improvement

By: Jenna Koppedryer
[Staff Writer]

Getting an occasional letter from a division II or III school to play a sport is usually no big deal. But in junior Drew Clark's case, it is not just an occasional letter saying, "Our school is great! You should look at it." It is more like five or six letters from one school saying, "Please! Pretty please! Come to our school! We need you!"

"I average about three to five letters a week," said Drew. Most people don't even get three to five letters a month total let alone in a week. But Drew isn't like every other person. Drew isn't just going to college to get ahead in life or to help with his future career, he is also going to play a sport he loves, football.



Drew Clark,
junior

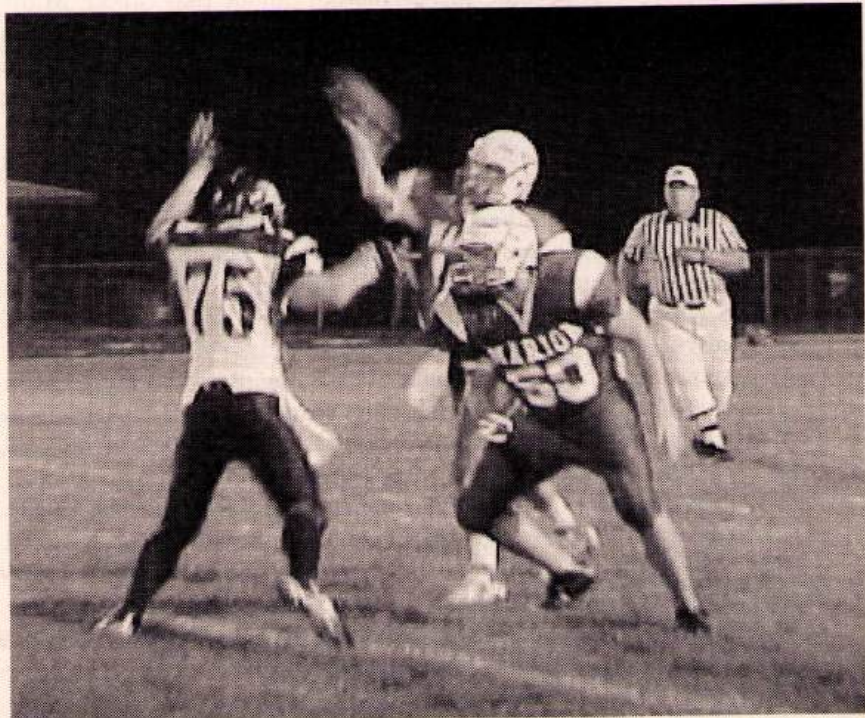
"I started playing football when I was in seventh grade," said Drew. But the game has changed since Drew was six, and Drew has changed as well. Now Drew

is 17 years old and still playing the game, except he's gotten a little bigger and a little better.

By a little, I mean a lot. Drew has grown so much better that many division I schools are looking at Drew to play football for them. Some of these schools include Iowa, Iowa State, and Kansas, and these are only 3 out of numerous schools that Drew is considering. Although many of these schools have contacted Drew through letters, but are not yet able to contact him by phone. "Schools can't start calling me until mid-February," Drew explained.

With such a big decision ahead of him, Drew must consider many things when it comes to picking a college. "Academics is definitely one of the big things I'm taking into consideration," Drew explained. But academics aren't the only thing that Drew is calculating when it comes to picking a college. "Location of the college is another factor."

Drew still has a lot of time until he needs to make that big decision of choosing a college and a path leading to the future. In the meantime, we'll just be cheering Drew on from the stands and maybe one day in a college stadium or on TV.



Junior Drew Clark prepares to make a block as fellow Junior Matt Barnd releases a pass against Vinton. Clark's performance on the gridiron the last two seasons has captured the attention of many Division I football programs.

It's all in a name at MHS

By: Tabitha Scott [Feature Editor]

As students walk through the halls of MHS, they seem to always hear the same names said over and over. Many students share common names and it can be really confusing to some. But, how many names here at Marion really are the same?

This may not seem like that big of deal, but there can be some disadvantages to sharing the same name as half the school. Just ask senior Chelsea Cimaglia, "It can be confusing when you're walking down the hall and you hear your name, so you turn around, only to find out that they definitely weren't talking to you."

Along with being confused, it can start to get old. Hearing the same name over and over in one day, and not knowing who is talking to whom, gets pretty annoying. "I get sick of it after awhile. I mean, it's not

horrible, but it would be nice to have a different name sometimes. One that isn't so common," shared Chelsea.

Students can also get stressed over sharing their name. Sometimes someone may hear something bad, and think it's about them so they

worry. "I've been in a situation where my name has come up and I thought it was about me, so I would get worried. But then I would later realize it wasn't about me at all. So, I'd get stressed over nothing," said Chelsea.

Even though having the same name can be frustrating, it's part of who we are. It's one thing that is used to identify us. Now, there are many different ways to spell one name. "I've seen my name spelled with at least three different endings, which gives some individuality." Remarks Chelsea. So, for all those who share their name with twenty other people, just remember: you're still your own person.

Most Common Names at Marion High School

Chelsea/Chelsey
Rachel
Sam (Boy or Girl)
Alyssa
Ryan
Sarah
Matt
Joseph (Joe)
Jordan/Jorden
Alex (Girl or Boy)
Nick
Kelsey



Chelsea
Cimaglia,
senior

A brighter horizon for all

By: Ryan Brunner [Activities Editor]

Most children can expect to go home to a warm house and loving parents. This is especially true the younger the children involved are. Unfortunately, some children have parents that work all day and can't afford a baby sitter. Worse, some kids have only a single parent that is forced to work all day and definitely can not afford to hire a baby sitter. For these unfortunate, we have Bright Horizons Family Solutions.

Bright Horizons Family Solutions is a facility that allows disadvantaged children to be in a fun and comfortable learning environment at times when their parents can't take care of them. There are many such facilities around the country, and one

of them is on Seventh Avenue Marion, by Hy-Vee.

Bright Horizons has a day care, a preschool, a kindergarten, and an infant care program. Some children live at Bright Horizons as they learn because of serious financial issues.

The staff at Bright Horizons is trained to educate young children while still having an enjoyable time. This is important for the children and parents, and it is how most parents try to raise their beloved children.

Though most people are fully capable of caring for their children, there are some families, such as single parents, that cannot. Horizons is for them, so that they will still have an opportunity to grow, learn, and succeed.

Looking back and remembering the past

A look back at the year 2007 and remember the good the bad and the ugly.

By: Chelsey Baner [Co-Executive Editor]

As we look back at the last year and remember all of the crazy moments 2007 had it's easy to laugh of maybe even shed a tear. From crazy celebrity scandals to starting new friendships. 2007 held both of its good and bad moments for all of us. Most of all it was another year survived. It's time for the good moments to be scrap-booked and the bad to be forgotten. 2008 is the year to achieve your New Year resolution. To finally stop being who everyone else wants you to be but instead finally be yourself. Discover yourself and start building your future. Continue to look back on the past but don't dwell on it. Here are some



Riley O'dean,
junior

of the most shocking, scandalous, and surprising moments of 2007. We will never forget 2007.

For many teenagers' media impacts and greatly

changes the things we do in our lives. Junior, Riley O'dean, comments about his most remembered media moments, "I probably remember the coming out of Call of Duty 4, the most." Students most remembered media moment's range from celebrity scandals, to new movies and video games.

Although many students try to remember the treacherous hours spent inside the school. However, with most of our hours spent at school it's hard not to have a few moments or even reasons why 2007 was such a good school year. "Doing everything I could do to stay out of trouble and make good decisions would probably be what I remember most about 2007." Said Riley.

Athletics of any sort usually play a part in our lives. Whether you play sports, watch sports, or even try to completely ignore sports you still hear about them. The plays the scores, and even the athletes are all over the news and radios. "The Patriots going 16-0 is pretty big," said Riley. "Personally making the wall at Marion as a sophomore was remember able too." Continued Riley.

Lastly, with technology expanding the Internet has become bigger and more important to our lives.

Facebook has expanded to more networks than ever, and even the news is being watched more on the Internet. For Riley O'dean, "Having a video posted on Facebook, making fun of LM kids," was his best internet moment of 2007.

Now that 2007 has concluded, we will continue to look back on the lessons we've learned, the mistakes we've made, and the time we've shared.

Most remembered moments of 2007 (As picked by Journalism Staff)

Celebrity Moment: Jamie Lynn and Britney Spears

Sports Moment:

Most Shocking: Michael Vick holding dog fights.

Most Surprising: Appalachian State upset over Michigan

MHS Moment: Finally having parking spots for everyone.

Internet Moment: Facebook application obsession.

Aviation preparation for possible future career

By: Patrick Tiernan
[Opinion Editor]

Many students have an idea of what they want to do for their future, but few actually do anything for it besides staying in school. One Marion High School student who is taking action for his

future is, junior Sam Magnifico.

Sam ideally would want to be a drummer for his career, but he is also preparing for his backup plan of being a pilot. Sam works at the Marion



Sam Magnifico,
junior

Airport, getting real life experience with airplanes and even takes flying lessons. "The airport is going to help me after college because I will have a very interesting job to fall back on if I don't make money as a drummer. Working at the airport educates me in the field of aviation," elaborated Sam.

Sam started working at the beginning of the school year and works three to four days a week for two to three hours a night. "I won't feel like I'm lost after college because I know I will have something fun to do," commented Sam.

Sam works as the secretary at the airport and his responsibilities include managing the money, fueling planes, making calls, dealing with the business

connections, and being the voice of the air traffic control. Sam's job puts him right in the middle of the action at the airport, "Working at the airport gives me a lot of responsibility, it's not like putting eggs on a shelf at Hy-Vee," said Sam.

Almost all of the money Sam makes working at the airport goes to his other means of aviation preparation: flying lessons. Sam has been taking lessons since last spring break and has 60.1 hours of experience in the air. Even though the minimum number needed is 40, Sam has the extra hours because of bad weather and explained, "With bad weather sometimes you can't go up for a couple weeks. I don't want to be rusty

for a lesson so I go up to practice on my own."

With a total minimum cost at \$4500, and up to \$120 a lesson, it can be an expensive process. Sam feels the lessons are important for his future and elaborated, "Flying lessons give me a jump start on knowledge of airplanes and teaches me about the career I might be interested in, in the future."

Whether it's gaining valuable experience as an airport secretary or getting a jump-start with flying lessons, Sam Magnifico will continue his exploration of aviation. From a childhood interest to a possible career, Sam is making money while taking action in the interest of his future.

Super ads towards Super Bowl

By: Matt Barnd [Photo Editor]

The super bowl is one of the most anticipated and widely viewed events each year. In a few short days a hundred thousand dedicated fans will flock to Glendale, Arizona and pay huge sums of money for highly sought after seats inside Phoenix stadium. However, these devoted football lovers will not be able to experience a fundamental factor of which truly makes the Super Bowl the Super Bowl that the everyday television viewer will: commercials.

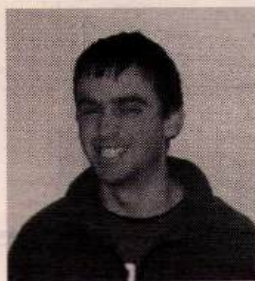
For last year's Super Bowl, a thirty-second commercial time slot would cost approximately 2.7 million dollars. Figures look to be similar for anyone looking to secure a thirty-second ad on Fox February the third, 2008. So why are advertisers so willing

to pay out these ludicrously large sums of money for thirty-second airtime? Easy. The almost 100 million potential customers that will be watching.

"I have a strong enjoyment of both the commercials and the game itself," said senior, football fan B.J.... Fish. Millions and millions around the country share this feeling. They not only look forward to the biggest football game in the world, but also the high tech and high profile commercials that come with it. "The commercials are so hyped up, how can I not look forward to them?" B.J.... mentioned

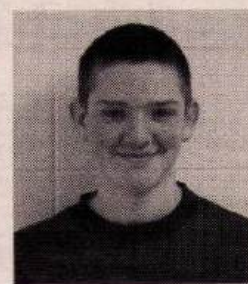
Companies go to great lengths, expending an enormous amount of time, money and resources in an attempt to catch the attention and hopefully the funny bone of viewers. "I think that the risks companies take are worth it because they take chances on dumb commercials and still end up making money so you never know," B.J. commented. However, according to B.J., the 2.7 million dollars per thirty-second may be a bit excessive, "I think they can find more creative ways to spend that kind of money," B.J. said with a laugh.

Whatever the case, the Super Bowl remains one of the most watched television events of the year. This game transcends sports in the sense that it attracts the attention of both football and non football fans alike who mark off the days until the next Super Bowl and its super commercials.



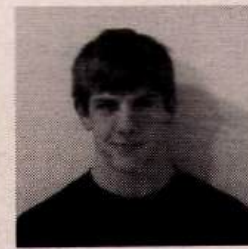
B.J. Fish, senior

What will you be doing for the big game?



"I'm going to watch the Super Bowl, and I'm going to eat chips."

- J.J.... Curtis,
freshman



"Going to Parker Brown's house, and I'm going to clean out his fridge."

-Nate Johnson,
sophomore



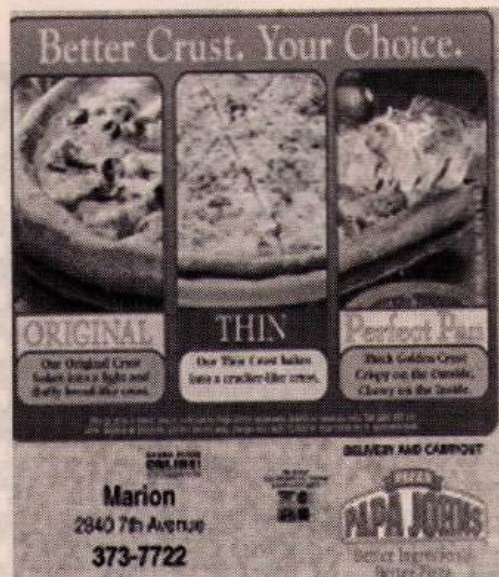
"I'm going to watch the game, and also have a feast on my couch."

- Justin Scott, junior



"Watching the game, and eat lots and lots of barbecue food. I'm also going to be wishing that the Packer's were in it instead of the Giants!"

-Alicia Spurgin,
Senior



Nocturne de la Mémoire is best of Creative Ink

Buckley wins contest with story based on "Time In A Bottle"

By: Taylor Buckley

The boy shuffled onto the stage and sat nonchalantly on the wood smoothed by time and countless feet padding on its surface. He rested a guitar on his knee, running pale fingers along the neck and plucking a few experimental notes, practiced hands easily reaching each fret. Reaching for a microphone, the boy adjusted the stand and began to play.

If I could save time in a bottle
The first thing that I'd like to do
Everyone has a special memory, the time you look back on when your heart is in pieces on the floor, when your life is being pulled apart in the seams. It's something that reminds you of how precious life really is. People try to capture that memory, to save every feeling and sense, trapping it like a fly in amber, bottling it forever in the depths of their souls. And then, when you crack open that bottle, the sights and smells and feelings come rushing back like it was only yesterday. It's a memory that you could happily spend the rest of your life in.

Is to save every day 'till eternity passes away
Just to spend them with you
Margaret, an old woman with spiderweb-fine silvery hair, was transported a decade back. A painted sunset wreathed in clouds hung in the sky like a painter's masterpiece. Gentle tides nudged the waves back and forth, washing up on two pairs of footprints on the beach, gradually smoothing the tiny grains of sand. Her husband held her hand lightly as the two meandered across the beach, the doctors and tumors forgotten, the only thing mattering was the time the two were spending together on the sandy shores. She had picked a flower there, pressed it between a book, and six months afterward later, had laid it down on black polished wood at the funeral. The memory was still there, and the soft calls of the gulls curled her lips upward in a smile as she remembered those days.

If I could make days last forever
If words could make wishes come true
Levi grinned as more fireworks exploded in the night sky, fashioning fantastical shadows across the soft fleecy blanket he sat on. He looked over at Jenny. She was leaning back, hands behind her and her eyes on the sky. She caught his glance and smiled. "We still have two sandwiches left," she said, pulling out a picnic basket that had been set aside. "Want one?"

Levi nodded and took the ham sandwich from her, Swiss cheese hanging over the side clumsily. A picnic had been a good idea for a first date. He had to get it right for this girl. She was something special.

Turning his gaze back to the fireworks, Levi bit

into his sandwich, and wondered if this was the day he would tell his grandchildren about.

I'd save every day like a treasure,
And then, again, I would spend them with you
Claire worked a knot out of her two-year-old's shoe, dirt clumping on her decidedly un-manicured nails. His knees were a yellow-green mess, she reflected, covered in grass stains with some newborn shoots still sticking to the skin. A smile was plastered on his face, encircled in Popsicle juice from earlier that afternoon. It was a typical day at the park: Claire would take the plastic wagon down from the garage and Price would hop in, carrying two Popsicles (usually orange flavored) and the two would spend hours together playing. It didn't matter where—the sandbox, the playground, swings—anywhere would do. Those were Claire's favorite days.

But there never seems to be enough time
To do the things that you wanna do once you find them

Elise and Brian. The two went together like peas in a pod. They would ride their bikes around town, the three-speeders completely identical except for that Elise's had purple lettering and Brian's a bluish-green. They were partners in crime, always unearthing new things to try and new games to play. The sun always went down too soon for the pair, interrupting the filling up of water balloons, or spreading the word about a new species of bug that could be found only in Brian's backyard, or saving the world from the evil Sun People from Mercury. They never could quite sate their curiosity or finish everything they'd wanted to start.

I've looked around enough to know that
You're the one I wanna go through time with
White and black rocked slowly back and forth, a slow waltz resonating in the wedding hall. The newlyweds swayed together in unison, shining wedding bands adorning each one's ring finger. The last four years had all cumulated to this marvelous day, this incredible event that had the woman in a white gown and the man in a black tuxedo. There had been others, granted, boyfriends that didn't last and girlfriends that had faded out of the picture. But this was not fading. Both knew beyond the shadow of a doubt that they had found "the one" in each other.

If I had a box just for wishes
And dreams that had never come true
Margaret had seen a girl once, walking along the street. It was obvious that this girl wasn't walking home—this girl didn't have a home. There was a tiredness in her hazel eyes, stringy, mouse-brown hair falling in front of her face. Margaret had very nearly reached out, taken this girl by

the hand, and opened up her home. But something stopped her, drawing her hand protectively to her purse instead. And Margaret never saw this girl again. After inquiring years later, she found that the brunette had stolen a plane ticket and flown to Manhattan.

Levi had seen a ring, a beautiful ring that was made for his girlfriend's finger. But the price tag was not made for his wallet, especially since he was saving up for a new amplifier for his Fender guitar. So he passed, getting her a CD for Christmas instead. It was a sort of irony that she had purchased him the amplifier as a surprise. When he went back for the ring, it had been sold.

Everyone in the auditorium had made a mistake, a mistake that had made Claire weep, that had made Elise pound her fists into her pillow, Brian smash his favorite Hot Wheels car into plastic smithereens, and the woman in white to lock herself in her room for hours. But you pick up the pieces and you salvage the situation the best you can. You crack open that bottle, and you move on.

The box would be empty
Except for the memory of how they were answered by you

You can pick up the pieces because you know that there's someone there that cares, someone who dearly wishes you to succeed. He takes you by the hand and pulls you up off the floor, whispering an encouraging word. He's been through sorrow, he's been through pain. And you feel horrible and joyous every single time you think that it was YOU that nailed him up there on that wooden cross. Because all the mistakes that made you lock yourself in your room or bash your pillow were taken by him and whisked away, gone forever! And you can enjoy walks on the beach, a picnic with a loved one, playing in the park with your child, exploring the unknowns of your backyard, and dancing with your love on your wedding day. Because you know that the next time you fall, you'll never be forsaken because you're not good enough or you've messed up one too many times. That knowledge brings a joy that can pierce through even the most dire and heartbreaking times. That joy makes life worth living.

But there never seems to be enough time
To do the things that you wanna do once you find them.

I've looked around enough to know that
You're the one I wanna go through time with
The boy's hands began to slow, picking each fret a little slower now, then strumming each string and melting them together into the finishing chord. The sound reverberated in the gymnasium, slowly fading out into something so faint you couldn't tell whether it was real or just imagined. After a few moments of silence, the audience burst out in thunderous applause. After all, it wasn't every day that you heard something quite like that.

"Again" chosen as best poem

By: Alexandria Sturtz

Again
It's a memory
Replaying in front of me
Her red lipstick imprinted on my cheek
Waving goodbye as she leaves
Again
I gaze at my small frame
I was always such a tomboy
With my brown hair cut short
I look on as my father sighs
Again
And I wipe the lipstick off of my face
It was still there

Burning into my skin
My green eyes - bright with tears
Again
And Cassi, still waving at nothing
Then I'm running
Running away from the memory
Of burning lipstick
Of her leaving
Again

Sudoku

To solve the puzzle, a single number (from 1 to 9) must be entered in each blank box so that each number is used only once in each smaller square and only once in each row and column in the larger square.

	6	1				9	3	
2			8		1			6
	2	4	3		7	6	8	
				5				
	9	6	4		2	1	7	
6			2		5			1
	1	8				5	2	

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